

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

September 22, 2022

In This Issue

- [Principal Corner](#)
- [LDOE Corner](#)
- [Department Announcements](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Academic Content Announcements](#)
- [Educator Opportunities](#)
- [Educator and Student Recognition](#)
- [Principal Newsletter Signup](#)
- [Principal Appreciation](#)
- [Dates to Consider](#)

PRINCIPAL CORNER

Keep your wheels in Motion – The Journey will be Great!



Greetings, fellow educators! It is an honor to share with you this month!

Every Sunday (during the school year), I send an email to my staff entitled “Lacy’s Look”. Included in the email is encouragement for the week, as well as important dates for the upcoming week. The Lacy’s Look for February 7, 2022 read, “Change is not easy, but we have to be flexible until we find the formula that will work for Bossier Elementary. The process may be challenging; however, the results will be worth the challenge”. Having grown our students 7% in the achievement levels of mastery or above, that growth can be attributed to the following practices: investment in changing our school culture, implementing a data-driven Instructional Leadership Team, and restructuring our teacher collaboration and RTI process. Response to Intervention (RTI) is both a general education and a special education process in which students receive varying levels and intensity of instructional and/or behavioral supports to address areas of need or to challenge students who are excelling. The

process begins with high quality instruction and universal screeners in the general education setting. Students with unfinished learning are provided interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate mastery of grade level content.

The first targeted area was our school culture. Every morning, our administrators and counselor are at each entrance greeting our students. If we encounter students who are displaying signs of social-emotional distress, we pull them aside and encourage/motivate them before they leave our presence. We also conduct our morning announcements via Google Meet. A key part of the morning announcements is the affirmations that our students recite. Consistently affirming our students has built

such confidence in them. Our students know they can achieve because they now believe in themselves, just as much as we believe in them.

The second targeted area that has contributed to our growth is the development and implementation of a data-driven and capacity building instructional leadership team (ILT). When we held our first meeting, we realized the need to focus on one goal at a time in an effort to maximize our effectiveness. Our needs assessment led us to a schoolwide, foundational skill focus during our RTI time. We researched and modeled strategies during our ILT meetings with teachers. Those strategies were then shared with all teachers and implemented schoolwide. Student assessment data was reviewed in the following ILT meeting and that data provided guidance on whether to continue the process, develop a new process, or determine a new goal.

The final targeted area was our intentional teacher collaboration and RTI process. As an instructional leader, I understand the importance of my presence and involvement in teacher collaboration. During teacher collaboration time, I offer teachers immediate instructional feedback and guidance to enhance their instruction. This feedback and guidance would not occur if I failed to make teacher collaboration meetings a priority. During teacher collaboration time, we review weekly assessment data, support teachers in reaching their monthly goals, and plan RTI. **RTI is sacred. RTI is protected. RTI is embedded in our Master Schedule.** Based on the varying needs of our students, the Walk to RTI model was the most effective and efficient. Our growth is a direct reflection of teacher collaboration and RTI alignment.

Though these three targeted areas are the only areas mentioned, there are many moving parts that contribute to the growth that Bossier Elementary has experienced and will continue to experience moving forward.

Keep your wheels in motion until you find the formula that works for your campus. It may be challenging, but the journey will be worth it!

Dr. Norcha Lacy, Principal, Bossier Elementary, Bossier Parish Schools

LDOE CORNER

The Division of School Improvement exists to provide differentiated and targeted support to school systems and leaders in the implementation of LDOE School Improvement Best Practices

The need for improving outcomes for students in Louisiana's most struggling schools is urgent, and you, as school leaders, have been gifted the opportunity to lead school improvement efforts! We know that our children are as capable as any, yet Louisiana continues to rank near the bottom in several national rankings based on student performance on statewide assessments in reading and math. There are currently 253 schools in Louisiana labeled as Comprehensive Intervention Required (CIR) and 259 schools labeled as Urgent Intervention Required-Academies (UIR-A). Students from our most vulnerable subgroups are disproportionately represented in these labeled schools.

A little over a year ago, Superintendent Brumley charged our newly formed division to provide specialized school improvement support to school systems for their underperforming schools. Our division accomplishes this work by providing direct and continual support to system leaders in the implementation of LDOE School



Improvement Best Practices (SIBPs) in their CIR and UIR-A schools. These SIBPs detail the systematic process by which school systems and schools employ a set of specific evidenced-based instructional approaches to increase educator effectiveness and student achievements. The SIBPs are:

- **Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)**
- **Teacher Collaboration Support (TC)**
- **Teacher Standards Support**
- **Principal Standards Support**
- **Career Pipeline Support**

To ensure student optimal success, we forge relationships and partner with school districts to provide authentic and timely support to those schools with the greatest needs. This support is provided directly by our School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS). They collaborate with system leaders to identify specific Best Practices and schools that will receive support, develop support plans, and set goals. They then provide regular coaching to these leaders in progress monitoring the goals. This includes conducting paired observations to gauge quality of teaching and learning and using data to provide high-quality instructional feedback.

Other avenues of Best Practice support include the return of School Support Institutes in 2022-2023 provided through our professional learning partner, The New Teacher Project (TNTP), as well as Best Practice training and support provided through the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). All content for partner-led support sessions are developed in close collaboration with our division to provide aligned, strategically layered support and job-embedded professional development to strengthen implementation of the SIBPs.

After our inaugural year of support, this work is making an impact! 71% (91 of 129) schools receiving BP support increased in percentage of students scoring mastery and above on the LEAP. Those schools increased by an average of 3%. In addition, 84% of systems who elected to participate in this support increased their percentage of students scoring mastery and above system-wide. By continuing and strengthening our partnerships, we can improve the outcomes for our most vulnerable students and create a brighter future for the state of Louisiana!

Malekah Salim-Morgan, Deputy Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Principal Webinar Series

The LDOE will hold a monthly webinar series for current school leaders. The next webinar will highlight school improvement best practices such as observation and feedback cycles and teacher collaboration practices with our professional learning partner, The New Teacher Project (TNTP). Please join us for this practicing principal webinar.

Webinar Date/Time: October 3, 1-2 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98516144298?pwd=VHoxSlhaNWhFZUNrQWICS05MRHlzZz09>

Meeting ID: 985 1614 4298

Passcode: 125571

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Educator Evaluation Survey

LDOE wants educators to share their opinions and ideas on the current evaluation system. Please encourage your teachers and leaders to complete the [leader survey](#) and [teacher survey](#) by **September 30**.

Please email compass@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Listening Sessions

The Department, in partnership with the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, will be hosting an additional series of facilitated listening sessions across the state to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to describe their experiences and perceptions as well as offer suggestions on issues related to teacher recruitment, recovery, and retention.

To join a session, stakeholders will follow the steps below.

1. Choose the session below that best fits his/her schedule.
2. Click the link for the session and complete the registration form.
3. Once he/she has completed the registration he/she will receive a zoom link for the session.

Stakeholder	Session Links
Teacher Stakeholder Sessions	Thursday, October 6 at 10 a.m. Monday, October 17 at 12 p.m. Tuesday, October 18 at 9 a.m. Thursday, October 20 at 3 p.m.
Principal Stakeholder Sessions	Monday, October 10 at 9 a.m. Friday, October 14 at 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 18 at 8 a.m. Wednesday, October 19 at 12:30 pm.

LDOE has partnered with the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, an outside organization, to conduct these sessions. Participant names will not be shared with LDOE or associated with specific comments.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Guides and Guidance Documents

Assessment guides and guidance documents for the 2022–2023 school year are now available in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#). The assessment guides are designed to assist teachers in understanding the summative assessments in Louisiana.

- LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides for ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies
- Innovative Assessment Program Assessment Guides
- LEAP Connect Assessment Guide
- ELPS and ELPT Guidance
- Social Studies Assessment Updates document

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe: New Episode 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.

Season 2, Episode 4: Changing the Culture of Attendance with Judith Rhodes

In Season 2, Episode 4, Judith Rhodes, an Associate Professor of Research at Louisiana State University's School of Social Work and Director of Research for the American Council for School Social Work, talks with us about school attendance in a post-pandemic world and how we can re-engage students and parents to improve and maintain overall enrollment. We also highlight a mentor teacher at Hynes Charter School.

Season 2, Episode 5: Changing our Minds with Sheena Lall

Sheena Lall, Director at Talent Development Secondary, talks with us about how growth and fixed mindsets impact learning in the classroom, the origins of the research, and how more school systems can adopt these practices that are sweeping the educational sector. Hear the debut of the Teacher Hacks segment to learn tips submitted by educators for easy things to improve your classroom.

Season 2, Episode 6: Legislative Lowdown with Ethan Melancon (releasing September 27)

Ethan Melancon is the Executive Director of Governmental Affairs and leads all legislative strategy for the Louisiana Department of Education. We chat with Ethan about his passion for his job, the legislative process, impactful workforce bills and all the excitement happening from the past session. Also featured are new Teacher Hacks focusing on apps that make a huge difference in the classroom!

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.

Science Collaborative Application Open

The Department is excited to announce that the application for the Science Collaborative is now open. This Science Collaborative is designed to bring together the best minds from both teacher preparation and K-12 to design teaching methods syllabi for elementary and secondary science courses that, in turn, will be available for public use. This collaborative will be led by [BSCS Science Learning](#).

Who should apply?

- Strong K-12 educators who help support science instruction (e.g., science curriculum coaches, current science content leaders, school system science supervisors)
- Higher education faculty who teach science methods courses
- Higher education faculty who teach science courses for education majors

Interested applicants should submit the [application](#) to believeandprepare@la.gov by **5 p.m. October 7**.

Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

RESOURCES

Below you will find quick links to a variety of resources developed by the Louisiana Department of Education.

- Pre-Educator Pathway Guidance can be accessed on the [Pre-Educator Pathway Resource Library](#).
- New Teacher Experience materials can be accessed on the [New Teacher Experience webpage](#).
- Literacy resources can be accessed in the [Literacy Library](#).
- Foundational Instruction for Reading Excellence (FIRE) Lessons for grades 3-5 can be found below and accessed in the [Literacy Library](#).
 - [Grade 3 Unit 1 - Teacher's Guide](#)
 - [Grade 3 Unit 1 - Student Activity Book](#)
 - [Grade 4 Unit 1 - Teacher's Guide](#)
 - [Grade 4 Unit 1 - Student Activity Book](#)
 - [Grade 5 Unit 1 - Teacher's Guide](#)
 - [Grade 5 Unit 1 - Student Activity Book](#)
- New Social Studies Standards information can be accessed below.
 - [2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#)
 - [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies FAQ](#)
- Accelerating Learning in Mathematics resources can be accessed below.
 - The [Accelerate Math](#) resources provide proactive support to upcoming classroom content to ensure students' readiness for grade level mathematics
 - Teachers and leaders who want to learn more about accelerating math learning should view the [Acceleration in Math Self-Paced Learning Modules](#). New topics include:
 - [The Shifts in the Standards](#) and
 - [Rigor in Mathematics](#).
- Grade 7 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify Science can be accessed below.
 - The [Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify Grade 7](#) provides guidance regarding how high quality Amplify Science Louisiana Grade 7 units correlate with the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) (LSSS).
- EdTech resources can be found below.
 - [Reflect](#) is a tool embedded into Teams that allows students to provide feedback and reflect on their learning using check-ins, emojis, and characters. Also, Teams now has a home page feature that allows educators to create a feed for students and teachers to organize and catch up on class topics at a glance.
 - Many teachers are already taking advantage of the [Live Captions](#) feature in Microsoft OneNote. Teachers can initiate a conversation with students enabling live automatic translation of everything a teacher says. Students will see a transcript on their screen in addition to a translated version.
 - [Microsoft Flip](#) (the old Flipgrid) has a new name and a new look, but it is still the same free video recording software used with students, teachers, and fellow administrators. Recent updates to [Microsoft Flip](#) include new backdrops including video options, sticky notes, gifs, and a photo mode with the option to voice over. As always, templates are available in the [Discovery library](#), and the library includes topics from Discovery Education, the National WWII Museum, LEGO Education, Scholastic, and Yellowstone National Park.

ACADEMIC CONTENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resource: Universal Screener Data Analysis Templates

The Literacy Division has released updated templates for analyzing universal screening data and making data-based decisions based on specific student needs. The templates are structured to cover beginning-, middle-, and end-of-year data collection so that a comprehensive plan can be developed. There is an analysis template available for each level of analysis and planning including small group planning for [interventionists](#), student grouping templates for [teachers](#), school-wide data analysis tables for [school sites](#), and [system-level](#) data analysis.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022)

In Spring 2022, the Department offered systems the opportunity to participate in an implementation pilot and a materials review of three ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units; Because of Winn-Dixie, The Whipping Boy, and The Birchbark House. The systems who participated in the pilot and materials review were surveyed and the results from the pilot and materials review can be found in the [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Feedback report](#). Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, the Department will be in the process of applying the feedback to revisions of ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks: Grade 8

The grade 8 ELA Guidebooks unit, The Tell-Tale Heart, will no longer include the independent read novel *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers. This text will be removed from all ELA Guidebooks and Imagine Learning (formerly LearnZillion) materials by the end of August. The text is no longer available for purchase through American Reading Company, and it will no longer be included in future student handout purchases from XanEdu.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Accelerating Learning in ELA

The Department has developed resources to support school systems committed to using the statewide tutoring strategy, [Accelerate](#), to provide additional learning time for students through high-dosage tutoring during the school day at CIR/UIR-Academics schools. Accelerate ELA resources for students in grades [K-2](#) and [3-10](#) are now available. Accelerate ELA materials for grades K-2 include foundational skills and knowledge building lessons while the materials for grades 3-10 include knowledge building texts and activities. The Department plans to continue to develop resources during the 2022-2023 school year, and they will be released on a rolling basis.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: ASSISTments Professional Learning Opportunity for Math

[ASSISTments](#) is a free math practice and assessment platform that supports the Department's [Pre-K through High School Tutoring Strategy](#) and streamlines the [Acceleration Cycle](#). Teachers can assign all of the [Accelerate Math Diagnostics and Tutoring Exit tickets](#) online and get immediate data to use for planning just-in-time supports and monitoring student progress. ASSISTments is hosting free virtual workshops in which participants will discover how the Acceleration Cycle works to transform learning through a full demonstration of the features of ASSISTments designed uniquely for Louisiana educators. [Registration](#) is now open for interested educators to choose from one of three workshop dates.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

PD Series: Science of Reading and Literacy Intervention Tools for Paraprofessionals and Support Staff

In an effort to support staff members who are positioned to assist teachers and provide additional instruction to struggling students, a [series of webinars](#) will be held in September to provide time and space for questions and on-demand support. Topics will include an introduction to the science of reading, supporting classroom literacy, and using literacy resources to support instruction. Recordings of the sessions will be posted in the [Literacy Library](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

PD Series: Step-by-Step Foundational Supports for Grades 3-12

Teachers of upper elementary, middle, and high school grades are encouraged to attend a webinar series on how to support foundational skills for struggling readers. [This PD series](#) will highlight available resources, tools, and activities that can improve reading instruction and interventions for all students. Topics will include using data, conducting a fluency screener, administering the skills probe and the phonemic and phonological awareness probe. [The webinars](#) will be recorded and posted in the [Literacy Library](#). Additional sessions will begin in October and November to support content literacy development. Additional information for the additional sessions will be released in next month's newsletter.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies K-3 Webinar

The [2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) (LSSSS) will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. The Department will continue hosting [webinars](#) this fall to support district leaders, school leaders, and teachers as they prepare to transition to the 2022 K-12 LSSSS. The information for the upcoming Grades K-3 webinar is below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 13 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97047352000?pwd=dVNWTTJFVm1iM2VBcUNxek15ZWl3QT09>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 97047352000
- **Passcode:** 529847

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

LACUE Call for Proposals

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LACUE) is calling for proposals for the [2022 LACUE Conference](#). The conference will be held November 29 - December 1 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans. The deadline to submit is **October 1** and acceptance notifications will be sent by October 21. The LACUE conference is a wonderful opportunity for educators from around the state to share knowledge and expertise.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR AND STUDENT RECOGNITION

Nominations for the 2023 Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Teaching

[Nominations](#) are now open for the 2023 [Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#). This award is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. This year's cycle will recognize teachers of grades 7-12. Nominations close on **January 9**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Searching for Louisiana's Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year and New Teacher 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, as well as the New Teacher of the Year program. (Candidates for the New Teacher of the Year program must have less than one year teaching experience.)

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 30**. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award's page](#). Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for questions regarding Teacher/Principal of the Year and laurie.carlton@la.gov for questions regarding New Teacher of the Year.

2022-2023 Student of the Year Guidelines

[Newly revised Student of the Year Guidelines](#) and accompanying documents are now available.

Revisions include additional regions, changes in organizational structure as well as shifts in portfolio scoring weights.

Please contact Erica.Spencer@la.gov with any questions.

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.

PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION AND SHOUT-OUTS

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.

Carla Martin at Delta Elementary School in Moorehouse Parish:

"In the 13 years working at Delta Elementary, I have seen many Principals come and go. They all had their good points but none even come close to what Mrs. Martin has done for our school. Her determination and dedication to our students and faculty/staff are thousands of steps ahead of all others. There is nothing she wouldn't do for her kids here at Delta. She's taken our school from the bottom to the top in just 3 short years. I cannot even imagine what lies ahead for all of us because of her! Please let her know how much we appreciate her! *Submitted by Heather Monahan*

"Mrs. Martin is a "Data Guru," and her passion for work is clear to me everyday. Some people might think that "All Students showing Growth" is just a phrase in our mission statement, but she really lives it by meeting the needs of our staff and students. That means a lot!!" *Submitted by Shiela Davenport*

Jan Watts at Caneview K-8 in West Baton Rouge Parish:

"Mrs. Watts is the dedicated and faithful principal of Caneview K-8, in which she is fostering positive relationships with all people involved in the school. She has spent 30 years educating and leading students in West Baton Rouge Parish and truly has the best hopes and dreams for all students in the school." *Submitted by Ben Cox*

Mike Yoist at Pineville Junior High in Rapides Parish:

"Mr. Yoist does what's best for kids, increasing student proficiency but just as importantly increasing the number of clubs and extracurricular opportunities for the kids at PJH. Pineville Junior is a great school to attend every day." *Submitted by Jonathan Garrett*

DATES TO CONSIDER FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Important Dates	
Educator Evaluation Leader Survey Deadline	September 30
Educator Evaluation Teacher Survey Deadline	September 30
Principal, Teacher, and New Teacher of the Year Nominations Due	September 30
LACUE Call for Proposals	October 1
Practicing Principal Webinar	October 3 at 1 p.m.
Science Collaborative Application Due	October 7 by 5 p.m.
Social Studies Standards Webinar for Grades K-3	October 13 at 3 p.m.
Principal Recruitment and Retention Listening Sessions	October 10 at 9 a.m. October 14 at 11 a.m. October 18 at 8 a.m. October 19 at 12:30 p.m.
Teacher Recruitment and Retention Listening Sessions	October 6 at 10 a.m. October 17 at 12 p.m. October 18 at 9 a.m. October 20 at 3 p.m.