

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

November 18, 2021

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Principal Corner

Having had the honor of serving as an Educator for 30 years, with 21 of those years as an Administrator at Gonzales Middle School in Ascension Parish, I have come to embrace the philosophy that “It takes a COMMUNITY to EDUCATE a child!!”

Regardless of the role played on our school campus or in our school community, ALL stakeholders—Students, Parents, Teachers, Instructional Support Staff, Bus Drivers, Cafeteria Workers, Custodians, as well as Business/Community Leaders—must have a vested interest in the well-being and success of every single student, every single day; they must also feel valued for their contributions, as well as continually shown that they are appreciated for their hard work and are “heard” when sharing feedback with me.

At Gonzales Middle School, our Vision Statement/Commitments guide the work that we engage in each day. Our first commitment is “Every staff member fosters a culture of inclusion and equity where ALL members of the Gonzales Middle School community are loved, nurtured, valued, and expected to grow into the best version of themselves.” As the leader of my school, this commitment requires that I serve as a model of Passion and Purpose for my staff by creating these same conditions for them as they engage in the most critical work each day. Through intentional recognition, our Mighty Bulldog Staff are recognized publicly and rewarded for their commitment, hard work, and the unique gifts they “bring to the table.” Whether it be through Big Dog of the Week, weekly “shoutouts” in my Bulldog Bark Staff Newsletter, posts on our Gonzales Middle School Staff and School Facebook pages, awarding of Big Dog Bucks/Staff Golden Tickets or giving verbal compliments/praise, I am diligent in my efforts to ensure that ALL Staff knows that their role/influence makes a POSITIVE difference in the lives of our students. In turn, I expect that they do the same for our students, who are recognized through Bulldog Brag Reports, Student of the Week, posts on our Gonzales Middle School Facebook pages, awarding of Bulldog Bucks/Golden Tickets, or giving verbal compliments/praise for meeting our school wide expectations.

As I settle each evening and reflect on my day, I ask myself these questions and then deliberately plan how I will recognize others the following day:

- How have I motivated students and staff and validated their hard work?
- How have I encouraged students and staff to continue to work hard and rewarded them for their effort?
- How have I recognized the gifts and talents that each stakeholder “brings to the table?”
- How have I validated the HARD WORK of every member of my school community?
- How have I celebrated the success of students and staff?

Our tagline at Gonzales Middle School is “Building a Better World, One Bulldog at a Time!!” In order to live up to this expectation, ALL STAFF must be encouraged as they engage in the educational experiences we are providing for our Students. They must also continually be reminded that their work matters. I encourage all School Leaders to intentionally recognize individual talents amongst their Teachers and Students and find ways to make them feel valued.

Lori Charlet

Principal, Gonzales Middle School, Ascension Parish Schools

Announcements

Principal Webinar Series

In November’s webinar, the LDOE will focus on assessing equity in schools.

- Webinar Date/Time: November 29 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link:
<https://doe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Resident Funding Increase

The amount of funding school systems will receive for resident teachers is increasing from \$1,000 to **\$1,800**. This will go into effect this school year, 2021-2022.

Residents eligible for this funding are year-long undergraduate residents who hold a resident certificate by October 1, 2021 and are completing their residency in a public school. This increase is only for residents; the Mentor allocation will still be **\$1,000**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Educator Evaluation Updates

Professional Practice Scores 2021-2022

BESE approved a proposal moving through the formal rulemaking process this October **for the 2021-2022 academic year only** regarding observations. Only **one** formal observation for the 2021-2022 academic year is required for those who earn a rating of **Highly Effective** or **Effective: Proficient** (score of 2.5 or higher) on the first observation. Individuals earning *Highly Effective* or *Effective: Proficient* on the first observation can receive a second observation upon request.

Any teacher or administrator who earns an observation rating of Ineffective or Effective: Emerging (2.4 or lower) will require two observations.

Updated guidance about 2021-2022 School Leader SLTs is posted in the Compass Library and labeled [Compass Rater Reliability BESE Updates](#).

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

2020-2021 School Leader Evaluation Scores

Due to the federal waiver of SPS [scores](#) traditionally used for leader Student Learning Targets (SLTs), districts now have the following options for completing the student growth portion of 2020-2021 Leader SLTs :

1. If leaders did not use SPS scores as one of their SLTs they are not impacted by the federal waiver of the SPS scores and will enter evaluations as planned.
2. If leaders had one SLT that was based on SPS scores and one based on alternate measures, the alternate SLT should be duplicated for a final student growth score.
3. If districts used only SPS scores for SLTs, the observation score will comprise the sum total of the evaluation score as student growth scores are unavailable.
4. *The leader evaluation upload window will be open from December 6th -December 22nd, 2021 in CIS. Please note that scores from 2021-2022 cannot be entered during that time.*

For more information, please contact compass@la.gov.

Louisiana's Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Process Is Open

On Tuesday, October 12, the Teacher and Principal of the Year application process for the 2021-2022 school year opened. All application materials and the timeline are available in the [Resources Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, 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 are due by January 12, 2021 and must be submitted via an online application portal which will open in late 2021.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for more information.

Acceleration Professional Development

The month's [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) session is Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning. During this session, participants will examine models for grouping students and plan for the incorporation of accelerated learning in core instruction, small group, and individual instruction. The target audience for this session is school and district leadership teams.

For a complete list of training dates and locations and to register, visit [NIET.org](#). Educators can receive a certificate upon completion of each training.

| Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning | |
|--|------------------------|
| Monday, November 22 | Virtual |
| Tuesday, November 23 | Virtual |
| Monday, November 29 | Virtual |
| Tuesday, November 30 | Virtual |
| Wednesday, December 1 | In person, Baton Rouge |
| Thursday, December 2 | Virtual |
| Monday, December 6 | Virtual |
| Tuesday, December 7 | In person, New Orleans |
| Wednesday, December 8 | Virtual |
| Thursday, December 9 | Virtual |
| Monday, December 13 | Virtual |
| Tuesday, December 14 | Virtual |
| Wednesday, December 15 | Virtual |
| Thursday, December 16 | In person, Baton Rouge |

Please email Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of November through December, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program. Some of the checklist items include:

- Release SLP dates to educators and families,
- Outreach for preliminary community support,
- Develop and distribute an interest survey for students,
- Develop a distribute an interest survey for staff, and
- Develop a needs assessment with stakeholder input.

School systems must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students at CIR and UIR-A schools next summer. School leaders should work with their system level leader coordinating summer learning efforts to ensure this takes place.

Questions can be emailed to Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov.

School Improvement Best Practices

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy is designed to support schools in adopting the essential components that drive professional and student growth and will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to develop, implement, and support five [School Improvement Best Practices](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support,
- teacher collaboration support,
- teaching standards support,
- principal standards support, and
- career pipeline support.

All schools in Louisiana can [register](#) to attend this professional development [opportunity](#) to support implementation of these essential practices through training sessions during Summer 2022. Educators in all schools can benefit from these best practices, no matter what the current school performance might be. Through these practices, all educators and their students reap the awards of strong leadership practices, teacher collaboration, teaching standards, and career opportunities.

Educators may use this [link](#) to learn more about the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy training sessions, what's new for Summer 2022, and the requirements for CIR and UIR-A schools.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Events

Teacher Leader Summit 2022

Save the Date! The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit will take place from **May 31 - June 2, 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.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Resources

New Literacy Resources Added to Library

Additional resources for teachers and leaders have been added to the [Literacy Library](#). These resources include:

- **National Family Literacy Month: Building Skills at Home**
In honor of November being National Family Literacy Month, the Department is releasing a series of activities that families can do at home to build literacy skills. These one-page resources are organized by age groups and offer ideas for customized, fun, simple literacy activities. They can be found under Resources for Families in the [Literacy Library](#), but for extra convenience, the individual links are provided below. They will be translated into Louisiana students' native languages, so continue to check the Literacy Library for updated resources. Teachers and leaders are encouraged to share these resources with families by sending them home, informing families of the Literacy Library, and/or adding them to site-based family centers.
- **National Family Literacy Month: Building Skills at Home**
In honor of November being National Family Literacy Month, the Department is releasing a series of activities that families can do at home to build literacy skills. These one-page resources are organized by age groups and offer ideas for customized, fun, simple literacy activities. They can be found under Resources for Families in the [Literacy Library](#), but for extra convenience, the individual links are provided below. They will be translated into Louisiana students' native languages, so continue to check the Literacy Library for updated resources. Teachers and leaders are encouraged to share these resources with families by sending them home, informing families of the Literacy Library, and/or adding them to site-based family centers.

Building Literacy Skills at Home for:

- [Newborn to Infant](#)
 - [Toddlers](#)
 - [Preschool to Early Elementary](#)
 - [Upper Elementary](#)
 - [Middle and High School](#)
- [Literacy Screener Results Reporting Template](#) - Teachers can send these home to inform families of their child's results on the universal literacy screener. This template fulfills the reporting requirements in Act 438.
 - Universal Literacy Screener Analysis Templates for [systems](#), [school sites](#), and [teachers that](#) can be used to track student data, group students, and analyze trends.
 - The entire K-2 Writing Series, which includes recordings and slides.
 - The [Sound Wall Template](#) provides everything a teacher needs to implement sound walls in the classroom.

The Literacy Division welcomes feedback and suggestions from teachers on what is working, what is not working, and what additional resources should be developed.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions and feedback.

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Updates

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most recent information about the 9-12 units on Louisiana Curriculum Hub.

The Photojournalism unit for grade 9 will be available on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) by January 1, 2022. Three additional new ELA Guidebooks 9-12 units will be released by April 2022: Bioethics (10th grade), Film In America (11th grade), and In the Time of the Butterflies (12th grade).

The Department is also soliciting teacher feedback through [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9-12 Feedback Form](#) for the units being implemented this year. Please encourage educators to bookmark this link for use throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

Join the [School Librarians in LA mailing list](#) to receive resources about professional development as well as opportunities to celebrate Louisiana school librarians. Additional information as well as opportunities to connect school librarians across the state can be found on the [LASL Website](#) and on the LASL on [Facebook](#) page.

Additionally, the ALA Chapters Office is still collecting reports on libraries damaged by Hurricane Ida through the [Hurricane Ida Damage Form](#).

Additional Resources:

- Helpful Links for School Libraries Affected by Hurricane Ida:
 - [ALA Disaster Reliefs](#)
 - [Dollar General Disaster Relief Grant](#)

Additional Helpful Links for School Librarians:

- [LASL Town Hall - Recording](#)
- [Free 5 Minute Webinar from LASL](#)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Planning Guide for Science Instruction

The [Planning Guide for Science Instruction](#) was released last school year to assist with planning using [high-quality science curriculum](#). The guide has four key steps and includes protocols for navigating each step. These protocols are designed to be relevant for individual teacher planning; however, this process is most effective when completed collaboratively during dedicated common planning time.

To further support teachers, schools, and systems with using the Planning Guide for Science Instruction, the Department has published [implementation resources](#). These resources include training decks and sample annotated material that were adapted from sessions delivered at Teacher Leader Summit last spring.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New Self-Paced Science Professional Learning Modules Available Now

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with implementation of [high-quality science curricula](#), the Department has released three [self-paced learning modules](#). These resources are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed individually for an “at your own pace” style of PD or delivered by Content Leaders or other science leaders to drive professional learning and facilitate collaborative conversations. Learning modules are focused on the topics below and available now.

- Science Instructional Model and Planning Guide
- Productive Science Talk and Planning for Discussion
- Leveraging Student Resources in Science

Each module includes a brief description, video, slide deck, and associated handouts.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

K-12 Social Studies Standards Review Public Comment Period Extended

Louisiana’s social studies standards are currently under review. A copy of the revised draft standards, the [online public comment form](#), and a [step-by-step guide](#) to completing the public comment form are posted in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). All stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on individual standards using this online form throughout the months of October and November.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate Math Webinars Posted

[Accelerate Math](#) resources are built for teachers and tutors as proactive support for upcoming classroom content in order to ensure students’ readiness for grade level mathematics. To support teachers and tutors implementing acceleration, the Department has published two webinars.

1. The [Accelerate Math Overview and Approach](#) webinar will guide educators through evidence-based best practices for acceleration in math and a sample deep dive into using the [Acceleration Cycle](#) as just-in-time support.
2. The [ASSISTments Partnership](#) webinar explains how the free electronic formative assessment tool, [ASSISTments](#), supports administration of Acceleration tools and tutoring exit tickets to students electronically allowing teachers to quickly access formative data to inform instructional next steps. Content is available and directly connected to Accelerate Math materials for grades 1-8, Algebra I, and Geometry.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New Self-Paced Math Professional Learning Modules Available this Month

The Department is partnering with the Charles A. Dana Center to publish a series of five asynchronous video-based learning modules for teachers and math leaders. These resources are designed to fit flexibly

in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed individually for an “at your own pace” style of PD. Content Leaders or other math leaders may also choose to utilize materials to drive professional learning and facilitate collaborative conversations. Learning Module Topics along with a general timeline for availability are provided below. The first modules in the series, as well as an outline with additional details, will be posted to the [K-12 Math Planning](#) page beginning in November.

- Classroom Strategies to Scaffold Math Learning (November)
- Formative Assessment Processes for Acceleration in Math (November)
- Critical Mindsets for Math Educators (December)
- Planning to Address Unfinished Math Learning, two-part series (January)

Please contact stem@la.gov with questions

AATSP National Spanish Exams

The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, AATSP, administers the National Spanish Exams, a motivational contest to recognize student achievement in the study of Spanish and to stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish by offering awards and scholarships to students annually. Registration for the 2021-22 National Spanish Exams opens November 1 and will run through **January 31**.

Please contact Director Lisa Greeman lgreenman@nationalspanishexam.org with any questions.

Registration for the 2022 Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association (LFLTA) Annual Conference Now Open **Please share with world language teachers.**

Registration for the 2022 [LFLTA](#) Conference has opened. The conference will be held in Baton Rouge at the Hilton Hotel Capitol Center January 14-15, 2022. This year's theme is “Level Up with Languages” and will host a variety of lecture and round-table presentations led by Louisiana World Language teachers, as well conference workshops and keynote address led by nationally recognized presenter Ryan Smith. Interested teachers should [register](#) online.

Please contact lftaboard@gmail.com with questions.

Opportunities

Build Your Future's “I Built This!” Contest

Build Your Future is holding a nationwide video contest titled “I BUILT THIS!” This competition invites construction craft students and trainees to showcase their building projects. Requirements of the videos:

- Projects must be relevant to construction or maintenance.
- Proper safety practices are followed.
- Maximum of 3 minutes in length.
- Contains a speaking/voiceover element, including at least one student.

- Projects must be completed in 2021.

High school career and technical education students are eligible to [enter](#) this contest.

For more information, please contact troy.borne@la.gov.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content is convening committees beginning in December for the LEAP 2025 Science and LEAP Connect assessments. Educators will review proposed stimuli and items to ensure that the content aligns to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science or the Louisiana Connectors and that the selections are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language and are free of bias and sensitivity concerns. Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Education Review Committee document](#) for information on exact dates, meetings details, and links to apply to participate.

Please contact leah.boulton@la.gov with questions.

PAEMST 2022 Awards: Nominations Now Open for Elementary K-6 Teachers

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching.

Anyone — principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public — may [nominate](#) exceptional STEM teachers who are currently teaching grades K-6 for the 2022 award year. Teachers may also [apply directly](#).

The nomination deadline is **January 7, 2022**, and the application deadline is **February 6, 2022**.

Please contact jam05@bellsouth.net with questions.

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Conference

Registration for the [NCTM Regional Conference](#) is now open. The conference will be held face-to-face in New Orleans, LA on February 2-4, 2022. This conference provides educators with the opportunity to focus on learning and resources that promote the mathematical habits of mind that will lead students to college and career success.

2022 Jump Start Convention

The 2022 Jump Start Convention will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. [Registration is currently open](#), and will close on Friday, December 3 or when capacity is reached.

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Fall NCCER ICTP/Core Instructor Training Opportunities

NCCER ICTP/Core teacher certification will be held either in-person or virtually. The fall training dates for ICTP/Core are December 13 - 17.

The cost of the certification class for ICTP/Core is \$650.00. Registration costs will be paid directly to the trainer. Perkins and/or CDF funds can pay for training costs. Prior to registering for the training all potential craft instructors are required to submit documentation of skill. Upon verification, instructors will be provided a registration link.

For more information, please contact troy.borne@la.gov.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast

[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 14 Summary - Louisiana's Broadband Strategy with Veneeth Iyengar: Veneeth Iyengar shares the access, affordability, and literacy strategies being implemented by the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity to eliminate the digital divide in Louisiana.

Episode 15 Summary - Calcasieu Parish Schools, A Story of Resilience with Superintendent Karl Bruchhaus: Superintendent Bruchhaus shares how his system prioritized people, modified operations, and how their staff went above and beyond for their kids during a year of devastation.

Episode 16 Summary - I'm a Teacher First with 2022 State Principal of the Year Marco French: Marco French shares how he transformed his school in Caddo Parish from failing to award-winning, the moment he was selected as state principal of the year, and advice for principals.

Episode 17 Summary - Effective Tutoring Practices with Dr. Carly Robinson: Dr. Carly Robinson, a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Annenberg Institute at Brown University, shares the research and best practices school systems should use in their tutoring strategy this year to address unfinished learning from COVID-19.

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:

Kristie Tyler from Hayden R Lawrence School in Rapides Parish: “As a new leader, Mrs. Tyler has set her focus on improving her school’s mission through collaborating with her community and stakeholders. Equitable teaching and learning are at the heart of her school - determination, passion and integrity are the words that sum up her first of many years as a principal. She is an inspiration to many within the district!” *Nominated by Tracy Bock*

Kathi Aucoin from Napoleonville Middle School in Assumption Parish: “Mrs. Aucoin always goes above and beyond for her faculty and students and this is witnessed through her passion and commitment to always putting students first. She has worked diligently adhering to her core Leadership values to build the capacity of her staff and students through leadership team meetings, PLC meetings, and formal observations.” *Nominated by Britney Allen*

Karla Johnson from Capitol Elementary School in East Baton Rouge Parish: “The emphasis Ms. Johnson places on early literacy at Capitol Elementary is commendable! She understands the impact literacy has across the curriculum and is invested in ensuring her students are reading and growing EVERYDAY! Ms. Johnson has transformed the culture and climate of Capitol Elementary School. Everyday learning is happening for teachers and students in her building. She is definitely a TEACHING PRINCIPAL!” *Nominated by Christal Aguillard-Sylvain*

Courtney Smith from Homer Junior High School in Claiborne Parish: “I truly appreciate your passion and sincere desire to make Homer Junior High the best it can possibly be for your students. You have an unwavering commitment to implementing new and challenging programs, such as full implementation of TAP and Accelerate, during these most challenging times. THANK YOU!! Great aspiring young leader!!!” *Nominated by William Allen Kennedy*

J.C. Dickey, III from Red River Junior High School in Red River Parish: “ Mr. Dickey is a model leader who values his staff, supports opportunities to build capacity, and works to ensure equity for our students every single day. His leadership motivates me to learn, be a change agent, build capacity in our building, and lead with purpose!” *Nominated by Dr. Nicolette Doughty*

Tiffany LaGarde from Terrebonne High School in Terrebonne Parish: “Mrs. LaGarde's help and support have aided in my growth as a new assistant principal. In addition, she provides perspective on different ways of approaching a problem which has been a tremendous asset to my development.” *Nominated by Dr. Lakisha Nelson*

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

| |
|-----------------|
| Upcoming Events |
|-----------------|

| Event Title | Zoom Link |
|--|--|
| Principal Webinar Series | November 29 at 2:00 p.m. |