

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

October 19, 2023

In This Issue

- [Principal Corner](#)
- [LDOE Corner](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Educator Opportunities](#)
- [Principal Newsletter Signup](#)
- [Principal Appreciation](#)
- [Dates to Consider](#)

Principal Corner



Can you feel the cool crisp air that is finally starting to come after this blazing hot summer we had? Not only am I excited about that, but I'm also excited that my air conditioning units on campus are getting a break! I'm sure many of you, if not all of you, have had a conversation with someone about the air conditioning status of your campus. After this summer and early fall, I feel that I have gained valuable experience in this new opportunity and gained another badge in this principalship, "Head of Coolant." Bring on the Fall and more learning opportunities!

As principals, we have an obligation to every teacher, student, and stakeholder to provide a positive, safe school environment where teachers can effectively master their skills, students are provided high-quality education, and stakeholders can be key players in not only the students' success but the teachers' as well. However, we must view that obligation as a learning opportunity for all of us to grow. A "growing opportunity" is a chance for each of us to put into place the systems needed for teachers to feel empowered in their work. In addition to experiencing academic success, our students are offered several opportunities to explore electives, extracurricular activities, and life skill opportunities that will ideally help them discover who they are and mold them into their best selves. To ensure that the school and community can form relationships that foster a healthy culture in which a community may grow and thrive collectively, we must continue to provide our stakeholders a voice within our schools. However, this obligation we have comes with much work and much responsibility. It takes servant leadership and a holistic team approach where we must engage, listen, and create diverse opportunities to achieve success.

To implement a system where students, teachers, and stakeholders can all achieve success, our district and Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) became intentional with our school's schedule and planned for scaffolding processes and learning opportunities to occur. This system, Whatever I Need (WIN), was established. We have developed this time in our schedule to provide our students with the opportunity to not only achieve academic success but become engaged within the community through their unique interests and learning opportunities. We had to ask ourselves this question, "What are we doing to support the needs, interests, and opportunities of ALL students and teachers?" We have an obligation to not only our students' success but our teachers' success as well.

First, what and how many opportunities are we offering our students? More importantly, who is leading those opportunities? Are the teachers leading those opportunities qualified and passionate about what they are leading? Will the opportunities impact student achievement? How will we know they are positively impacting students? This should lead to collective engagement in data-driven conversations that can effectively monitor and track our quantitative and qualitative data of our students and teachers in regard to academic success and their interests and opportunities.

Second, we need to listen to our students and teachers by simply asking them what they would like to see offered in their school. Give them a voice so when your team develops the system, the “buy-in” is already in motion and now we are meeting them where they are. We want our teachers to invest in our students, not only in their academic success but to provide them with life skills that they’re passionate about. For example, we have a teacher who loves refinishing furniture so we created an art design class during WIN time. Now she is teaching the students how to refinish or repurpose community-donated furniture and sell it at our end of the school year celebration.

Lastly, it’s your turn! Create those diverse opportunities that your school wants and needs. This takes intentional planning, and collaboration with teachers, system leaders, and the community. We want to ensure that these opportunities are impactful in supporting the school and community while helping them achieve success. The main goal is to create an environment where students and teachers can grow both academically and socially with community engagement that promotes a positive and equitable learning environment through diverse opportunities.

There isn’t a day that goes by when all of us aren’t faced with an opportunity that will allow us to grow in our profession. Most of the time these opportunities are given to us by others. Sometimes it just happens like becoming “Head of Coolant”. Let’s not be afraid to get out of our comfort zone and create those diverse opportunities on our campuses that will grow our students and teachers. You never know, that opportunity could be the difference. Stay cool, Louisiana!

**Barry Carter, 2024 Louisiana Middle School Principal of the Year
North DeSoto Middle, DeSoto Parish**

LDOE Corner



Happy October! Many of our schools are wrapping up the first nine weeks of school and are looking at the progress students are making this year. Conferences, homecoming, and data dives are the buzzwords around campuses right now. While all of those exciting things are happening, we want to make sure principals are finding time to review and select their Interests and Opportunities indicators for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Interests and Opportunities Index is an accountability measure for K-12 schools that counts towards School Performance Scores (SPS). It is an indicator to measure whether schools are providing students with access to well-rounded education that exposes them to diverse areas of learning in which they can develop their skills and talents.

Continuing in the 2023-2024 school year, the LDOE will use a “menu-based” approach for the Interests and Opportunities Index. Schools select their indicators via Jotform and have their selections validated by school systems. Once they are selected and validated, they cannot be changed.

Four indicators will be selected on an annual basis per school. Selections must include the following:

- Total of four different indicators
- Represent two domains
- Minimum of three are data based
- Represent all of the grade levels you serve

The following resources are available to help support you through this:

- The [2023-2024 Menu](#) is the main tool schools and systems use to select their four indicators.
- The [2023-2024 Guidance](#) is an accompanying document that answers many of the questions schools and systems might have.

Please email accountability@la.gov if you have any questions about Interests and Opportunities.

Chelsea Haley, Director of School and District Accountability Policy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Principal's Webinar Series

The LDOE hosts a monthly webinar series for current school leaders and principal supervisors on best practices in school leadership aligned to the state's priorities. Each month, the webinar features national and Louisiana experts sharing strategies and tools on a specific topic necessary for being effective in the school leader role. Accountability updates on Interests and Opportunities will be presented during October's webinar.

Webinar Date and Time: October 23, 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97054177103?pwd=Vm9DYmZpNXhKSGQrVnJwSjVMb25aZz09>

Webinar Phone Number: 346-248-7799

Meeting ID#: 970 5417 7103

Passcode: 310386

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Compass Information System (CIS) Updates

VAM scores have been released into the Compass Information System (CIS). All 2022-2023 teacher, counselor, and other evaluation types should be finalized.

The [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) will open for the 2023-2024 school year on **November 3**. Following this rollover, systems may begin [updating rosters](#) and entering observation and [Student Learning Target \(SLT\)](#) data.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit: Save the Date

The 12th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held **May 28-30, 2024**, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Registration and presenter application details will be released this fall.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Teacher/Principal, New Teacher and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Application Process Open

The Teacher/Principal, *New Teacher* and the Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year application process for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. The application materials and timelines are available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers, three principals, and three *new* teachers (with less than one year of teaching experience), one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees, and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications must be submitted via an online application portal, which will open in late 2023.

- Teacher/Principal of the Year and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year will be due **January 11**.
- New Teacher of the Year will be due **January 26**.

Please contact the following with questions.

- Teacher/Principal of the Year- excellenteducators@la.gov
- New Teacher of the Year- laurie.carlton@la.gov
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year- shallan.jones@la.gov

Viewing Certification Data using EdLink 360

Certification data is available to view on EdLink 360. The certification data available shows certification areas and types of certification, as well as certification expiration dates. This information can help principals make informed decisions regarding recruitment and retention. [Instructions](#) on how to view and filter certification data can be found in the Workforce Attributes Library on [Louisiana Believes](#).

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions regarding EdLink 360.

Mentor and Resident Funding

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the data collection for Mentor compensation will take place using a similar process to what was used in 2022-2023. Those unable to join the Fall 2023 Mentor and Resident funding call to review the funding eligibility and process should review the [presentation](#).

School systems must submit all required data in EdLink. The suggested deadline to complete this is **October 20**. This will give school systems enough time to double check their data prior to the snapshot being taken. The data snapshot will be taken on **October 27**. As a reminder, all certificates required (practitioner license, resident license, Mentor credential or waiver) must have been issued by **October 1** in order to be eligible for funding.

If you are a principal who hosts undergraduate residents or has first year teachers on a practitioner's license at your school, make sure your system has submitted this data to receive funding.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

RESOURCES

CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS

National Apprenticeship Week

In celebration of National Apprenticeship Week (November 13-19), the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will host the 2023 Virtual Apprenticeship Expo November 8, from 9-10:30 a.m. via Zoom. This event is free, but [student registration](#) is required.

Participants will receive information on apprenticeship programs, processes, benefits, and outcomes at this event. Through a series of interactive presentations from industry professionals as well as state and national workforce development administrations, students will

- discover alternative pathway to high-paying and high-demand jobs,
- gain knowledge of soft skills necessary for workforce success, and
- learn about Louisiana business and industry.

Please download the [informational flier](#) for more information; contact caronda.bean@la.gov with questions regarding registration or technical assistance for the expo.

DIVERSE LEARNERS

Resources for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The LDOE is excited to announce the release of updated resources to support students with significant cognitive disabilities.

- [Modified ELA Guidebooks](#) for students in grades 3-5 are aligned to the Louisiana Connectors for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
- [Prioritized Connectors for LEAP Connect](#) is a resource for teachers for instructional support and to familiarize students with the format of the LEAP Connect assessment, as well as the Connectors regularly assessed.
- [LEAP Connect Practice Tests](#) in ELA, math, and science are available to assist teachers in preparing students for the LEAP Connect assessment. Instructional tools and activities are also included.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

DIGITAL LEARNING

LACUE Annual Conference

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators invites teachers and instructional leaders to attend the [LACUE 36th Annual Conference](#). The conference will be held **November 28-30** at the Hyatt New Orleans.

[Registration](#) is now open and early bird pricing ends on **October 31**. Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

ELA

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Overview Webinar

The LDOE's ELA content team will host a webinar to share information regarding the upcoming ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024). These new units will be available in the spring of 2024 for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. Teachers, school leaders, and system leaders are invited to attend this initial overview to learn more about the new units.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 6 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93449668654?pwd=NXpmN1VHQTFFWlQWFpvK2MrenZMz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID #:** 93449668654

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Steve Carter Literacy Tutors

LDOE is seeking K-5 certified teachers to become tutors for the Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program. Interested teachers should complete the [Teacher Tutoring Interest Survey](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Translated Family Reporting Documents for Literacy Screener Now Available

Family reporting documents for the literacy screener and the literacy screener alternate assessment (LAAR) have been translated into Arabic, Vietnamese, and Spanish. These translated forms can be found on the [Literacy Screener web page](#) under Family Reporting.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Summer Literacy Tour Sessions Now Available

The sessions from the [Summer Literacy Tour](#) are now available in the Literacy Library. The three sessions include: Literacy Best Practices from Screener to Core, Using Screener Data to Support Literacy Growth, and Best Practices in Fluency and Comprehension.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Dual Language Immersion K-3 Literacy Screener Guidance Available

The LDOE's World Languages Team has developed guidance and support documents to aid schools and school systems with Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs to navigate the implementation of [Act 438 \(2021\)](#). [The K-3 Literacy Screener: Dual Language Immersion Education](#) guidance document is available on the LDOE's [Literacy Screener](#) web page. Sample Parent Reporting Letters for parents of students in DLI programs are available on the [LDOE World Languages and Immersion](#) web page.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

MATH

Now Available: Foundational Lessons to Accelerate Math Education (FLAME)

[FLAME](#) resources are now available to support the development of foundational skills and fluency for students in grades K-5 math. The new resources are designed to complement adopted high-quality instructional materials. FLAME offers short, engaging lessons and tools for teachers to track and inform parents of student progress. Unit 1 is now available, Unit 2 posts in November, and Unit 3 posts in January.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Updates

All grade 4 Bayou Bridges units are now available. These materials are available on the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#). Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All grade 5 units will be published by **October 31**.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE

NASA Solar Eclipse Educational Materials

To help learners of all ages understand how to safely observe the [April 8 total solar eclipse](#), NASA has released a new set of resources for educators. Science and STEM teachers can utilize these [resources](#) alongside [high-quality instructional materials](#) to engage students with these exciting phenomena.

Additional resources and implementation guidance will be shared on the [K-12 Science Resources](#) web page ahead of the April 8 total solar eclipse.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Green Ribbon School Application

In partnership with the [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#) (ED-GRS) program, the LDOE is excited to announce that applications for recognition as a Green Ribbon School for the 2023-2024 school year opened on October 16. Eligibility requirements include that schools, systems, and early learning centers show progress in

- reducing environmental impacts and costs,
- improving health and wellness, and

- providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

More information will be available in the application package on the [Environmental Education](#) web page.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics and Louisiana Science Teachers Association Joint Conference

The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) are hosting a [joint conference](#) November 2-3 in Baton Rouge. This annual conference provides professional learning and networking opportunities for all math and science educators throughout the state. The last day to [pre-register](#) for the conference is **October 27**.

Please contact scienceandmatheducators@gmail.com or STEM@la.gov with questions.

Professional Learning for Teachers of French

On October 30, Catherine David, a senior lecturer at the University of Aix-Marseille, will travel to Louisiana for a one-day in-person workshop for all teachers of French language and French immersion teachers entitled Pédagogies différenciée et créativité. This workshop aims to introduce differentiation and variation methods to effectively address multi-level French language classes. Participants will engage in a comprehensive analysis of didactic resources and gain insights into crafting innovative learner-specific pedagogical approaches that capitalize on the diversity/differences among learners. The all-day workshop will be conducted in French and is funded by the Cultural Services of the Embassy of France. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE, in partnership with the Center for Assessment, is continuing its Assessment Literacy Initiative. The [Effective Assessment Practices Webinar Series for Teachers & Leaders](#) is a series of monthly, one-hour webinars that provide opportunities for Louisiana educators to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms.

Please refer to the [Effective Assessment Practices Webinar Series for Teachers & Leaders](#) document for more information regarding the full series of dates, topics, and Zoom links.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher Experience: Professional Learning Modules FINAL OPPORTUNITY

The Department, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed [Professional Learning Modules](#) on topics that are critical for new teacher success. These modules, which are designed to build learning throughout the year, include online asynchronous content followed by an in person learning lab where participants practice and apply these concepts. **Teachers are still welcome to register and join for the remaining modules.**

- Module 2: [Standards and Curriculum](#)
- Module 3: [Data Literacy](#)

- Module 4: [Literacy for 21st Century Learners](#)
- Module 5: [Parent and Community Engagement](#)

Teachers are expected to complete the entire series of Professional Learning Modules. After completing the [registration](#), participants will receive details on selected training locations. This learning opportunity is provided at no cost to systems; however, any travel costs must be covered by the school system. Registration is almost full; please have new teachers register ASAP.

Contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher Experience: Affinity Group Registration Now Open

The [New Teacher Experience](#) is a comprehensive support program for beginning educators designed to increase teacher effectiveness, enhance skills, and reduce attrition among beginning teachers. The Department is excited to announce that [registration](#) is still open for 2023-2024 Affinity Groups.

Affinity Groups provide support for beginning teachers across Louisiana through monthly virtual meetings. The goals of these groups include

- creating a pathway for novice teachers to experience socialization and collaboration with their peers;
- linking new teachers by a common purpose or interest (teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities, second grade teachers, etc.);
- ensuring an inclusive environment where new teachers are valued, included, and empowered to succeed;
- improving their craft through discussion, collaboration, and purposeful materials and leadership in each group; and
- building new teachers' confidence in their abilities to instruct students and manage classrooms.

There is no cost to join affinity groups, but seats are limited. [Registration](#) will be on a first come, first served basis. Don't let your new teachers miss out on this great opportunity. Registration will close once full. Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

The New Teacher Experience: Office Hours

The LDOE will host an Office Hour call to support school leaders and system leaders who have questions regarding The New Teacher Experience. There is no formal presentation. This is an opportunity to call in with questions on registering and supporting early career educators.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 26 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92733896023?pwd=OTBXaDZMeUpCd1ISdINQZzNwbHFpZz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID #:** 927 3389 6023

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive our next monthly newsletter.

PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION

If you have an extraordinary building-level leader you would like to recommend to be highlighted in future newsletters, please submit information about the outstanding leader using the [LDOE Principal's Newsletter Leader Spotlight Nomination Form](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

DATES TO CONSIDER FOR BUILDING-LEVEL LEADERS

Important Dates	
Digital Citizenship Week	October 16 - 22
Monthly Principal Webinar: Interests and Opportunities	October 23 at 1 p.m.
New Teacher Experience: Office Hours	October 26 at 1 p.m.
Final date to enter or edit 2022-2023 evaluation data in CIS	October 27
Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) Conference pre-registration due	October 27
LACUE 36th Annual Conference registration due for early bird pricing	October 31