



January 2022



My name is Cicely Jacob, and I currently teach 6th grade science and social studies at Marksville Elementary School in Avoyelles Parish. I have been an educator for 14 years and have a deep passion for teaching students to be the next caretakers of our earth and each other.

This fall, I was chosen to expand and enhance my personal pedagogy to further strengthen my outreach to students and the community through the [Louisiana Coastal Fellowship Program](#). As Louisiana Coastal Fellows, we have the opportunity to participate in professional learning focused on supporting student sense-making about social and ecological systems. Through our shared learning, we are exploring ways to build relevance by connecting our classroom instruction more deeply to the

cultures and identities that students and families have as citizens of our unique state. My learning so far has challenged me to reflect on my practices and take into account the experiences and backgrounds of students and their families and consider how my decisions impact them. This has helped me to enhance lessons by building in more locally relevant connections so that students can ponder real-world problems and ways they can utilize science and engineering practices to create local and global solutions.

Another important way in which Louisiana Coastal Fellows are working to impact students and teachers across the state is through the development of Louisiana-specific phenomena and outdoor student learning experiences. It is so important to bring students out of isolated, abstract learning and to ground their learning in personally meaningful science in the real world. Working with Department content specialists, fellows are exploring ideas that are specific to our state and co-designing these resources that are informed by the [shifts in science](#) instruction and Environmental Key Principles and Concepts. It's exciting that we can build real-life phenomena specific to Louisiana while immersing our students in critical thinking and building [environmental literacy](#). It will be exciting to see our students apply their learning to solve real world problems faced by their local communities.

As educators, we care deeply for our students. I hope that other educators are inspired by the work of my colleagues and join us in modeling for students how to be better caretakers of the earth.

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit Updates

The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2. The Department is celebrating both "Making a Comeback" and our 10th year for this event. Teachers can access the [Summit Overview document](#), [registration portal](#), and [presenter applications](#) on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#).

The objectives for the Teacher Leader Summit are to improve the everyday practice of educators in Louisiana by building their knowledge and skill in key areas related to their role; to provide opportunities for educators to collaborate and share best practices; to introduce high-quality strategies, resources, and professional development aligned to the state priorities that can be adopted and scaled in schools and school systems across Louisiana and to foster a culture that celebrates and engages educators and empowers and inspires them to take on an even greater leadership role within their classrooms, schools, and school systems.

To enhance the experience of educators attending the Teacher Leader Summit, Teacher Leader Summit will include

- keynote speakers;
- an expanded audience of attendees including arts teachers, librarians, counselors, and other teacher roles;
- Whova, an event app which allows attendees to register and schedule sessions within the same platform and to use features such as being able to communicate with event managers and engage in multiple contexts;
- networking opportunities, including vendor sponsored morning and evening socials;
- adjustments to the schedule so that days end earlier; and
- a two-day Education Expo to facilitate networking with professional learning partners and non-profits.

[Early bird registration](#) opened Monday, January 10. To commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the Teacher Leader Summit, a Summit t-shirt and tote bag will be included in the registration.

[Presenter applications](#) are currently being accepted until February 4th.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Talented Educator Presenters Needed for Teacher Leader Summit 2022

The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit will take place from May 31 - June 2, 2022 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. As in previous years, educators who would like to share their knowledge by presenting at this year's Summit are encouraged to [apply](#).

Math, Science, and STEM sessions focused on the use of high-quality instructional materials and the following topics will be prioritized:

- Building positive math, science, and STEM identities;
- Acceleration to address unfinished learning;
- Recognizing and leveraging student assets in sensemaking;
- Using student work and observational data to guide instructional decisions;
- Utilizing STEM connections in math and science instruction;
- Leveraging STEM pathways for a robust high school experience;
- Advancing equitable STEM teaching and learning;
- Environmental education phenomena; and
- Outdoor education.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

ELA sessions focused on the use of high-quality instructional materials and the following topics will be prioritized:

- Acceleration to address unfinished learning;
- Facilitating conversations about text selection;
- Using high-quality instructional materials to build knowledge; and
- Using high-quality instructional materials to teach Foundational Skills; and
- The Science of Reading.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Social studies sessions focused on implementation of the 2021 Draft Social Studies Standards and the following topics will be prioritized:

- Deliberation and debate in social studies classrooms;
- Building content knowledge for elementary world history teachers;
- Using new course frameworks to support implementation.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

ACADEMICS

Summer Learning Guidance in ELA, Math and STEM- Coming Soon!

To support systems in planning for 2022 summer learning programs, the Department is developing guidance for accelerating learning. Summer is an opportunity to accelerate students' readiness to engage with grade level instruction in the upcoming year and build their confidence and positive identities as learners. The Summer Learning Program Guidance for 2022 will be updated to include concrete resources designed to align with Louisiana Student Standards for teachers and tutors to use for ELA, [math](#), and [STEM](#).

Resources will include

- math and ELA materials, including teacher supports, for rising first through eighth grade students and
- guidance and exemplar resources for engaging students in meaningful science and STEM investigations.

Join the [Academic Summer Learning Guidance webinar](#) for an in-depth look at the instructional guidance and resources for summer 2022.

- Webinar Date and Time: February 2 at 1 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93840352784>
- Webinar Phone Number: +1 470 250 9358 or +1 470 381 2552 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 346 248 7799
- Meeting ID: 938 4035 2784
- Passcode: 725316

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Pilot Updates

The Department is excited to announce a partnership with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks. The following updated ELA Guidebook units for grades 3-5 have been added to the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#): Because of Winn-Dixie (3rd grade), The Whipping Boy (4th grade), and The Birchbark House (5th grade).

These units include core and optional activities to support diverse learners and progressive writing strategies to strengthen students' writing skills. The Department will be soliciting teacher feedback on the updated units and the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) [feedback form](#).

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Overview \(2022\) Webinar](#) to learn more about these updates.

- Webinar Date and Time: January 25 at 3:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95607613972?pwd=NEw2a0NhVDRhVzdWbW9pN21kOXdjZz09>

- Webinar Phone Number: +1 470 381 2552 or +1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID: 956 0761 3972
- Passcode: 046798

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2018) Future Development

The Department is excited to announce the planning for updates to [ELA Guidebooks for grades 6-8 \(2018\)](#). The first phase of development will occur during the 2022-2023 school year, and the units will be available for piloting in 2023-2024. Instructional leaders should encourage educators in grades 6-8 to submit feedback on the current units prior to March 4, 2022 through the [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 6-8 Feedback Form](#). More details about these updates and future release dates will be announced in future department communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

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 is now available on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). Three new ELA Guidebooks 9-12 units will be released by April: 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

Please join the LASL [mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on professional development and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [Twitter](#).

Below are upcoming training opportunities:

- Jan. 19, 2022- School Libraries: Relationship Building & Belonging
- March 20, 2022 - Professional Development Event

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Standards Review Update

The Department presented public comment on the 2021 Draft Social Studies Standards to BESE on December 14, 2021. All stakeholder public comment on the standards, summary documents, and the BESE presentation deck are available in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#).

BESE charged the Department with reviewing the public comment in order to present a revised set of standards in March 2022.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Asynchronous Learning Modules for Math Teachers and Leaders

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 to support best practices for using acceleration to address unfinished math learning. The two [Acceleration in Math: Self-Paced Professional Learning Modules](#) available now are Classroom Strategies to Scaffold Math Learning and Formative Assessment Processes for Acceleration in Math. Each module includes a recorded presentation and accompanying handouts. These resources are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed asynchronously for an “at your own pace” style of PD. The materials are designed so that learning can happen collaboratively, such as during common planning, or individually.

The final three modules are Critical Mindsets for Math Educators and a two-part series focused on Planning to Address Unfinished Learning will be posted this month.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate Math Updates

[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.

[Accelerate Math](#) tutoring resources for use during the academic year include

- Acceleration Tools, which function as screeners to diagnose unfinished learning ahead of a topic of instruction;
- Google Slides for teachers and/or tutors to plan for and deliver individualized supports; and
- Tutoring Exit Tickets to monitor student understanding.

For systems implementing tutoring as part of a Summer Learning Program, please see the [Accelerate Math Summer Learning](#) guidance.

In an effort to continually improve [Accelerate Math](#) resources, updates will be made this summer. Complete the [Accelerate Math feedback](#) form to help shape future updates and improvements. The Department is seeking content-strong math educators interested in contributing to this work, and [applications](#) are now open.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

ASSISTments Foundation Info Session

[The ASSISTments Foundation](#) supports a library of freely available content to support implementation of the most widely used high-quality math curricula for systems using Google Suites or Canvas. The Department's partnership with ASSISTments provides an opportunity for teachers to administer [Acceleration Tools](#) and [Accelerate Math](#) formative assessments to students electronically. This allows timely and efficient insights into student understanding for teachers supporting learning acceleration in math. For schools and systems implementing tutoring, content is available and directly connected to [Accelerate Math](#) materials for grades 1-8, Algebra I, and Geometry.

[ASSISTments](#) will be hosting an information session for educators interested in finding out more about how ASSISTments supports best practices in acceleration in math during tutoring or core instruction. The virtual information session will be held on January 19 at 4:30 pm. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions

SCIENCE RESOURCES

New and Updated Science Resources

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with science planning, the Department has released several new science resources and updated existing resources, all of which appear on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#).

New and updated resources include

- [Grade 3 LSSS and NGSS Crosswalk](#),
- [Grade 4 LSSS and NGSS Crosswalk](#), and
- [Distance Learning Guidance for OpenSciEd Grade 8 - Energy in Chemical Reactions](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) released Episode 20 on December 14. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

Educators are encouraged to submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in their schools and systems for the What's Making Me Smile segment.

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

Quality Science and Mathematics (QSM) Grant Opportunity Round 2

The [QSM Grant Program](#) was established for the purpose of providing Louisiana public school teachers with non-consumable instructional materials and equipment in math, science, and STEM.

- Full-time classroom teachers assigned to teach math, science, or STEM courses in a PreK-12 public regular education program including public charter schools are invited to apply.
- Applications may be submitted via the QSM [grant portal](#) beginning January 24.
- The application deadline is March 7 at 11:59 p.m.
- \$1,000 grants are available for Pre-K-3 teachers and up to \$1,500 grants for 4-12 teachers.
- Applications must demonstrate that the grant materials will enhance the quality of instruction for regular education students enrolled in mathematics, science or STEM classes within the normal school day. After-school, Talented & Gifted, and Special Education (SPED) programs are not eligible.

Please contact Spencer Roby at gsminfo@lsu.edu with questions.

NASA Distance Learning Webinar Opportunities for Educators through Texas State University

NASA and Texas State University are partnering to offer twenty-eight free [online webinars](#) to help connect STEM practices, careers, current research, and NASA programs with classrooms. Attendees of these evening webinars will earn a certificate that can be part of their professional development portfolio and will be able to network with educators from across the country.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STEM Talk: Computer Science Education in Louisiana

Join the STEM Talk hosted by LaSTEM Center Region 1 on Computer Science (CS) Education in Louisiana virtually or in person from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on January 31. The talk will focus on strategies to support schools and teachers in creating sustainable, equitable and diverse CS programs.

This session will be especially informative for K-12 educators and administrators. An emphasis will be placed on CS at the high school level. Community members interested in CS education are also

welcome! Facilitators include Daphine Barnes, Director of the LaSTEM GNO Region 1; John Underwood, STEM specialist with the Department; Jess Baker and Ryan Murphy, representing Code.org; and Lucia Berliner from Microsoft TEALS. Those interested in attending should [register](#) for the event.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) Extends Complimentary Membership

[LSTA](#) is excited to offer resources for science educators to review, monthly email newsletters, and a place to create a collaborative community in Louisiana. The professional resources offered by LSTA are often great tools to help educators build partnerships and learn about innovative resources. LSTA is waiving their membership fees until June 30. LSTA invites science teachers to complete the [LSTA Complimentary Membership Form](#) and to please share this opportunity with their colleagues.

Please contact pierre.lacaze@rpsb.us or stephen_knight@saintmartinschools.org with membership or LSTA questions.

STEM Teacher Micro-Credentialing Opportunity for High School Educators

The Department has received an Education Innovation and Research grant from the U.S. Department of Education to research and develop a new mechanism to provide high-quality professional support and one of the nation's first credentialing systems to recognize the expertise of STEM teachers. The Department is currently recruiting Louisiana high school teachers to be a part of this development and study. This opportunity is open to teachers who are currently teaching or plan to teach coursework within the Pre-Engineering or Digital Design and Emergent Media high school [STEM Pathways](#).

In addition to a stipend for participation, teachers selected to participate in the study will

- receive additional support on the execution of best practices for facilitating project-based STEM learning;
- create a virtual portfolio to reflect on their practices, analyze and critique lessons taught, examine and try new teaching practices, and use data driven instruction to maximize student outcomes; and
- have opportunities to strengthen expertise through collaborative online cohorts and individual feedback from experienced STEM educators.

Please visit the [research project information page](#) for more information or contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) 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. 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.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

2022 NASA STEM Enhancement in Earth Science (SEES) Internship

NASA, the Texas Space Grant Consortium, and The University of Texas at Austin Center for Space Research have joined forces to encourage high school students' interest in STEM careers. The [SEES project](#) offers distance learning modules and guided remote work prior to onsite internships at the University of Texas in Austin from July 16-30. Participants conduct authentic research while working with scientists and engineers in their chosen areas of work. Housing, transportation, and meals will be provided. Application deadline is **February 21** and is open to students in grades 10 and 11.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2021-2022 President's Environmental Youth Award

The President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects developed by K-12 youth. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has joined with EPA to recognize young people for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology. There are two award categories: grades K-5 and Grades 6-12. Submissions can be individual students or teams of students, and may consist of multi-school partnerships. [Applications](#) and scoring criteria for student projects are open through **February 18**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov or peya@epa.gov with questions.

Science Camp Opportunity for Graduating Seniors

The [National Youth Science Camp](#) (NYSCamp) is a virtual program available to STEM enthusiasts graduating between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Students from around the country are challenged academically and given the opportunity to meet STEM professionals. Two students are selected to represent each state and Washington, D.C. at no cost to the students, schools, or districts. Students may [apply](#) through **March 31**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams	collegereadiness@la.gov
Assessments and Related Supports	assessment@la.gov
Collaborations	districtsupport@la.gov

Compass	compass@la.gov
Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers	believeandprepare@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
ELA Guidebooks	elaguidebooks@la.gov
Environmental Education	environmentaleducation@la.gov
Financial Aid Assistance	ldefinancial@la.gov
Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
Language Acquisition and World Languages	language.acquisition@la.gov
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progressions	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
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World Languages	language.acquisition@la.gov