

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

October 27, 2022

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Principal Corner



Hello Louisiana Principals, and greetings from Plaquemines Parish!

In the short five years I've served as principal of Belle Chasse Elementary School (BCES), I (like many of you) have weathered the events battering education. Now, on what seems to be the other side of the storm, I'm honored to share with you some professional reflection around our school's growth over the past few years. Our school has two main areas of focus that we try to balance - Positive Culture and Student Achievement.

At BCES, we focus on improving student outcomes while at the same time providing a positive school culture and climate which allows for both student and staff growth. The culture at Belle Chasse Elementary is one of acceptance and support, rooted in kindness and respect for all who walk through our doors. I value the expertise of the incredible, highly effective educators on my staff. Our teacher leaders and Content Leaders facilitate

PLCs and professional development that foster great collaboration and have been proven to transfer into more rigorous instruction. The voice of my teachers and staff is important to me. I regularly solicit their feedback and use it in making decisions for our school. It is important to me that my staff feels appreciated for the hard work they do each day.

As a school district and a school, we have invested resources and hard work into analyzing student data to make intentional and purposeful decisions around teaching and learning. Our school population includes many diverse learners who deserve equal access to every available support academically, socially, and emotionally. Teaching 100% of the students 100% of the curriculum 100% of the time, is one

of my core beliefs as I have learned from Data to Information (D2i), and this belief drives the decisions I make for students each day. Intentional, data-driven changes in curriculum, interventions, and instructional practices have allowed for positive growth and results for students. We have celebrated growth in our ELA and Math Proficiency, Assessment and Progress Indices. The academic changes we have made have not been easy or even embraced by all, but they have been necessary and have proven to be beneficial for our students. Supporting teachers and staff through these changes in curriculum, planning and instruction, and meeting the needs of all students is a goal I set for myself each year.

This 2022-2023 school year has a different feel for me as a school leader. There is a tremendous sense of pride in all we have accomplished despite some of the most challenging times in education. There is a great sense of unity, perseverance, and drive as we continue to strive for excellence at Belle Chasse Elementary. There is an unwavering commitment to our students - a commitment to meet their individual needs each day in a safe, respectful, and kind environment. We have made great strides as a school and district, but we are "Stepping It Up" as we focus on achieving excellence. I hope this school year proves to be a positive one for you as well!

Holly Farizo Eiswirth, Belle Chasse Elementary School, Plaquemines Parish Schools

LDOE Corner

The Division of Diverse Learners aims to work in partnership with school systems, families, and communities to increase outcomes for diverse learners across Louisiana. The Division's work is primarily grounded in the state priority removing barriers and creating equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.

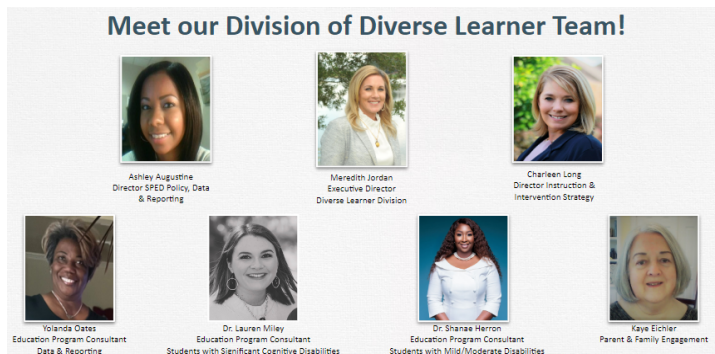
Students with disabilities and English Learners in Louisiana are most importantly STUDENTS first. We strive to give each student what they need to succeed in accessing high-quality teaching and learning.

Students with Disabilities

Based on our most recent LEAP data, students with disabilities saw a 1% increase in mastery indicating some learning recovery. However, regular education students also saw an increase and so the achievement gap remains. We celebrate the resilience of our leaders and educators over the past few years, and we know that now more than ever we must continue to be intentional in our support and intervention. Change in this trend must begin with a growth mindset and a belief in all students' abilities.

We know that in order to begin to close achievement gaps for students with disabilities we must provide these high leverage three basic best practices to students with disabilities:

- a focus on *high quality core instruction*,
- *extra time to learn* (in addition to uninterrupted core instruction), and
- *content strong teachers*.



We also know that along with these basic best practices, combined with specially designed instruction, such as the related services, accommodations and supports outlined in the IEP, that we will set the vast majority of our students with disabilities up for success. We also know that there is a small population of students who need much more intense supports.

English Learners

Louisiana's English Learners (ELs) have remained stagnant in their performance on LEAP, but they did demonstrate some gains in English Language proficiency on the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) assessment. Providing ELs with equal access and opportunity to high-quality instruction requires school-site leaders to design and implement school structures and instructional models that allow language acquisition to occur across all content areas all day, every day. Often, these students will need additional time built into their day to support English language development.

Our state's strategy to close achievement gaps for ELs is very similar to that of students with disabilities. ELs need:

- *high-quality, standards-based core instruction* alongside their English speaking peers,
- *ongoing progress monitoring* to support and accelerate learning, and
- *Two-Way Language Immersion models* in schools where there is an established EL population of a common language.

While this work may be some of the most challenging, it is also some of the most rewarding. The Department believes in you as leaders and in our educators! You see the ABILITIES of all children.

Meredith Jordan, Executive Director of Diverse Learner Division

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Principal 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 will feature national and Louisiana experts sharing strategies and tools on a specific topic necessary for being effective in the school leader role.

The next webinar will highlight effective practices for diverse learners and be led by the Department's Diverse Learner team.

Webinar Date/Time: October 31, 1-2 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98516144298?pwd=VHoxSlhaNWwhFZUNrQWICS05MRHlzZz09>

Meeting ID: 985 1614 4298

Passcode: 125571

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Announcing Louisiana's Math Refresh

To support all schools in accelerating math learning, the Department is launching the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#). This initiative will provide funding to support a refresh of math materials. Guidance, resources, and professional learning to provide the maximum impact in accelerating students' math progress are coming soon. Updates will be provided through this newsletter and the new [Louisiana Math](#) page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Student Learning Target (SLT) Guidance

Teachers and leaders may begin setting student learning targets (SLTs) for the 2022-2023 school year. A number of resources are available in the [Compass Library](#) to support educators in this process. The [SLT Assessment Identification Guide](#) provides a list of state approved assessments to assist in measuring students' attainment of learning targets. Approved literacy screeners and high quality curriculum based assessments are encouraged when available. The [Teacher Student Learning Target \(SLT\) Guidance and Sample Templates](#) outlines the types of targets and process for setting targets and provides sample templates. The [Student Learning Target FAQ](#) provides answers to common questions pertaining to student learning targets.

[Act 333](#) and Bulletin 130 now require a meeting between evaluator and evaluatee to discuss student learning targets. Student learning targets not discussed in a meeting between evaluator and evaluatee shall not be used in evaluation. The sample student learning target template includes a signature space to acknowledge a meeting. Additionally, the Compass Information System ([CIS](#)) includes language for the user to acknowledge a meeting between evaluator and evaluatee.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Evaluation Guide

The 2022-2023 Teacher Evaluation Guide is located in the [Compass Library](#). This guide has been developed to provide teachers a common understanding of the Louisiana evaluation components, tools and practices. Topics include:

- Evaluation Rationale and Policy/Continuum of Evaluation and Certification
- Elements of Evaluation: Professional Practice Scores and Student Performance Scores
- Timeline

Please share this guide with all teachers.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science Education Week December 5-9

This year the Louisiana Department of Education is excited to announce that the week of December 5-9 will be our state's first annual Computer Science Education Week. This week, coinciding with the international [Hour of Code](#), will be an opportunity for students in grades K-12 to experience a variety of activities, both in the classrooms and with community partners, that focus on introducing students to computer science, demonstrating that anyone can learn the basics of coding, and increase awareness of career opportunities in the computer science industry.

Several state leaders are interested in visiting schools within their areas of representation to share a coding experience with students. This can be as simple as completing a few levels of a free activity at www.code.org, or it can be aligned with more complex work in which students engage regularly. If you are willing to share your school information with state leaders who may be interested in scheduling a brief visit, please complete this [form](#) by **Friday, November 4**.

For more information and free resources, see [How to plan your school's first Hour of Code- Hour of Code](#) or [Hour of Code Teacher Resources- Code.Org](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: New Episode Released

LDOE's podcast, [Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) provides *a little something extra* for educators to stay inspired, motivated, and connected in the work with students.

[Season 2, Episode 8: Building Relationships with Louisiana's New Teacher of the Year Jordyn Vicknair](#)

We chat with Louisiana's very first New Teacher of the Year, Jordyn Vicknair. A graduate of Louisiana State University's GeauxTeach program, she shares her journey through her first year of teaching, her love of teaching math, and the relationships she grew with her students. The graduates of Louisiana's 2022 Aspiring Principals Fellowship make Em Cooper smile this week.

Educators can [submit pictures and stories](#) of the great work happening in their system to be highlighted on the podcast. Subscribe through [Apple](#) Podcasts, Google Play, [Spotify](#), or other apps.

Please contact em.cooper@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](#).
- The [Literacy Library](#) has gotten a makeover! To accommodate the growing bank of resources that support the literacy pillars and goals, the Literacy Library has been reorganized to better serve the needs of leaders, teachers, and families who access those resources. Educators can now click on the pillar graphic that matches their needs and find available resources.
- 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](#)
 - [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#)
 - [Grades 9-12 Social Studies Teacher Library](#)
- 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).
- Resources for librarians
 - Librarians may join the [LASL mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on additional professional learning opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [Twitter](#). Additional resources for librarians can be found below:
 - [September Newsletter](#)
 - [Resources for School Library Professionals for Action and Safety During Challenging Times](#)

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Professional Learning Series: Content Literacy in Action

Teachers of upper elementary, middle, and high school grades are encouraged to attend a [webinar series](#) on how to provide instruction and support students in their content areas by building integrated literacy skills. [This Professional Learning series](#) will review the Content Literacy Support documents and experience what each looks like in action, as well as deconstruct the tools so that participants can understand the purposes and how to effectively implement the resources. The webinars will be recorded and posted in the [Literacy Library](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies Grades 6-8 Webinar

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 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). The information for the upcoming Grades 6-8 webinar is below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 14 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92285097894?pwd=UzFyK2t6MmxGTkxwR2dydnBkaUtDQT09>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 92285097894
- **Passcode:** 048051

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New EdTech Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Now Open!

The Department is seeking K-12 teachers to join the first EdTech [Teacher Leader Advisor](#) cohort. EdTech Teacher Leader Advisors play an instrumental role in:

- the creation of educational resources and tools for K-12 educators;
- professional learning needs for future work;
- supporting schools and systems to facilitate parent communication; and
- providing subject matter specific technology integration support.

[Applications](#) are open and will close **November 7 at 5:00 p.m.** Interested educators can access the application and learn more about the role by visiting the [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) page.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

2022 LACUE Conference

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LACUE) 2022 Annual Conference will be held November 29 - December 1 at the Hyatt New Orleans. [Registration](#) is now open and will close November 19. At LACUE, teachers learn how to transform classrooms to increase student engagement with the latest learning strategies that integrate technology to affect student achievement, individually or as a class. From hands-on workshops diving into the world of 3D printing, to interactive presentations exploring best practices for today's top tools like Google Classroom, Kahoot, and SeeSaw, teachers will find just what they need to hone their skills and develop new competencies.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committee

The Division of Assessment Content will convene committees for LEAP 2025 Science, new LEAP Social Studies, and LEAP Connect assessments.

LEAP 2025 Science Stimuli Review Committees:

1. Convene in person in Lafayette on selected Saturdays in January and February for grades 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
2. Review proposed stimuli to ensure that the content aligns to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science, the selections are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and the selections are appropriate for all Louisiana students by being free of bias and sensitivity concerns.
3. Participants will receive a half-day stipend and will be reimbursed by the vendor for mileage to and from the meeting.

The LEAP Social Studies Item Review Committees for grades 3–8 and high school Civics:

1. Convene virtually in January–March.
2. Include 10 educators, mainly classroom teachers and instructional leads with extensive content knowledge, grade-level expertise, and/or specialized experience.
3. Review items to ensure that they align to the 2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies, accurately reflect course content and grade-level expectations, use clear wording, and are fair and appropriate for all Louisiana students.
4. Complete synchronous and asynchronous reviews, with two full-day meetings required in winter 2023 and in spring 2023.
5. Receive stipends and/or substitute reimbursements per guidelines for completed reviews and meetings.

LEAP Connect Content and Bias Review Committees:

4. convene in January in a virtual platform
5. Review new item development to ensure that the content aligns to the Louisiana Connectors, is clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and is appropriate for all Louisiana students by being free of bias and sensitivity concerns
6. schools may receive appropriate substitute reimbursement, as needed.

Deadline to apply: **November 20**

Interested educators can access the [Assessment Content Educator Review Committees document](#) for committee details and links to apply.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

STEM Professional Learning and Resources Now Available

STEM professional learning and resources are now available through an in-person learning opportunity being offered by the Louisiana Transportation Research Center, a Division of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. The [TRAC and RIDES programs](#) are used to introduce students in grades K-12 to the work world of transportation and civil engineering and inspire them to consider careers in those fields. This workshop offers teachers hands-on training through activities designed to align with standards and used to facilitate problem solving skills and higher order thinking. The TRAC (TRANsportation and Civil Engineering) program is intended for use in grades 7-12 and RIDES (Roadways Into Developing Elementary Students) is intended for grades K-6. Each attendee will receive a manual that consists of over 100 activities and each school will leave with one “trunk” of materials to use in classrooms. Interested teachers should [register](#) now for sessions being offered in December.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with 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

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.

Alexis Long at New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy

"Mrs. Long is always putting the cadets first when making decisions and continually listening to teachers and staff about what they need to best help students. She is a true model of the academy's core values for the entire school community." *Submitted by Jennifer Dotson*

Deb Hamby at Central Elementary in Ouachita Parish

"Mrs. Hamby leads with a positive vision for the future. She models teamwork which gives staff members a voice in decision making." *Submitted by Suzy Spencer*

DATES TO CONSIDER FOR BUILDING-LEVEL LEADERS

Important Dates	
Practicing Principal Webinar: Diverse Learners	October 31 at 1 p.m.
December 5-9 Computer Science Visits Sign-Up Deadline	November 4
STEM Teacher Leader Advisor Applications	November 7 by 5 p.m.
2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards 6th - 8th Grade Webinar	November 14 at 3:30 p.m
LACUE Registration Deadline	November 19
Assessment Development Educator Review Committee Application Deadline	November 20