

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



February 2020



My name is Leah Fontenot. I am a kindergarten teacher at Welsh Elementary School in Jefferson Davis Parish and serve on our District Kindergarten Leadership Team. We are one of 29 school systems participating in Louisiana’s kindergarten pilot of the [Classroom Assessment Scoring System® \(CLASS®\)](#), which is helping me and my peers grow as professionals and improve our interactions with children in the classroom.

[Research shows](#) that the “whats” of quality teaching matter only through the “hows” of quality teaching. This year, our district adopted a new Tier I curriculum in K-2 ELA. Although we thought it might be a challenge to implement both at the same time, CLASS® has helped me with the “how” of quality teaching.

CLASS® gives observers a framework to objectively and accurately look for teacher-child interactions in the moment and provide quality feedback. Our administrators use the framework to give us feedback on what we need to focus on in the classroom.

The CLASS® observation tool organizes effective classroom interactions into three broad domains – Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. For the most part, Emotional Support and Classroom Organization were already happening in my classroom daily. Instructional Support was the most challenging, but professional development, including a video library of effective teaching exemplars, is helping me incorporate more dimensions in my lessons. For example, the videos really helped me understand **how to increase my students’ language development by using self-talk and parallel-talk**. Self-talk is using child-friendly language to narrate *what I am doing*; parallel-talk is using child-friendly language to narrate *what my student is doing*.

As a result of piloting CLASS®, I have become more in tune with my students, focusing on their needs and discovering the value of learning through peer to peer interactions.

To learn more about CLASS®, read the [free e-book](#) provided by Teachstone or check out the [informative webinar](#) specific to our pilot and contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions. Sessions on CLASS® will also be offered at the 2020 [Teacher Leader Summit](#).

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

2020 Teacher Leader Summit Overview Document

The Teacher Leader Summit is an annual celebration of Louisiana’s educators. This year’s event will take place May 27-29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The Department has published an [overview document](#) to address the most frequently asked questions.

Summit Objectives

- **Improve the everyday practice of educators in Louisiana** by building their knowledge and skill in key areas related to their role
- **Provide opportunities for educators to collaborate and share best practices**
- **Introduce high-quality resources and professional development** that can be adopted and scaled in schools and school systems across Louisiana
- **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

The [overview document](#) also details hotel rooming blocks that are available to Summit participants. Some school systems elect to establish their own agreements with hotels so all educators from that school system are together, which is great. School systems are not obligated to use the hotels the Department has contracted with. Room blocks are currently booking at a rapid rate. Reserve your room today!

Please contact the Summit Logistics team at ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

2020 Teacher Leader Summit T-shirt Contest

The Department is seeking inspiration for the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 7** to ldoecommunications@la.gov. The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold. Last year’s school, Montegut Middle, was awarded \$968 from The Inkwell Press.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter.

Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 360

LEAP 360 Updates

Given school systems' continued work to reduce unnecessary testing through the increased use of high-quality curriculum with embedded assessments, the LEAP 360 program is evolving to support school systems' efforts and will continue to be a Department-funded resource for school systems in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

This means educators will have continued, free access to K-2 formative tasks, diagnostics, and interims (ELA/math). The chart below includes an overview of the changes for 2020-2021. It also includes links to the appropriate resources.

	2019-2020	2020-2021
Cost	Free	Free
K-2 Formative Tasks	Available from DRC INSIGHT portal	Available from DRC INSIGHT portal
Diagnostics	Available from DRC INSIGHT portal	Available from DRC INSIGHT portal
Interims	One ELA form (Grades 3-HS) Two Math forms (Grades 3-8) Three Math forms (HS) Available from DRC INSIGHT portal	One ELA form (Grades 3-HS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Content Two Math forms (Grades 3-HS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) New Content (aligned to mid-year administration) Available from DRC INSIGHT portal
EAGLE Item Bank	Available from DRC INSIGHT portal	Available from the Department's website . View a sample file . Note: Teachers should download self-made tests.
<p>Action Item: The items from the EAGLE Item bank are being exported from the DRC INSIGHT portal and made available on the Department's website. Click on the link in the table to see a sample file. The EAGLE platform will no longer be available beginning July 1. Teacher-created tests will NOT be exported, and teachers are encouraged to download any self-made tests prior to June 30.</p>		

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks: Grades 3–5 Foundation of Reading Supports

The foundational skills supports aligned to the 3–5 ELA Guidebooks are being released on a rolling basis this year. These support documents include foundational skills mini-lessons, decodable texts, and practice aligned to the Guidebook anchor text. The materials are located in the Section 1 “Additional Materials” folder for each unit.

Release	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Available Now!	Cajun Folktales Because of Winn-Dixie Louisiana Purchase Treasure Island	American Revolution Lightning Thief Hurricanes	The Birchbark House The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe Wonderstruck
Coming: April	Stories Julian Tells	Pushing Up the Sky	Shutting Out the Sky
Coming: June		Whipping Boy	The Making of a Scientist

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12 (2020)

At the [2020 Teacher Leader Summit](#), the Department will offer professional development specific to the new Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12 (2020).

Please see the updated [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12 \(2020\) Overview](#) for the most up-to-date information related to

- draft text lists for each unit,
- draft Culminating Tasks for each unit,
- Louisiana’s open source platform launch,
- text access and purchasing, and
- professional development opportunities.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Enhanced Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools

The Department is currently working to enhance the [Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools](#). These enhancements will provide teachers with additional resources for supporting students who have

unfinished learning in accessing grade-level content. Updated versions of [Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools](#) with targeted mini lessons and student activity sheets are now available for select topics. Enhancements to Module 2, Topics A-C and Module 4, Topics A, D, and G are all now available.

For additional information on helping students access grade-level content using the newly enhanced Eureka Remediation tools, consult [this video](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions or suggestions for improvements on these resources.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers - Applications for Summer and Fall 2020 Opening Soon!

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the summer and fall 2020 semesters open March 23. The deadline to submit completed applications is **April 3**. Program details, as well as a link to the application once it becomes available, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators](#) page.

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact STEM@la.gov.

2020 Environmental Education State Symposium

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the Louisiana Environmental Education Association invite educators to attend the Environmental Education State Symposium on March 6–7, 2020. [The event](#) will be held at Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville and will focus on outdoor learning. This two-day event will feature day-long and half-day short courses on Friday and 1.5–3 hour concurrent sessions on Saturday—all in an outdoor setting!

See the [attendee](#) and [exhibitor](#) information documents for more information and registration details.

Contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION



St. Bernard Parish Educator Finalist for National Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Chris Dier, the state's current [Teacher of the Year](#), who is one of four finalists for the 2020 [National Teacher of the Year award](#)! Dier, who teaches history at Chalmette High School in St. Bernard Parish, is **the first Louisiana educator since 1989 to advance to this level in the prestigious national competition.**

Dier became a teacher to follow the legacy of his mother, a lifelong teacher. In high school, Hurricane Katrina uprooted him to Texas, where he finished high school and attended East Texas Baptist University. Dier's passion is deeply rooted in providing an equitable education to all students and [supporting fellow teachers to be culturally responsive](#). His tenure as 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year

has focused on encouraging his colleagues to collaborate with students to eliminate prejudice and bias within the classroom. He has been featured in numerous publications and outlets for his work in the classroom and the community, most notably [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), and the [Canadian Broadcast Corporation](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

U.S. Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Frank Brogan Visited Local Schools

Last month, Frank Brogan, assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education at the U.S. Department of Education, [visited](#) Lee Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee in Morganza, and West Feliciana High School in St. Francisville. These three schools are heavily involved in two [2019 Education Innovation and Research awards](#). The first one, led by the Louisiana Department of Education, focuses on creating micro-credentials to certify Louisiana teachers on high-demand STEM skills. The second one, led by Louisiana State University and East Baton Rouge Parish School System, is focused on the integration of programming and mathematics at the high school level.

Both research projects are based on the [STEM Pathways](#), which support high school students, teachers and school districts in Louisiana to ensure more students enter college and the workforce in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Dual Enrollment Policy Update

Please share with supervisors, administrators, and counselors.

The Louisiana Board of Regents recently approved new [minimum requirements](#) for dual enrollment coursework. The policy became effective on January 1.

For additional information please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov.

National School Counseling Week 2020

[National School Counseling Week \(NSCW\)](#) is a time to highlight the countless ways school counselors ensure their students become productive, well-adjusted adults by supporting academic achievement, career development, and social/emotional development. Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, NSCW is always celebrated the first full week of February. NSCW 2020 is February 3 through 7.

Please follow the [Department](#) on social media to share your #NSCW2020 activities. Visit the [NSCW](#) website for ideas and inspiration and download additional resources from the [Counselor Support Library](#).

Please contact leslie.gilliland@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Construction Scholars Program

Please share with counselors.

The [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#) is now accepting applications for a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship is geared toward students who have earned the Jump Start Diploma and a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential and subsequently enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

This is the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates. This effort is a collaboration of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Department. The application deadline is **March 13**.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	collegereadiness@la.gov
Assessments and Related Supports	assessment@la.gov
Collaborations	districtsupport@la.gov
Compass	compass@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
ELA Guidebooks	elaguidebooks@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources including Leap 360 and Eagle	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders, Content Leaders, Mentor Teachers, and Teacher Leader Advisors	louisianateacherleaders@la.gov