



April 2021



Greetings! I am Tiffanye McCoy-Thomas, PhD, an instructional specialist within the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. I am a veteran educator of more than twenty years, having taught social studies K-12 and Advanced Placement. In my current position I work to support instructional design and assessment alignment.

Abraham Lincoln noted, “The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.” This statement is being realized with the revision of the K-12 Social Studies standards. We know that learners who engage in meaningful inquiry-based activities develop both the acquisition of the skills and grasp the disciplinary demands of the content. More importantly, in this moment, we have the responsibility to ensure that the various contributions and perspectives, inclusive of all peoples, are represented in the standards, ensuring that learners see themselves in the narrative and promoting learning in context. The revision process will focus on both inquiry-based learning and the inclusion of varied historical perspectives, elevating critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication-building 21st Century skills.

Citizens who actively engage and embrace our rich, unique democratic republic are the product of learners who inquire, make connections, and engage their voices. Let us support and applaud our courageous colleagues on the steering committee as they lead this transformative work.

“To teach in a manner that respects and cares for the souls of our students is essential if we are to provide the necessary conditions where learning can most deeply and intimately begin.”

- Bell Hooks

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit: T-shirt Sales

The Department announces with great pleasure for the first time a student has won the Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design contest. Ayla Voitier, an eleventh-grade student at Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts in St. Landry parish and a student of Kimberly Nelams-Becnel, won the contest open to both students and educators.

T-shirts are now available for [purchase](#). The vendor producing the t-shirts will donate \$1 from each t-shirt sold back to Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts. The t-shirt design is inclusive of both the in-person Teacher Leader Summit and the Virtual Series. One does not have to be registered for either event to purchase a t-shirt.

T-shirts will be available for purchase on the website until early May to account for shipping to ensure all t-shirts arrive in advance of the in-person event. It has not yet been determined if the t-shirt vendor will be able to be onsite during the mornings of the in-person event and thus those interested in purchasing a t-shirt are encouraged to do so via the website.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit (In-person) Session Scheduling

[Registration](#) for the in-person Teacher Leader Summit is underway. The session schedule and app will be released to early bird ticket holders on April 7 and April 9 for regular registration ticket holders.

Session scheduling will be done via the same method the Department has utilized in the past - the Sched app. To ensure ease of scheduling, registrants are encouraged to delete the 2020 app from their phones. A new version of the app will need to be downloaded to register for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. A newsletter entry will be forthcoming when the new app is available for download.

New this year, educators have the opportunity to download graphics to share across their social media platforms to celebrate attending the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. The graphics can be found in the "I'm Going Passes" section of the [Summit Materials page](#). Be sure to use the hashtag #LATeacherLeaders in social posts.

More information regarding the in-person Teacher Leader Summit can be found in the [2021 Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#).

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Registration

To maximize the [delivery of content](#) and educator development, The Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from June 1 - 11, and sessions will be accessed remotely. The format will be similar to the Virtual Series offered during Spring 2020.

There will be a max overall registration limitation of 8,000 for which the Department is not allocating seats. [Registration](#) for the Virtual Series will be on a first come, first served basis.

Paid ticket holders of the Teacher Leader Summit in-person event will receive an access code allowing them to register for and participate in the Virtual Series at no additional cost. These codes will be sent in advance of registration opening on April 1 and weekly thereafter. Each code will be one-time use and must be used only by the original ticket holder. Codes are not transferable.

[Registration](#) for the Virtual Series will occur in two phases:

- Early bird registration (April 1 through April 25)
- Regular registration (April 26 through sellout)

Ticket Type	Purchasing Window	Ticket Price
Early Bird Registration	April 1-25	\$50.00
Regular Registration	April 26 - sell out	\$65.00

Tickets are inclusive of all days of the event. The session schedule and app will be released to early bird ticket holders on May 10 and May 12 for regular registrants. More information on the Virtual Series can be found in the [2021 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Overview](#).

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Office Hours

To best support Louisiana educators, the Department has scheduled six office hours where our team will be on hand to offer guidance and support related to the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit and 2021 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series. The office hours will have no set agenda but will function as a

question-and-answer opportunity. The next office hours will take place on April 13. Webinar details are listed below.

- Webinar Date and Time: April 13 at 3 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92284785653>
- Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923
- Meeting ID#: 922 8478 5653
- Passcode: 332148

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

Accelerate Summer

The Department will be releasing K-2 ELA resources for Accelerate Summer. These ELA resources will contain both K-2 Foundations lessons and K-2 Knowledge-Building Lessons that focus on the following ELA Guidebooks 1.0 units:

- Grade K: Chrysanthemum
- Grade 1: Frogs
- Grade 2: Cinderella

School Systems should access the [text portal](#) as well as the [unit reader portal](#) and order texts for these units to ensure delivery of materials prior to summer instruction.

For Accelerate Summer in ELA grades 3-8, school systems should plan instruction using an [ELA Guidebook](#) unit that was not implemented during the 2020-2021 school year. School Systems should access the [text portal](#) as well as the [unit reader portal](#) and order texts for these units to ensure delivery of materials prior to summer instruction. Information about accessing additional materials for the units can be found on the [ELA Guidebooks landing page](#).

Additional Summer Accelerate ELA guidance and information including content recommendations and sample calendars will be released soon.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

OpenSciEd High School Pilot Opportunity

OpenSciEd is developing three high school courses (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) for field testing during the next two school years with plans to release the full courses publicly in 2024. They are seeking teachers to field test a few units in the 2021-22 school year and the full course the following year. Field test teachers will be required to:

- attend all days of professional development for the field test units,
- field test the units with fidelity,
- participate in any state collaborations, and
- provide feedback to OpenSciEd during and after field testing in a variety of ways.

Interested Biology, Chemistry, or Physics teachers should seek permission from their school or system and fill out the [application form](#) by April 15.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Pacing Suggestions for Piloting OpenSciEd Grades 6-8 Coming Soon

OpenSciEd complete revised public units are released on a rolling schedule with all units estimated to be available by winter 2022. The Department will update the [Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciEd](#) with additional guidance that will assist with pacing when piloting the full course in each grade level. These updates will be released this summer to support planning for the 2021-2022 academic year. Because teachers are best positioned to make decisions that meet the individual needs of their students with regard to pacing, they should continue to use their professional judgement when deciding to what degree to implement these suggestions.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Open Enrollment Summer Professional Development for inquiryHub Biology

Virtual professional development opportunities for inquiryHub Biology will be held this summer. The four day, virtual workshops will focus on resources and routines for using student questions in instruction, ensuring relevance and coherence for students, fostering equitable and productive discussion, and assessing three dimensional learning. Workshops will be offered multiple times throughout the summer. Please see the [Professional Learning](#) landing page for the University of Colorado Boulder for more information and to register.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher Leader Advisor Applications: Coming Soon

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

The Louisiana Department of Education is searching for **highly-motivated educators** to support the mission and vision of the Department of Education. You **do not** need to be a school-site Teacher Leader in order to apply.

Becoming a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA) not only allows educators to expand their positive impact beyond the classroom by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators, but it

also provides an opportunity to deepen and refine their leadership skills, learn about key priorities and projects at the Louisiana Department of Education, and develop their understanding of curricula and teacher training.

Here's what TLAs have to say about their experience:

"It's just about the best thing I've ever done as an educator. The opportunities to collaborate with state leaders and high-quality classroom teachers have changed my classroom instruction in ways that almost no other method could have done."

"Being a Teacher Leader Advisor is extremely rewarding. Working with other teachers from across the state to provide ready-to-use resources is an enriching professional development experience. This program has allowed me to understand my standards deeper as well as better understand the relationship between state and district agencies and the importance of the work we do as a TLA."

Learn more about [Teacher Leader Advisors](#)! Application links will be available in [the TLA Flyer](#) by **May 6**. Look for more information in the May newsletter!

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with any 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 they have 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.

Interested educators should complete [this brief survey](#). Please visit the [research project information page](#) for additional information or contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Summer Environmental Education Virtual Workshop Series

The [Summer Environmental Education Virtual Workshop Series](#) is designed to provide a framework for understanding, developing, and using phenomena in the classroom. Participants will deepen content knowledge on environmental education topics such as marine debris and water quality through

interactive webinars delivered by experts in the field. Participants will also learn strategies and resources for incorporating student stewardship opportunities into units of study.

This workshop series will focus on environmental science content and is open to all Louisiana educators. Due to limited capacity, registration is required, and virtual seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Summer Environmental Education Virtual Workshop Series Schedule		
Launching Meaningful Phenomena for Three-Dimensional Learning	Learn how relevant phenomena strengthens standards-based instruction and enhances student understanding.	2 offerings: June 6-7 or June 16-17 8 hour workshop
Water Quality and Data	Explore key water quality parameters and analyze real world data of Louisiana’s coastal and marine systems.	June 22-23 2 day workshop (4 hours per day/8 hours total)
Anatomy of a Phenomenon	Discover fundamental elements of quality phenomena and how to publish and share via the Louisiana Science Phenomena website.	2 offerings: July 6 or July 7 2 hour workshop
Marine Debris and Microplastics	Learn how to lead a marine debris survey and why microplastics pose a threat to aquatic life.	2 offerings: July 13 or July 14 4 hour workshop

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Louisiana Teacher And Librarian Named 2021 School Librarian Of The Year

Congratulations to Amanda Jones, teacher-librarian at Live Oak Middle School in Watson, LA, for being selected as one of the 2021 [School Librarians of the Year](#). This award recognizes K–12 library professionals for “outstanding achievement and the exemplary use of 21st-century tools and services to engage children and teens toward fostering multiple literacies.” For Jones, remote learning led to an innovative program of virtual field trips dubbed “Journeys with Jones,” as she tried to help her fifth and sixth graders escape from their stressful realities for a short time. She adjusted or paused other programs that weren’t quite working virtually and started a new reading program that encourages students to read books about media literacy, ethics, sociology, and history.

“School librarians have one of the most rewarding jobs in the world, with the ability to reach every child in the school,” she said. “We help our students discover the perfect books, provide a safe space, and ignite creativity. Thank you to the countless school librarians who have helped me learn and grow over the course of my career.”

Department Names the 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists

On March 30, the Department announced the [2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana’s teaching profession.

All Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists will be honored at the 15th Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala that will be held virtually on the evening of July 16. Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Assessment

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics will convene LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect assessments committees in June and July via teleconference.

- LEAP 2025 Science and Math Content, Bias, and Sensitivity committees will review newly developed assessment items and provide feedback and recommendations on the items.
- LEAP Connect Standards Validation and Standards Setting committees will work on cut scores and achievement levels for ELA, math, and science assessments.

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meetings details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. Selected participants who are on summer break are eligible to receive a daily stipend. Please share this announcement with general education teachers, special education teachers, teachers of English Learners, school and school system supervisors, and school administrators – all are encouraged to apply. Deadline to apply is May 9.

Please contact assessment@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
Financial Aid Assistance	ldefinancial@la.gov
Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@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
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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