

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



A Resource to Inform and Celebrate
Louisiana's Building-Level Leaders



August 26, 2021

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Principal Corner



Are you ready? Are you ready? Yes, I'm ready! Yes, I'm Ready!

Welcome Back Awesome Louisiana Educators. This is our time to trigger a narrative reset – to really focus on creating and exemplifying a productive mindset. We create the ultimate adventures in school where all students have rich, relevant, unique, and authentic experiences. As effective and purposeful principals, we must always pursue excellence and not allow excuses about what students cannot do.

It is the beginning of the school year. Our school doors will open and the halls will fill with big smiles and roaring sounds of laughter and excitement. These moments help us realize that we are truly walking in our purpose. As we prepare to run full speed ahead, let's make sure we take the time to

savor the sweet moments of human connections.

We all have our own approach to leadership and I wanted to take a minute to share mine. The initial connections made with each of our students are the foundations of a successful school year. An effective practice that we have here at Queensborough Elementary School is the "QLA Greeting."

It's very simple...

- On the first day of school, we create a welcome soul train line for students and families. Staff form a line in the building hallway leading students to their designated areas.
- At least five adults greet every student from the moment they step out of the car or walk onto the school campus.
- Staff members offer greetings of hugs, high fives, thumbs up, and offer words of encouragement.
- We continue this enthusiasm so that we ignite the excitement in the parents and students.

Regardless of your approach, let's make sure we follow the wisdom of Rita Pierson (renowned educator) "Every child needs a champion." Let's do this by believing in our students and connecting with them on a real, human, personal level.

We have taught in the midst of a pandemic, conquered virtual learning in a matter of months, kept our faculty, staff, and students safe; all while maintaining our personal and family needs. It is time to make magic happen once again. I hope you will join me in cultivating schools where excellence is the standard.

I leave you, my fellow educators with these words. You are awesome! I believe in you and your ability to teach, grow, and guide every student and every adult in your school. The 2021 -2022 school year will be like no other. And, for Rita and every child and staff member: **Be that champion.**

Marco D. French, M.Ed.

**2022 Louisiana State Principal of the Year
Queensborough Leadership Academy
Caddo Parish Schools**

For more information on great back to school practices, join Mr. French and the District-Level Honorees for our August [Principal Webinar](#), "Be a Back to School Champion".

Announcements and Resources

Principal Webinar Series

The LDOE will hold a monthly webinar series for current school leaders. The August webinar will highlight our 2022 State Principal of the Year, Marco French, and Division Level Honorees Ronnie Harvey, Karen Robertson, and Jeremy Muse. These celebrated principals will take part in a panel discussion focusing on strong back to school practices.

Webinar Date/Time: August 30 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>

Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379

Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaeaders@la.gov with any questions.

2020-2021 Evaluation Uploads

All teacher and staff evaluations should be uploaded into the Compass Information System (CIS) no later than **August 27, 2021**. It is strongly recommended that all evaluations are uploaded prior to ensure proper and timely uploads. After August 27, 2021, CIS will not accept scores from the 2020-2021 school year. To assist you, an [evaluation upload guide](#) can be found in the Compass Library. Additionally, office hours with the Compass team will be held via zoom in 15-minute increments between 12:00 PM-1:00 PM daily from 8/2/21 to 8/27/21. Please request a time slot if needed via compass@la.gov, at which time a zoom link will be provided. All questions and concerns can also be directed to compass@la.gov.

Please note that communication regarding leader evaluation uploads will be released when SPS scores are published.

Email compass@la.gov with questions.

Department Names 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Winners

On Friday, July 16, the Department — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — celebrated the 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees at the 15th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which was held virtually this year. On this evening, the Teacher and Principal of the Year division-level and statewide winners were also named.

View the [2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Completing Mentor Waiver Credential Principal Attestation

At the March 2021 BESE meeting the Board approved an extension of the waiver of policy, contained in Bulletin 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel, and Bulletin 996, Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs, regarding the requirement that all undergraduate residents and post-baccalaureate candidates be placed with mentor teachers holding the ancillary mentor teacher certificate, the ancillary provisional mentor teacher certificate, or the Supervisor of Student Teaching certificate. **The waiver application requires that Principals (or a designee) complete an attestation form confirming the applicant meets the requirements of the credential waiver.**

Based on feedback, the application process and portal have been updated this year. Principal attestations will be e-mailed from noreply@mail.smapply.net.

More details about completing the Principal Attestation can be found on page 14 of the [Mentor Credential Waiver Guide 2021-2022](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate

[Accelerate](#), Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal-access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. School system and school leaders should be planning implementation of Accelerate in their schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Webinars will be held to support system and school teams in implementation.

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Accelerate Math Resources Overview	September 1 at 9 a.m.	Link
Accelerate ELA Resources Overview	September 8 at 3:30 p.m.	Link

Contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate: High Quality Materials

High-quality materials are the bedrock of quality tutoring. School leaders should ensure that teachers and students have access to and use resources that complement and are directly connected to the high-quality core curriculum to prepare students for new learning.

Schools should use their high-quality curricular materials and supports for tutoring. As an additional resource, [Accelerate Math](#) and [Accelerate ELA](#) resources are available. Materials will be added regularly throughout the year.

Math resources for beginning units of instruction for kindergarten through high school Geometry are available now. ELA initial resources to support foundational skills and building knowledge in K-2 and building knowledge and vocabulary in grades 3-10 are available now.

Acceleration Professional Development

Starting this month, all teachers will have access to the 2021-2022 [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) to support their efforts to accelerate learning.

The [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) includes 6 trainings that are designed to help educators target their instruction and coaching on the most effective strategies.

These trainings will be provided by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). All teachers, teacher leaders, school leaders, and district leaders are invited to attend these focused learning opportunities.

Educators may use this [link](#) to register for one or all of the first three sessions. Registration for the other sessions will open later this month.

August 30 - October 5	Analyzing and Using Data to Meet the Needs of Students
October 11 - November 11	Maximizing Collaborative Structures to Support Acceleration
November 10 - December 16	Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning
December 15 - January 13	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in Math
January 10 - January 31	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in ELA
January 31 - March 10	Setting-up Effective Summer Learning Opportunities

Each training is a full day and the sessions will be offered virtually and in-person several times a week over the course of the 2021-2022 school year.

Contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched in March provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below. School schedules should look different in the 2021-2022 school year in order to address unfinished learning.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

This guidance provides systems and school leaders:

- best practices,
- staffing and scheduling models,
- cautions and tips for implementation,
- and information on ongoing implementation support available.

During the spring and summer, feedback was collected from various stakeholders on the [Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance](#). Accordingly, the following updates have been made:

- details on hiring retired teachers and utilizing current staff more efficiently
- clarity on incorporating addressing unfinished learning in IEPs
- more description around incorporating acceleration option

The implementation supports are available this fall. Participants must register to attend.

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Job Alike Support Session for District Leaders	August 31 at 11 a.m	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Diverse Learner Leaders	August 31 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors and Counseling Leadership	September 1 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for School Leaders	September 1 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Q&A Session	September 15 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Q&A Session	September 29 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2022

Save the Date! The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit will be held the week of **May 31, 2022** at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional development conference which brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts who inspire, innovate, and impact meaningful growth for every student. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2022-2023 school year.

Additional details regarding registration and session topics will be available this winter.

Searching for Louisiana's Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created.

The nominations portal is open now and will close on September 28. Multiple nominations and self-nominations are accepted. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share this [nomination portal link](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award's page](#).

Contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 5 Released

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

Episode 5 Summary - Keep on Going with Grammy-winner Mickey Smith, Jr.: Em Cooper interviews music teacher and Grammy-winner Mickey Smith, Jr. about the importance of arts education, his journey to the Grammys, and how his growth mindset has shaped his career. The Bossier Parish School System made Em Cooper smile this week as they celebrated over 30 students at their commencement ceremony this summer.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit pictures of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Principal Appreciation

Take a minute to send a shout-out of appreciation to a colleague who is a building-level leader using this [survey link](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

Shout Outs:

Cleveland Mouton from Caddo Heights Elementary School in Caddo Parish: “Mr. Mouton has established in a very short time a school culture that focuses all stakeholders on one goal: STUDENT SUCCESS! He maximizes the talents of his entire team to problem-solve around how to provide extended learning time, high-dosage tutoring, and additional ways to ensure all adults share clearly articulated values and beliefs.” *Nominated by Keith Burton*

Anna Tarver from Gilbert School in Franklin Parish: “Mrs. Tarver is committed to a positive learning environment that inspires all! She supports her staff and encourages them to strive for success.” *Nominated by Indya Pruitt*

Dr. Harrington Watson, III from Wossman High School in City of Monroe School District: “A believer in distributive leadership and fostering school spirit, Dr. Watson is at school at 6:30 every morning to greet scholars and staff: he’s the epitome of Excelsior since he illuminates the compassion, zest, and pride he wants his teachers to enact with students. He fosters moments of genuine connection by using humor and zeal; furthermore, he manifests the adoration and support he yearns for his teachers to exhibit” *Nominated by Justin Overacker*

Jerome Henson from Pickering High School in Vernon Parish: “Mr. Henson leads by example and is always supportive of his faculty, staff, and students. He is in the trenches with us every single day, always providing words of encouragement and hands on guidance.” *Nominated by Kristen Bruce*

Kalandra Loyd of Vidalia Lower Elementary in Concordia Parish: “She is the absolute best and she follows the books. She has great expectations for everyone.” *Nominated by Tiffany Frank*

Principal Newsletter Signup

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy along with [this link](#) and they will receive our next monthly newsletter.

Dates to Consider for Building-Level Leaders

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	August 31 at 12 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	September 1 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	September 3 at 11 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Literacy Monthly Call	September 2 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	September 2 at 1 p.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	September 8 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	September 8 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	September 9 at 2 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	September 21 at 3:45 p.m.
*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library . View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Mentor Funding Webinar	August 30 at 1:00 p.m.
Accelerate Math Resources Overview Webinar	September 1 at 9 a.m.
Gifted and Talented Coordinators Welcome Back to School Webinar	September 2 at 10 a.m.

Accelerate ELA Resources Overview Webinar	September 8 at 3:30 p.m.
EOP Virtual Office Hours	September 13 at 10 a.m
Important Deadlines	
2020-2021 Evaluation Uploads	August 27
Summer Learning Program Survey	August 27
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1