



February 2023



Hi, my name is Shetamian Coleman. I currently teach 6th-grade math and science at North Iberville Elementary in Iberville Parish, where I have served as a math teacher for four years and one year as a math mentor teacher.

This year I had the opportunity to be a part of the training and pilot learning [acceleration strategies](#) and this has made a huge difference in how I address my students' unfinished learning. A top priority for teachers is to ensure that we meet the needs of *all students* at *all times*. In the pilot training we learned to [plan](#) for unfinished learning through designing intentional scaffolds, planning formative questions, internalizing the lesson, and effectively addressing misconceptions for students.

Prior to this experience, I planned for lessons by quickly referencing the suggested dialogue to identify the teacher and student expectations of each lesson and work through the problem sets as a student so that I could identify mistakes in student work as I checked for understanding. Planning in this way narrowly focused me on recognizing mistakes rather than **planning proactive instruction for students**. By using strategies learned from the Learning Acceleration Strategies pilot, I am now able to take the guidance within the curriculum and bring it to life by moving from just identifying potential mistakes to now intentionally **planning how I will respond to the anticipated needs of my students with just-in-time scaffolds and core supports, while also building strong conceptual understanding**. Now more students are successful on both formative and summative assessments.

Utilizing these strategies has allowed me to [refresh](#) my practice by better understanding the work required to prioritize the needs of my students. This pilot experience has helped to build strong relationships with my students, which is essential because *students are better able to excel* when positive connections are part of their classroom environments.

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit Registration and Presenter Applications

The [2023 Teacher Leader Summit](#) registration is now open. [Registration](#) for this event is on a first-come, first-served basis and will close on **April 21**. The 2023 Teacher Leader Summit will be held at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center from May 30 - June 1.

The annual professional learning conference brings together Louisiana educators to share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the upcoming school year. This year's theme is Accelerate to Success and will focus on educators' ability to accelerate students to success every single day.

Presenter [applications](#) will be available on February 10 and are due **March 3**. Additional information will be provided on the Teacher Leader Summit [website](#) and app.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

LITERACY

Summer Literacy Regional PD Tour

The Literacy Division is planning to conduct another regional professional learning tour this summer. Last summer provided teachers and leaders with on-site support by providing overviews of literacy resources for foundational skills instruction and content literacy support. For this summer, the focus will be on application-based literacy sessions to support teachers with implementation of literacy best practices and specific activities to improve literacy skills. To ensure that the needs of the teachers are met at these sessions, please complete the [interest survey](#) by **February 10**. Interactive sessions will be planned based on the results of this survey.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program

The [registration portal](#) for the [Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program](#) is now open. The Department will share additional information regarding this program with the public through social media, television, and radio advertisements.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Foundational Skills Lessons for Grades 3-5

The third units of Foundational Instruction for Reading Excellence (FIRE) lessons for grades 3-5 have been posted in the [Literacy Library](#).

- [Grade 3 Unit 3 - Teacher's Guide](#) and [Student Activity Book](#)
- [Grade 4 Unit 3 - Teacher's Guide](#) and [Student Activity Book](#)
- [Grade 5 Unit 3 - Teacher's Guide](#) and [Student Activity Book](#)

FIRE is an instructional resource designed to support teachers in providing students advanced reading foundational skills in grades 3-5. Each unit consists of 40 short lessons and brief student activities focused on

either spelling, grammar, or morphology - skills that are essential for proficient reading and writing. Lessons are taught concurrently with any ELA knowledge-building curriculum as part of whole-group core instruction.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8 Online Learning Series

The Department has partnered with Public Consulting Group (PCG) to offer five free progressive reading modules. Grounded in the science of reading, Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8 is a comprehensive, online professional learning series for developing successful adolescent readers. The series specifically addresses the most current research on adolescent literacy and how to meet the unique needs of intermediate and middle school students to accelerate literacy growth.

[Registration](#) is open and the first module will be released this month. Year-long access will be provided to participants and the modules should be completed by January 2024. Please [submit](#) any questions you have about the series and a response will be provided within two business days.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

The Department is excited to release the eighth issue of [Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs: Supporting Attendance for Students with Disabilities](#). School system leaders are encouraged to review the guidance document along with special education supervisors.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Training

Louisiana Accessible Education Materials (LA-AEM) is hosting the “CVI Assessments: The CVI Range” training by Cindy Guillot Champagne for educators who service students with a CVI. The training will be held on Tuesday, February 21 from 8:30-3:30 pm. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with any questions.

Spring into AAC

Louisiana Accessible Education Materials (LA-AEM) is hosting a full day of free professional development focused on Augmentative and Alternative Communication. [Registration](#) information is now available for the training on Friday, **March 31**.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

K-2 ELA/Literacy Instructional Materials Update

[Act 517](#) ensures that all textbooks and instructional materials used to teach students to read are scientifically researched with proven results in teaching phonological awareness, letter formation, phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The Department is continuing to examine instructional materials for changes in alignment resulting from [Act 517](#) and has developed [Act 517 Guidance](#) to assist teachers and leaders in adhering to the policy.

The Department also recommends that teachers continue to review their materials prior to classroom instruction to ensure that they are utilizing high-quality materials which **require students to draw on their phonics knowledge to decode words and do not prompt students to use cues** such as looking at the picture or drawing on context to identify words.

While the implementation of new instructional materials does not have to occur during the 2022-2023 school year, classroom instruction and practice should continue to be modified to remove any and all use of three-cueing, MSV, etc. Examples of three cueing include instructing students to memorize sight words, pre-teaching words using context clues (often pictures), using predictable texts that often rely on pictures, and using images with a main focus on the first letter of the word.

Teachers can find additional support on literacy instruction in the [literacy library](#). Additional information about instructional materials re-reviews will be provided in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

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

Upcoming Events:

- Louisiana Library Association (LLA) Conference: July 6-8, Hilton Capital Center
 - Please contact GeauxLASL@gmail.com for more information
- [American Association of School Librarians \(AASL\) Conference](#): October 19-21, Tampa, Florida

Additional Resources:

- [LASL December Newsletter](#)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Teacher Survey

The Department is partnering with the Johns Hopkins' Institute for Education Policy to analyze teachers' classroom practices and utilization of instructional materials. The information gathered in [this survey](#) will demonstrate how ELA teachers in grades 3-8 understand and utilize their curricula. Survey results will remain confidential. The survey is now open and will close **February 17**.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum

The Department is developing Bayou Bridges, a new Louisiana K-8 social studies curriculum, to align with the student expectations of the [2022 K-8 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) and to meet criteria similar to the quality indicators of the [instructional materials review rubric](#). Curriculum materials will include

- unit plans and daily lessons,
- student and teacher-facing materials,
- engaging primary sources, and
- formative and summative assessments.

Bayou Bridges will be available for piloting in grades 4-5 next school year. The complete curriculum for grades K-8 will be available for implementation by **June 30**. Please see the [Bayou Bridges FAQ document](#) for more details about curriculum development and release dates.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Medal of Honor Character Development Program

The National World War II Museum and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS) are hosting a secondary educator training program on Saturday, **March 4**, at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. This full-day training will provide secondary teachers with all the tools needed to bring the Medal of Honor Character Development Program into the classroom. The flexible, cross-curricular resource, which uses the oral histories of Medal of Honor Recipients and citizen heroes, focuses on how students can use these examples of courage, commitment, sacrifice, integrity, citizenship and patriotism to influence change in their own communities. Middle and high school teachers from all subject areas along with counselors, coaches, and administrators are invited to attend this free training.

[Registration](#) for the event is now open.

Please contact ebillmayer@cmohs.org with questions.

Classroom Resources on the Vietnam War

The History & Legacy Branch (H&L) of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) provides educators and librarians with [education resources](#) at no cost. Resources include classroom posters and a [Teachers' Toolkit](#) with resources, Vietnam War websites, lesson suggestions, media sources, and more.

Please contact the [Vietnam War Commemoration](#) with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Coming Soon: Additional Professional Learning to Support Implementation of Free Zearn Access!

As part of the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#), the Department is partnering with [Zearn](#) to provide school accounts to all public schools serving K-8 students. Registration will open soon for additional sessions to support teachers and leaders in successful implementation. Details will be posted to the flyers linked below.

- [Launching Zearn Math](#) participants will explore the interventions integrated through Zearn’s digital lessons that provide students with just-in-time foundational support on the grade-level content. Participants will deepen their understanding of how to interpret student productivity, progress, and misconception data captured in Zearn Class Reports to maximize growth through intentional decision making. Finally, the session will conclude as participants apply learnings to their own classrooms, schools and districts and leave with a data-driven action plan to ensure every student gets the celebration and support needed. Registration will open soon for this free two-hour virtual professional learning for K-8 Louisiana public school teachers whose role includes core math instruction or supporting students with math learning.
- In [Professional Learning for Leaders: Accelerating Impact with Zearn](#), leaders will build on their familiarity with Zearn and refine how they will support school sites as they prepare to implement and monitor progress. In this four-hour session, participants will explore Zearn’s flexible instructional materials, features of the educator and administrator accounts, and how to utilize the embedded reports that capture real-time data to accelerate math learning for all students. Leaders will walk away with materials to turn-key and leverage at their school sites as they launch Zearn. Additional dates for in person and virtual sessions are coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Science Summer Professional Learning for Teachers and Leaders

The Department is planning summer professional learning (PL) opportunities for science with two areas of focus:

- For K-12 science educators: in-person PL including foundational training grounded in high-quality instructional materials, opportunities to deepen understanding of the shifts called for by the Louisiana Student Standards for Science and build pedagogical strategies that support students' acceleration toward mastery of grade level content.
- For school and system science leaders: in-person and virtual meetings will support system and school leaders in leveraging high-quality instructional materials to promote instructional shifts in science that result in improved outcomes for all students. Leaders in this cohort will meet throughout the fall semester for PL and to debrief challenges and successes from implementation of strategies.

Spaces for each pathway will be limited, but opportunities will be offered equitably to interested schools and systems. Additional details will be provided in this newsletter when available and communicated directly to those who have completed the [interest form](#) by **March 1**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH RESOURCES

Cyber.org Travel Grants for Cyber.org EdCon23

Cyber.org has opened the [application](#) for a limited number of \$500 travel grants available for eligible classroom teachers attending Cyber.org EdCon 23. Recipients of travel grants may use the funds to seek reimbursement for up to \$500 of registration, airfare, and/or hotel costs for CYBER.ORG EdCon 23 at the Mesa Convention Center in Arizona, June 20-22. Application responses will be sent within 14 days with an award decision.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER EVALUATION RESOURCES

Bulletin 130 Update

For the 2022-2023 school year, teachers receiving a “Highly Effective” or “Effective: Proficient” (2.5 or higher) on the first observation will not require a second observation; however, a second observation may be completed upon request. Teachers scoring “Ineffective” or “Effective: Emerging” will still require a second observation.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

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