



# TEACHER LEADERS NEWSLETTER

**March 2023**



Hi! My name is James Cork, and I am an Aspiring Principal Fellow. I am in my 19th year as an educator and I currently serve as an Assistant Principal at Breaux Bridge High School in St. Martin Parish. The [Aspiring Principal Fellowship](#) is an experience I will take with me for years to come. The information gained from the sessions has been tremendous, from the school visits, to our diverse cohort infrastructure, to the leadership of the meetings, and the exceptional guest speakers. The content is aligned to Louisiana's five priorities of ensuring every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service; removing barriers and creating equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children; providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment; developing and retaining a diverse, highly effective educator workforce; and cultivating high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships.

Being a part of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship has given me the opportunity to be surrounded by greatness. The cohort colleagues bring a *wealth of knowledge* and *experience* to our learning, and I leave our meetings *exhilarated* and engulfed with new information to share with my staff. For example, after the session at Pineville Elementary with Dr. Stokes and her team, I left invigorated and excited to share the writing they are implementing with my team at Breaux Bridge High School, where we are also focusing on writing. Seeing this campus-wide initiative at Pineville Elementary helped me examine what can be done at my own campus to ensure that *everyone* is focused on building better writers.

As teachers and leaders, we are always looking for ways to grow in our craft and this fellowship has done that for me. If you aspire to be a principal, I encourage you to [apply](#) for the third cohort of the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship](#). Even if principalship is not part of your career plans, I hope you are encouraged to continue to **grow in your craft as a teacher**, being mindful of Louisiana's five priorities. Why not consider [applying](#) to present a session at the upcoming Teacher Leader Summit or [registering](#) to attend?

The Aspiring Principal Fellows and the amazing teachers who are dedicated to growing in their craft in our state are being prepared to serve our Louisiana schools. So, get ready, Louisiana; the future is *bright!*

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## TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

### **Teacher Leader Summit Registration and Presenter Applications**

We're counting down the days until the annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) – May 30 through June 1! Join us in New Orleans where Louisiana's birth to grade 12 educators and content experts will come together for the annual professional learning conference. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2023-2024 school year. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on our ability to *accelerate to success* every single day.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. [Registration](#) closes **April 21** or at sellout. Early Bird Registration ends **March 9**.

We are looking for teachers and teacher leaders representing all content areas, librarians, counselors, and school and system leaders to serve as [presenters](#). If you are interested in sharing your knowledge with Louisiana educators, please complete the presenter [application](#) by **March 3**.

Please contact [events@emergentmethod.com](mailto:events@emergentmethod.com) with questions.

## LITERACY

### **Virtual Professional Learning Opportunity: Sight Word Recognition – Beyond the Eye and into the Brain**

This free session intends to transform the lens and current practices of instruction in “sight word” recognition. Traditional sight word instruction relies on black-and-white images and rote memorization, which does not aid in true sight word recognition. Participants will learn to align instructional practices in teaching “sight words” with the science of reading and how to approach word walls and sound walls in a K-3 structured literacy classroom. This session occurs at 4:00 p.m. on March 16 and [registration](#) is now open.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

### **Virtual Professional Learning Opportunity: Reading Prescription – Conferencing with Parents about their Student’s Academic Progress**

This free session will support educators in understanding how to effectively partner with families to help students’ literacy growth. The presentation provides an overview of Act 688, requiring literacy screeners for K-3 students, and Act 438, requiring schools to report screener results to families within 15 days. Educators will understand the importance of partnering with families and communicating assessment results effectively with families. Educators will also receive resources they can share with families to support students with literacy at home. This session occurs at 4:00 p.m. on March 28 and [registration](#) is now open.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

### **Early Childhood Literacy Grab & Go Family Activities**

A new set of Grab & Go activities have been added to the [Families Literacy Library](#). These activities are designed to build language and literacy skills for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Early childhood educators and providers can use these resources and share with families to support literacy development.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

## **SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS**

### **What’s Your Piece of the Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment Puzzle?**

Louisiana Accessible Education Materials (LA-AEM) is hosting “What’s Your Piece of the CVI Puzzle” for parents and educators at [3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2](#). Topics regarding CVI, its impacts, material modifications, and IEP guidance will be discussed by the facilitator, Cindy Champagne.

Please contact [diverselearnersupport@la.gov](mailto:diverselearnersupport@la.gov) with questions.

## **ELA RESOURCES**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2024**. Please see the [Bayou Bridges FAQ document](#) for more details about curriculum development and release dates.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

### **2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies Implementation Information**

The [2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. The [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies FAQ](#) is posted to the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#). The Department will continue hosting [webinars](#) to support district leaders, school leaders, and teachers to help prepare for the transition to the 2022 K-12 LSSSS. The information for the upcoming webinar is below.

Join the Department for a deep dive into instructional strategies and protocols specific to social studies that aim to help students develop the skills and practices outlined in the 2022 LSSSS. This [webinar](#) will specifically focus on instructional strategies, including contextualization, sourcing, and generating claims.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 21 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94042048344>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 94042048344

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## MATH RESOURCES

### New Zearn Professional Learning Dates and Resources

As part of the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#), the Department is partnering with [Zearn](#) to provide school accounts through June 2024 to all public schools serving K-8 students. Dates have been added and **registration is now open** for professional learning sessions to support [teachers](#) and [leaders](#) with successful implementation of Zearn math.

Zearn has created a special collection of downloadable [bulletin board supplies](#), including special [Louisiana Printables](#), to help teachers build excitement and celebrate students' accomplishments as they learn math with Zearn. Resources include [printable files](#), [cricut files](#), [anchor charts](#), and much more.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

### New Math Refresh Resources Posted

The [Math Refresh Library](#) is a suite of resources focused on supporting teachers' implementation of high-quality math instruction. New resources recently added this month include the following:

- [Accelerating Learning in High School Math](#) points high school teachers to resources available to support addressing unfinished learning with high school students in tutoring or classroom instruction.
- The [Eureka Math Transition FAQ document](#) includes answers to frequently asked questions from teachers and leaders in response to the recently announced archiving of the original (copyright 2013) Eureka Math program's Tier 1 status.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto: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 to debrief challenges and successes from implementation of strategies.

Spaces for each pathway will be limited. Additional details will be provided in this newsletter when available and communicated directly to those who have completed the [interest form](#).

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## EDTECH

### **National Cyber Cup by CYBER.ORG**

[The National Cyber Cup](#) by CYBER.ORG will be held March 28-30. This is a free, jeopardy-style, Capture the Flag competition for students with a focus on cybersecurity themes and challenges. Participants will encounter a series of challenges designed to stretch their critical thinking skills to their limits in a fun and engaging way.

By exploring reverse engineering, decryption, programming, computer networks, and additional cybersecurity topics, participants will gain hands-on experience in what cybersecurity professionals do every day. Students in grades 4-8 will compete in the intermediate level competition and students in grades 9-12 will compete in the high school competition. [Registration](#) is now open and will close on **March 17**.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

## EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

### **Computer Science (CS) Engagement: Stakeholder Feedback**

The Computer Science Education Advisory Commission is currently seeking stakeholder feedback on the following:

- The Louisiana Computer Science (CS) Framework
- Teacher certification options in CS for grades K-12
- CS course offerings for grades K-12
- CS Industry-Based Certification offerings

With feedback from 34 parishes thus far, the commission aims to gather feedback from educators in every parish. Complete the stakeholder feedback [survey](#) today.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **Teacher Leader Advisor Applications**

Are you looking to expand your influence beyond your classroom and get paid in the process? Have you ever considered attaining a leadership role or engaging in work that reaches students and teachers across the state?

Our [Teacher Leader Advisors \(TLAs\)](#) are highly-motivated educators who work alongside the Department team to support the mission and vision of the Department of Education. TLAs serve an essential role in supporting key priorities by creating resources for teachers, engaging in work that allows them to develop their understanding of curricula, and providing training for teachers.

Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) are paid for the work they complete, and the experience allows educators to expand their positive impact beyond the classroom by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators.

Learn more about Teacher Leader Advisors and apply today! [Applications](#) are now open and will close **April 16**. Educators do not need to be a school-site Teacher Leader to apply.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## **Annual LaSTEM Summit Call For Presentations**

On October 17, the [Louisiana STEM Advisory Council](#) (LaSTEM) will host a one-day collaboration and professional learning opportunity at the Cajundome Convention Center in Lafayette. Event organizers are currently seeking presenters for informative panel presentations and breakout sessions. Initial proposals should be [submitted](#) by **March 14** at 5 p.m. Full details for interested attendees will be shared in future newsletters.

Please contact [LaSTEM@laregents.edu](mailto:LaSTEM@laregents.edu) with questions.

## **Aspiring Principal Fellowship**

Applications are being accepted for the third cohort of the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship](#). Aspiring Principal Fellows will exit this fellowship with the knowledge and skills needed to serve in a principal role.

Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems are responsible for the cost of the \$1,000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) before **March 10**.

Please contact [louisianaleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleaders@la.gov) with questions.

# **EDUCATOR RECOGNITION**

## **2023 STEM and EdTech Teacher Leader Advisors Selected**

The Department has selected a distinguished group of 12 educators serving students in grades K-12 and representing 9 school systems across the state to serve as STEM Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) and 7 educators serving students and representing 6 school systems across the state to serve as EdTech Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs). The STEM educators will play an influential role in the creation of STEM resources and tools for K-12 educators, identifying professional learning needs for future work and supporting school systems to broaden

high-quality STEM education. The EdTech educators will play an influential role in the creation of resources and tools for educators and identifying professional learning needs for future EdTech work.

Join us in congratulating our newest STEM and EdTech TLAs and celebrating all of [Teacher Leader Advisors!](#)

For more information about Teacher Leader Advisors, please visit our [website](#) or contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	<a href="mailto:collegereadiness@la.gov">collegereadiness@la.gov</a>
Assessments and Related Supports	<a href="mailto:assessment@la.gov">assessment@la.gov</a>
Collaborations	<a href="mailto:districtsupport@la.gov">districtsupport@la.gov</a>
Compass	<a href="mailto:compass@la.gov">compass@la.gov</a>
Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers	<a href="mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov">believeandprepare@la.gov</a>
Diverse Learners	<a href="mailto:diverselearnersupport@la.gov">diverselearnersupport@la.gov</a>
EdTech	<a href="mailto:digitallearning@la.gov">digitallearning@la.gov</a>
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	<a href="mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov">believeandprepare@la.gov</a>
ELA Guidebooks	<a href="mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov">elaguidebooks@la.gov</a>
Environmental Education	<a href="mailto:environmentaleducation@la.gov">environmentaleducation@la.gov</a>
Financial Aid Assistance	<a href="mailto:ldefinancial@la.gov">ldefinancial@la.gov</a>
Graduation Requirements	<a href="mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov">highschoolacademics@la.gov</a>
Instructional Support and Resources	<a href="mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov">classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</a>
Jump Start	<a href="mailto:jumpstart@la.gov">jumpstart@la.gov</a>
Language Acquisition	<a href="mailto:language.acquisition@la.gov">language.acquisition@la.gov</a>
Literacy	<a href="mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov">louisianaliteracy@la.gov</a>
PD Vendor Guide	<a href="mailto:louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov">louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov</a>
Pupil Progressions	<a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a>
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	<a href="mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov">ldoeevents@la.gov</a>
Math, Science, and STEM	<a href="mailto:STEM@la.gov">STEM@la.gov</a>



Teacher Certification	<a href="mailto:certification@la.gov">certification@la.gov</a>
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	<a href="mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov">classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</a>
World Languages	<a href="mailto:language.acquisition@la.gov">language.acquisition@la.gov</a>