



April 2023



Hello, fellow educators! My name is Regena Landry, and I am a fifth grade science and sixth grade Robotics/STEM teacher at Copper Mill Elementary in the Zachary Community School District. I am honored to be a 2022 Louisiana Semi-Finalist for the [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching \(PAEMST\)](#), a 2022 Louisiana Science Teachers Association Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year awardee, and a member of the Teacher Advisory Council (TAC).

STEM occupations are [projected to grow](#) at twice the current rate of overall employment through 2031, making it critical that we provide students with the opportunity to develop skills such as problem solving, computational thinking, communication, and collaboration. These essential 21st century skills fostered through STEM education are necessary to meet the demands of the future workforce. As a STEM educator, I find it rewarding to *spark genuine interest* in students that translates into real-life situations, both during the school year and with [summer learning](#) opportunities. My fellow STEM [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLA) and I are working to develop instructional resources and professional learning opportunities to support [STEM](#) educators across the state as they immerse their students in STEM engineering challenges and support their students' growth into scientific thinkers. Nurturing students' computational thinking skills will set students up for success across *all* content areas!

Another way that all teachers can support their students is by joining the [listening sessions](#) throughout the spring and summer to inform the [Computer Science Education Advisory Commission](#) (CSEAC) as they develop recommendations for a statewide plan for K-12 computer science in Louisiana. My fellow commission members and I desire input from teachers in *all* content areas. I encourage you to join the listening sessions and bring a friend!

Whether you are a STEM, computer science, or any other content area teacher, I hope you will join your fellow educators at the [Teacher Leader Summit](#) this summer to further your learning, share best practices with your peers, and discuss the *positive strides* we are making in Louisiana.

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Coming Soon: Session Scheduling

The Teacher Leader Summit app will be available through Cvent beginning **May 1**. In the app, you will be able to schedule your sessions, get to know the speakers, and find out which vendors are scheduled to attend this year's Education Expo.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

LITERACY

Literacy Instruction Best Practices Tools

A series of literacy instruction best practices tools designed to help administrators and literacy coaches determine specific areas of need or growth, develop coaching and feedback cycles, provide targeted support to teachers, structure effective teacher planning time, and identify next steps and follow-up support have been added to the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension Library](#). Tools are available for each grade band from Pre-K to 12.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

READ Program Resources

Informational resources for the [READ Program](#) are now available in the [Families Literacy Library](#). Schools can add the school's code to the downloaded informational flyer to provide families access to free books and literacy resources for students in Pre-K4 through grade 5 who are not yet reading on grade level. When families sign up with the school code, new books are sent directly to their homes. Books and resources are available in English and Spanish.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Three-Cueing Webinar Recording

Additional information regarding Act 517 was shared with teachers and leaders during the Let's Talk Banning of 3-Cueing webinar in March. The [recording](#) and [slides](#) are posted in the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension Library](#). This session provides teachers support in understanding the three-cueing approach to reading and how it differs from a science of reading-aligned, code-based approach. Review the session to better understand how to identify curriculums that use a three-cueing approach and what steps should be taken to ensure students receive code-based phonics instruction.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Top Tips for Effective IEP Meetings

Families Helping Families is hosting the Top Tips for Effective IEP Meetings webinar to break down IEP meeting preparation into three steps: before, during, and after the meeting. [Registration](#) is now open for the webinar that will be held at 12 p.m. on Monday, April 10.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

ELA RESOURCES

Resources for School Librarians

Please join the [LASL mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on additional professional learning 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Course Frameworks

The Department is developing Social Studies Course Frameworks aligned to the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies \(LSSSS\)](#) for Kindergarten through grade 8, high school Civics, and high school U.S. History. These resources are designed to support teachers in implementing the 2022 LSSSS by scoping and sequencing content standards over the course of the year.

The first two units for grades K-8 and high school Civics are available now and can be accessed on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#). All remaining units will post prior to the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

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 with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

New: Family Math Engagement Page

To accommodate the growing bank of resources that support the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#) pillars and goals, the [Family Math Engagement](#) page has been created to better serve the needs of leaders, teachers, and families who access those resources. Educators can now click on the pillar graphic that matches their needs and find available resources. Resources available include

- Grab & Go activities for families; and
- resources to support families with Zearn.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Mathematics Resources for Summer Learning Programs Now Available

Materials used in summer learning should be of the same quality as those used during the school year. The Department has released [Guidance for Accelerating Summer Math Learning](#) to support systems in providing strong summer programs that accelerate students' readiness to engage in grade-level mathematics in the upcoming year.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

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 is open for additional sessions to support teachers and leaders in successful implementation. Session details are posted in 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 is open 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 have been updated.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Math Teacher Leader Advisors Needed

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. **The Department currently has a high need for math TLAs.**

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 with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Science Foundational Professional Learning

The Department is offering a two day, in-person professional learning opportunity for K-12 or preservice science educators in late summer prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year. This training will be grounded in high-quality instructional materials and applicable to all K-12 science settings. Participants will deepen their understanding of the shifts called for by the Louisiana Student Standards for Science, build pedagogical strategies to support students' acceleration toward mastery of grade-level standards, and connect with a community of science educators.

Interested schools, systems, or educators should reach out to STEM@la.gov for additional information.

EDTECH RESOURCES

Chromebook Testing Preparation

Ensuring that Chromebooks have the newest version of Chrome is one of the most important actions to increase cybersecurity and operability. To ensure that Chromebooks are updated with the most recent version of Google Chrome, teachers and students are encouraged to completely shut down Chromebooks regularly. Updates will be delivered when a Chromebook is completely shut down and restarted. Chromebooks can be shut down by holding down the power key or through the main menu.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Canva Updates

Canva has recently released the ability to translate PDFs into multiple languages. To access this free feature, teachers should start a project in Canva, click “Apps,” and select the option. Canva can translate PDFs containing less than 2,000 characters in a matter of minutes. Educators who are new to Canva can sign up for a [free upgraded account](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher Leader Advisor Applications: Closing Soon!

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?

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Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: New Episode Released

[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.

Season 2, Episode 12: Recruiting Role Models as Educators with Dr. George Noflin Jr. and Ja'Deric Talbert. Dr. Noflin, professor at Grambling State University and director of the Call Me MiSTER Program and Ja'Deric Talbert, Elementary Education student and president of the Call Me MiSTER Program, talk about their experiences, their passion for education, and the challenges they face in the field. Hear the Teacher Hacks segment to learn tips submitted by educators for easy things to improve your classroom.

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.

Computer Science Listening Sessions for Educators

The Computer Science Education Advisory Commission is continuing to collect stakeholder feedback for the commission to consider in the development of recommendations for a statewide K-12 computer science education plan. Feedback is currently being collected on the following topics:

- [Computer Science Framework Guidance](#) (including Core Concepts and Core Practices)
- Teacher Certification

- Professional Learning

Feedback may be provided through the [survey](#) or by joining one of the two April [listening sessions](#). Additional information, including the schedule of commission meetings, is available on the Department's [computer science webpage](#). All K-12 Educators are encouraged to attend the monthly listening sessions as the content presented for feedback is changed.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 20 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94987220843?pwd=MVNZazFwbFJqREQvTlc0a091NS9TQT09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 949 8722 0843
- **Passcode:** 592299

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 25 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92207681664>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 922 0768 1664

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
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