



March 2022



Hello, amazing educators! My name is Erin Hughes, and I am an ELA Curriculum Specialist in St. Tammany Parish and an ELA Guidebooks writer for the Department.

The overwhelming nature of today's classroom has made educator collaboration around curriculum and pedagogy even more essential. The most fulfilling part of my role is to bring teachers together for these discussions. For example, facilitating our district's Content Leader training allows teacher leaders to deepen their understanding of *why* we teach rich, diverse, and complex texts and *how* to help students comprehend and express understanding of these texts. Throughout the year, we use research and experience to explore these questions and generate solutions.

One enormous opportunity open to Louisiana educators is to engage in this type of valuable learning at the annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#). Each year, the Summit offers a wide variety of professional development sessions for educators of children from birth through grade 12. If you are excited to gain knowledge and skills that will help you prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, Summit is the place for you!

This year's theme for Summit is "Making a Comeback," and it feels particularly fitting. Each time I attend Summit I feel reinvigorated and empowered, as if this is *my* team, *my* family of Louisiana educators who are all working toward the same goal: to have the greatest "comeback" of all time for our students. I am excited that this year my colleagues and I will present at Summit on methods teachers and schools systems can use to navigate complex texts and topics taught at the secondary level. When stakeholders have the necessary knowledge, strategies, and resources, we can make a real difference for students. This is the goal of our session, and I know I will find this at the sessions I attend this year.

I hope you will join me and many other educators as we gather together to make a comeback for the incredible children of Louisiana.

In This Issue

- [Teacher Leader Summit](#)
- [Literacy](#)
- [ELA Resources](#)
- [Social Studies Resources](#)
- [Math Resources](#)
- [Science Resources](#)
- [EdTech](#)
- [Educator Opportunities](#)
- [Educator Recognition](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Making a Comeback

The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both “Making a Comeback” and our 10th year for this event.

[Regular registration](#) will close on **April 15 or at sellout**. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

The following educators would directly benefit from the sessions provided:

- Teachers
- Teacher Leaders
- Early Childhood Directors
- Teacher Preparation Providers
- Arts Teachers
- Librarians
- Counselors
- School Leaders
- System Leaders

Sessions will include content areas such as:

- Career and Technical Education
- Arts
- High School Experience
- Diverse Learners
- ELA
- Early Childhood
- STEM
- Science
- Literacy
- Social Studies
- Technology
- Instructional Best Practices
- Student Well-being
- System/School Planning
- Curriculum and Assessment
- World Languages

Based on participant feedback, enhancements have been made to Teacher Leader Summit, including:

- an improved event app, Whova, that allows networking with other attendees;

- increased registration value by including t-shirts and tote bags in the ticket price;
- networking opportunities throughout the event, including evening socials;
- length of schedule adjusted to meet the needs of participants; and
- Education Expo returns with high quality professional learning partners and non-profit organizations.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Analyzing Mid-Year Data Guidance

The Department's Literacy Division has released a set of resources to support teachers and leaders with analyzing mid-year literacy screener data. These resources can be accessed in the [Literacy Library](#) under the Literacy Goals pillar.

The resources include:

- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data to Maximize Impact](#) with [slide deck](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - Screener Support Guide](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - School Reflection Guide and Action Plan](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - School and Teacher Scenarios](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - Scenarios with Ideal Responses](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Middle and High School Professional Development Series

A new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy will be released weekly beginning February 8 in the [Literacy Library](#). Beginning with an introduction to the science of reading and how it connects to middle and high school instruction, recorded sessions will include topics designed to build knowledge around implementing literacy strategies and best practices across all content areas in the middle and high school grades. The first few sessions have already been recorded and added to the library. Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a listing of session titles, descriptions, and release dates.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

New Phonological Awareness Activities Released

The Instruction, Intervention, and Extension section of the [Literacy Library](#) now has three sets of phonological awareness activity cards. These activity card sets increase in challenge level and provide a bank of activities that can be done anywhere - in the classroom, in the hallway, while waiting on the bus, or waiting in the cafeteria line. The activity card sets include engaging multi-sensory activities to build phonological awareness skills in students. [Card Set 1](#) and [Card Set 2](#) include mostly single syllable words with some blends and vowel teams, while [Card Set 3](#) adds in additional blends and multi-syllable words.

These activities are suitable for students at any grade level that may be learning new skills or need additional support.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Reference Guides Webinar

The Department is hosting a webinar to support school systems with incorporating reference guides within the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) lessons to support student learning.

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Reference Guides \(2022\) Webinar](#) to learn about the use of reference guides in ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022), including how to incorporate reference guide materials to accelerate student learning.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 11 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99029131103?pwd=OGZMS0dBSldtNUI2UjRKRys5SEdWdz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID #:** 990 2913 1103
- **Passcode:** 879825

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Teacher Collaboration Webinars

The Department is hosting webinars to support teachers and leaders in implementing Teacher Collaboration structures in conjunction with the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units. The Department will host one call for leaders and another call for teachers.

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Teacher Collaboration \(2022\) Webinar](#) for **Leaders** to learn about implementing structures to support teacher collaboration around ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 25 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98066162412?pwd=WUttU2s4RXk3bmFKVmROZ1pDTjZFdz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID #:** 980 6616 2412
- **Passcode:** 080812

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Teacher Collaboration \(2022\) Webinar](#) for **Teachers** to learn about unit planning and data analysis structures to implement during Teacher Collaboration meetings in conjunction with ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 25 at 2:30 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99737516262?pwd=OEQwR3F0aXpXZ2dCTkHVzBqbHhHdz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID #:** 997 3751 6262
- **Passcode:** 280030

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

LASL (Louisiana Association of School Librarians) will be hosting a [professional development](#) opportunity on April 30 at 8:30 a.m. at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge.

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](#).

Additional Resources:

- [LASL February Newsletter](#)
- [LASL 5 Minute Tips](#)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Standards Review Update

On December 14, 2021, BESE charged the Department with reviewing public comment in order to submit a refined set of standards to BESE in March. Public comment for the most recent draft of standards was open from February 8 to February 22. The refined draft and public comment received will be presented to BESE at the Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee on March 8.

[Initial implementation guidance](#) for the 2022 social studies standards has been posted to the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). Additional guidance will be provided in future communications.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Full Suite of Yearlong Accelerate Math Tutoring Materials Now Available

[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. The complete suite of math tutoring materials for kindergarten through high school is now available.

[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. The Department is seeking content-strong math educators interested in contributing to this work, and [applications](#) are now open. This is an exciting professional learning opportunity for educators to build their professional capacity through specialized training from the Department and collaborative work with peers from around the state.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Partnership with Zearn

All CIR and UIR-Academics schools must provide summer learning programs per the CIR/UIR-A requirements found on page 25 of the [School System Planning Guide](#). Programs must provide high-dosage ELA and math tutoring using high-quality instructional materials. To support systems in fulfilling this requirement for math for rising first through eighth grade students, the Department has partnered with Zearn to support implementation of [Zearn Math's Summer Intensive Series](#) for CIR/UIR-A schools and strongly encourages all elementary and middle schools to provide this same learning opportunity for their students. Interested teachers should contact their system-level summer learning coordinator. Registration closes **March 9**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Revised OpenSciEd Pilot Resources

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with piloting the OpenSciEd middle school courses, the Department updates guidance resources as revised public units are released. The last three units in the middle school courses for OpenSciEd were released this month:

- Cells and Systems, Unit 6 on the [Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd Grade 6](#);

- Natural Resources and Human Impact, Unit 5 on the [Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd Grade 8](#); and
- Natural Selection and Common Ancestry, Unit 7 on the [Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd Grade 8](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New and Updated Resources for K-12 Science Planning

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

New resources include:

- [Grade 6 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify](#)
- [Grade 8 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify](#)

The following resources have been updated to include alignment with curricula that recently earned a Tier 1 rating:

- [Grade 6 Science Eagle Assessment Items](#)
- [Grade 8 Science Eagle Assessment Items](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Digital Learning Email Launch

The Department is excited to announce the Digital Learning inbox where teachers, leaders, and coaches can send questions regarding using technology to facilitate learning.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Google Docs Update

Citations can now automatically be added in Google Docs by searching for a text's ISBN number. This is a time saver for students and teachers utilizing Google Docs for research documents. View [this](#) quick demo to see how this tool can benefit your classroom.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees in June and July to

- develop scoring parameters for field tested constructed-response items or extended-response tasks;
- review newly developed items and passages for content and bias or sensitivity concerns;
- review leased items for alignment to the Louisiana Student Standards; and
- review data from field-tested items.

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees prior to the **March 18** deadline.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Free Virtual Energy Workshop

The Louisiana Energy Office, in partnership with the [NEED Project](#), is hosting a live virtual energy educator workshop on Saturday, April 30. This one-day, free event is designed to strengthen energy knowledge as a consumer, provide hands-on lessons and activities, and promote motivational strategies for engaging students across distance learning environments. K-12 science teachers as well as Career and Technical Education teachers interested in attending should [register](#) for this event by **March 18** to ensure advance mail delivery time on workshop materials .

Please contact wmoos@need.org with 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.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Congratulations to Louisiana educator Stephanie Gullage for receiving a [2020 PAEMST award](#) for Grades K-6 Mathematics! This award is the nation's highest honor for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Stephanie has been a teacher for 29 years and has taught math from third grade to high school advanced levels.

At the time of the award, Stephanie was teaching gifted/academy mathematics at R.K. Smith Middle in Luling where she has been for seventeen years. In her time there, she has held several leadership roles including Mathematics Department Chair. Over the course of her career, she has received numerous awards including school and district level teacher of the year.

Stephanie believes that “mathematics is for everyone” and takes pride in her work with students in “[...] developing them as thinkers, and empowering them as problem solvers.”

Congratulations, Stephanie! We celebrate this well-deserved honor!

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Congratulations to Louisiana educator James "Robbie" Evans, for receiving a [2020 PAEMST award](#) for Grades K-6 Science! This award is the nation's highest honor for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Robbie has been a teacher for 10 years at his alma mater, Sterlington Middle School, where he currently teaches sixth grade science and received the honor of Teacher of the Year in 2017.

Robbie’s many years of experience as a journalist laid a foundation for teaching effective writing in science. He currently serves in a district-wide cohort aimed at improving student reading and writing skills. Robbie credits phenomenon-based, collaborative classroom experiences and activities involving science practices like modeling and investigations for keeping students engaged.

Robbie believes that “students deserve teachers who work every day toward excellence” and acknowledges that the PAEMST award demonstrates his own dedication, as well as the support from others, that has allowed him to “[...] continue to grow as a science teacher.”

Congratulations, Robbie! We celebrate this well-deserved honor!

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	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
Math, Science, and STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
World Languages	language.acquisition@la.gov