



## April 2022



Hi teacher leaders! My name is Sarah Lindsey Garcia and I teach 4th grade math and science at DC Reeves Elementary School in Tangipahoa Parish. I have been a proud educator for 18 years, with many years in an inclusion setting. I have served as a teacher leader and math grade level chair and am currently serving as DC Reeves Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year.

Meeting the needs of all students is a number one priority of educators. All children **can** learn, and it's up to us to help them find their path to success. Our students in Louisiana are our future and investing in them is the most impactful thing we can do.

Our school has been implementing student-specific interventions during [extra time built into our daily schedule](#), utilizing our high-quality curriculum. Students receive an additional thirty minutes of targeted math and ELA instruction, which has proven helpful for all students, especially students with disabilities. Our math team uses data from curriculum assessments to plan for interventions and to document student success on our Individualized Growth Plans during our weekly collaboration and planning meetings. The data collected is also used to provide support for students working at and above grade level.

Students will be successful when they find something they can be successful in. It's my honor to be their guide as they discover what they **can** do, and I love watching them grow in doing so. My fearless leader, Mrs. Whittington, has taught me how to be intentional with planning for student growth as well as access and opportunities for all students, and that has made all the difference. I hope you'll join our colleagues at the [Teacher Leader Summit](#) to learn more about accelerating learning and best practices for supporting diverse learners.

## In This Issue

- [Teacher Leader Summit](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Literacy](#)
- [ELA Resources](#)
- [Social Studies 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.

As of March 21, the [City of New Orleans](#) has lifted the mask, vaccination, and testing restrictions. Under the current guidelines, Teacher Leader Summit will not require these for entry.

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
- Math
- 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;
- adjusted schedule to meet the needs of participants; and
- the return of the Education Expo with high quality professional learning partners and non-profit organizations.

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

## Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Math, Science, and STEM Sessions

Math, science, and STEM sessions offered at the [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will provide participants the opportunity to explore resources and strategies for building students' knowledge and skills within the content areas while fostering classroom environments that build confidence, belonging, and joy. Sessions will focus on supporting participants in

- building students' positive math, science, and STEM identities;
- accelerating student learning;
- recognizing and leveraging student assets in sensemaking;
- using student work and observational data to guide instructional decisions;

- leveraging STEM connections to support math and science learning goals;
- exploring specialized STEM coursework designed to prepare high school students for postsecondary success; and
- advancing equitable STEM.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Social Studies Sessions**

The 2022 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will offer social studies sessions focused on the implementation of and transition to the new 2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies. Sessions will provide opportunities for educators to

- build knowledge on the major shifts in content;
- review upcoming supports for the 2022-2023 learning year and prepare for implementation in the 2023-2024 school year; and
- explore draft units from new course frameworks for grades 3-8, high school Civics, and high school United States history.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Environmental Education**

The 2022 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will offer environmental education sessions aimed at supporting educators in building environmental literacy for students. Sessions will provide opportunities for educators to

- build knowledge and explore tools that increase environmental awareness leading to increased civic engagement;
- build science knowledge and skills by infusing Louisiana-specific phenomena, grounded in local contexts and content, into high quality instruction; and
- explore resources to provide students with authentic and engaging outdoor learning experiences through vibrant school and community partnerships.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: ELA**

The 2022 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will include ELA sessions that focus on accelerating student learning, using high-quality instructional materials to build knowledge and teach foundational skills, and the Science of Reading. Sessions will focus on supporting participants in

- understanding key updates to ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) and ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020);
- providing actionable feedback on ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2018) future development;
- implementing strategies to meet the needs of all learners;
- using student work and to guide instructional planning; and
- accelerating student learning in English language arts.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: EdTech**

The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will provide sessions on educational technology that will provide participants with the opportunity to explore strategies to harness the power of edtech across all subjects and grade levels. Sessions offered will engage participants in hands-on, interactive discussions on edtech topics including

- utilizing technology to increase classroom engagement;
- virtual field trips;
- using edtech for differentiation;
- flipping your classroom;
- digital breakout games; and
- using edtech for teacher efficiency.

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

## **ACADEMICS**

### **Accelerate**

Accelerate, Louisiana’s pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. School system and school leaders should continue implementing Accelerate in their schools.

All CIR/UIR-A schools will be required to implement Accelerate during the 2022-2023 school year.

Resources and training are available in the [Accelerate Library](#) and the Department will host an Accelerate Overview webinar to support system and school teams in implementation.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 28 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**  
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98219634371?pwd=TW5BRkxtQXhZU2JJN3ZaL2FMb0NUQT09#success>
- **Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 98219634371

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

### **ELA Accelerate Summer Guidance**

The Department will host a webinar to provide school systems with guidance and resources for strong academics as part of a summer learning program. Please join this session or view the recording to learn more about the ELA Accelerate Summer Guidance.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 5 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94571137580>
- **Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 94571137580

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

# LITERACY

## **Middle and High School Professional Development Series**

A new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy is being released weekly on Tuesdays 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. Several 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. Requests and feedback from the field to build out additional sessions to target specific topics or strategies are welcomed.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with requests or 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 who may be learning new skills or need additional support.

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

# ELA RESOURCES

## **Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Overview**

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units will be released this month and the [Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most up-to-date information about the revisions to the units. The overview document contains the following information to support school systems in implementing these updated units

- an overview of updates to ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022);
- curriculum access and text purchasing information; and
- unit texts and unit overviews

Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto: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 March Newsletter](#)
- [LASL 5 Minute Tips](#)
- Attending Teacher Leader? Check out the Librarian Sessions on [Whova!](#)
- [Nominations for 2nd VP of LASL](#)

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

### **ELA Accelerate Summer Guidance**

The Department will host a webinar to provide school systems with guidance and resources for strong academics as part of a summer learning program. Please join one of the sessions to learn more about the ELA Accelerate Summer Guidance.

May Webinar:

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- **Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 94571137580

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

## **SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES**

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

On March 8, 2022, [BESE unanimously approved](#) the 2022 K-12 Student Standards for Social Studies.

The 2022 K-12 Student Standards for Social Studies will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. A [brief guide for implementation](#) has been posted to the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#) and [Grades 9-12 Social Studies Teacher Library](#). The Department will provide resources and educator professional development to support the implementation of the new social studies standards starting at this year's Teacher Leader Summit and throughout the 2022-2023 school year. The Department will host [webinars](#) this summer and throughout the 2022-2023 school year to support district leaders, school leaders, and teachers as they prepare to transition to the 2022 standards. The first webinar will be held on June 9. Information on subsequent webinar opportunities will be communicated via newsletters and calls as well as through the [Webinar and Q&A infosheet](#) posted to the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#) and [Grades 9-12 Social Studies Teacher Library](#).

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

## SCIENCE RESOURCES

### **OpenSciEd High School Field Test**

OpenSciEd is a high-quality science pilot that has just recently completed the [full middle school program](#). The second phase of this work, focusing on developing a three course sequence for high school, is underway with plans for completion by January 2024. A group of Louisiana teachers, alongside other educators nationwide, is currently field testing the first series of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics units and providing valuable feedback to developers that will inform revision.

High school teachers interested in joining the pilot should speak with their supervisors and contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) for more information.

### **Updated Teacher Background Section for OpenSciEd Middle School Units**

OpenSciEd has now completed the full middle school program. Teacher Editions for all units have been updated within the Teacher Background Knowledge section of the Unit Overview. The improved and expanded information includes

- a description of how each of the dimensions are developed within the unit;
- details on how units work together to progressively build student understanding;
- support for modifying the sequence of units;
- pacing support to shorten or extend units;
- additional strategies for supporting equitable science learning in the unit; and
- guidance for developing a word wall.

Updated versions of the Teacher Editions can be found linked under “unit resources” on the [Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciEd in Grades 6-8](#).

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

## EDTECH

### **Did You See this?: Tech Updates**

Kami is one of the fastest and easiest tools to quickly edit PDFs - and it is free! Kami just launched a template library and a built-in QR code generator for easy document sharing. [Learn](#) more about these updates and how these tools will enhance student learning.

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

### **LACUE Tech Leader Summit**

LACUE will be hosting the Technology Leadership Summit at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on June 13-15.

The call for proposals is now open. Consider lending your voice and expertise to the event. [Proposals](#) must be submitted by **May 5**. Notification of accepted proposals will be completed by May 9.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@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 Department 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 5**. Look for more information in the May newsletter!

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

### **Social Studies Assessment Advisory Group**

The Division of Assessment Content is accepting applications for a Social Studies Assessments Advisory Group in addition to ongoing assessment development committees. The group will be comprised of social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers and coordinators. Group members will provide input as the Department develops new LEAP Social Studies assessments aligned to the 2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies and related assessment resources.

The advisory group will convene over the course of two academic school years, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024. There will be approximately six to eight meetings per year. All meetings will be held virtually after school for no more than two hours. Participation is voluntary. The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is **May 4**.

Please contact Beth Carney at [elizabeth.carney@la.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carney@la.gov) and Kelly Pizani at [kelly.pizani@la.gov](mailto:kelly.pizani@la.gov) with questions.

### **Social Studies Source Review Committees**

The Division of Assessment Content is accepting applications for the Social Studies Source Review Committees in grades 3–8 and high school Civics. Each committee will

- include 4–6 social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge or grade-level expertise;
- review proposed sources to ensure that materials are fair and appropriate for all students and will support the development of items that allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in social studies and align to the 2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies;
- convene for the first time in summer 2022 and on a regular basis during the 2022–2023 school year; and
- complete synchronous and asynchronous reviews during the 2022–2023 school year, with approximately 5 to 6 virtual meetings held outside of school hours.

Interested educators can access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for committee details and links to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is **May 4**.

Please contact Beth Carney at [elizabeth.carney@la.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carney@la.gov) and Kelly Pizani at [kelly.pizani@la.gov](mailto:kelly.pizani@la.gov) with questions.

### **Professional Development and Resources Now Available**

The TRAC (TRAnspOrtation and Civil Engineering) program is intended for use in grades 7-12 and RIDES (Roadways Into Developing Elementary Students) is intended for grades K-8. The [TRAC and RIDES programs](#) offered by the Louisiana Transportation Research Center, sponsored jointly by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and Louisiana State University, can be used to introduce students in grades K-12 to the work world of transportation and civil engineering and inspire them to consider careers in those fields. This workshop offers teachers hands-on training through activities that facilitate problem solving skills and higher order thinking. Each attendee will receive a manual that consists of over 100 activities, and each school will leave with one “trunk” of materials to use in classrooms. Interested teachers should [register](#) now for sessions being offered in June.

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

### **Free Webinar: Building Positive STEM Identity through Engineering Design with Engineering is Elementary (EIE)**

Explore how engineering with Pre-K-8 learners develops problem-solving skills and builds positive habits of mind through a free webinar for Louisiana educators hosted by the Engineering is Elementary team from the Museum of Science, Boston on April 13 at 9:00 a.m. Participants will learn practical strategies for supporting engineering and explore the many benefits of early engineering with young learners across a variety of settings including the classroom as well as within summer learning programs. Interested educators should [register](#) for this free, online event. A copy of the webinar will be available to registered participants following the scheduled event.

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

# EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

## **Department Names the 2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists**

The Department is proud to announce the [2023 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 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala that will be held at the World War II Museum on the evening of July 30. This exciting event is co-sponsored by Dream Teachers.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

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

## **Department Names the 2023 New Teacher of the Year Finalists**

The Department is excited to announce the nine finalists for the New Teacher of the Year award. These amazing educators have demonstrated excellence in their very first year in the classroom. Finalists will participate in an interview process, and the overall New Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Dream Teachers gala in late July. Please congratulate this outstanding group of new teachers.

Elementary	Riley Benjamin	West Baton Rouge
Elementary	Ally Coburn	Ouachita
Elementary	Charli Hauk	Avoyelles
Middle	Juliana Habisreitinger	West Feliciana
Middle	Annanaquia Smith	Rapides
Middle	Jamie Young	Calcasieu
High	Robert Daly	Collegiate Academy
High	Rachel Ryan	Bossier
High	Jordyn Vicknair	Ascension

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

## CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams	<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>
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>