



## May 2023



My name is Claire Meche, and I currently serve as the K-12 social studies content leader for the Acadia Parish School Board. This is my 18th year as a social studies educator and my first year as a [Teacher Leader Advisor \(TLA\)](#).

Collaborating with my fellow TLAs as we create the social studies course frameworks aligned to the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) has been incredibly rewarding. Together, we have created course frameworks designed to support teachers in implementing the 2022 LSSSS by scoping and sequencing content standards over the course of the year. Topics and units are planned around open-ended framing questions that ask students to **think deeply and critically** about the content and move beyond simple recall instruction in social studies to **making and expressing claims** based on evidence. The [new course frameworks](#) are a more *accessible* and *user-friendly* way for teachers to prepare and teach aligned lessons.

Students will also have an improved learning experience with the new course frameworks, as they will have access to resources for setting the context and developing background knowledge, exploring primary and secondary sources, and developing and expressing claims.

By contributing to the course frameworks, I have been able to make a significant difference in the quality of [social studies](#) education in Louisiana, and I am excited to see how these new resources will impact social studies classrooms in Louisiana. Teachers of all content areas can appreciate the excitement and enthusiasm that comes along with building better resources to improve our students' educational experience. The Department will continue to offer webinars and guidance on the new course frameworks throughout the 2023-204 school year.

[Teacher Leader Summit](#) is just around the corner and I hope to see you there! Social studies sessions will cover unit and lesson planning using the new course frameworks, exploring new Louisiana History resources, the design principles and key features of the Bayou Bridges: a K-8 Social Studies curriculum, and finally information on the new social studies assessment and resources available to support students. Teacher Leader Summit will have an abundance of sessions on a variety of topics, and I'm sure you will find sessions that support your own professional development.

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## TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

### **Teacher Leader Summit Session Scheduling**

The Teacher Leader Summit app is now available through Cvent. In the app, you can now 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](mailto:events@emergentmethod.com) with questions.

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

The 2023 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will include ELA sessions that focus on using high-quality instructional materials to build knowledge and to accelerate learning.

Sessions will support participants in

- understanding key updates to ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022), ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024), and ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020);
- implementing instructional strategies to meet the needs of all learners;
- utilizing the language of the standards to refine scaffolding and ensure students receive grade-level instruction; and
- using the [Professional Learning Road Map](#) to guide instructional planning.

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

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

The Department will offer multiple sessions to support the implementation of the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) at the [2023 Teacher Leader Summit](#). Social Studies sessions will be designed to support educators in

- using new course frameworks for grades K-8, Civics, and United States History to unit and lesson plan;
- exploring Louisiana State History resources developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities;
- understanding the design principles and implementation best practices of Bayou Bridges: a K-8 social studies curriculum; and

- learning about the design of the new social studies state assessments and available resources to support students.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Math**

The Department is excited to reveal the Louisiana Math Comprehensive Plan and preview resources to support foundational math learning at the [2023 Teacher Leader Summit](#).

Math-focused sessions will be available to

- support teachers and leaders in new curriculum implementation; and
- accelerate math learning for all students.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Science and STEM**

To promote high-quality science and STEM teaching and learning, the Department is excited to preview priorities which will be featured at the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit. Science and STEM sessions will

- be grounded in high-quality instructional materials (HQIM);
- focus on how HQIM can serve as a key lever for achievement improvement in outcomes for *all* science learners;
- explore features of quality STEM programs.

Additionally, there will be several listening sessions scheduled throughout Summit designed to gather input from science and STEM education stakeholders to inform continuous improvement in supporting teachers' instructional decision-making in science, STEM, and computer science.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: World Languages**

The 2023 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will offer [World Languages and Immersion Education](#) sessions that will support teachers and leaders in understanding and enacting the Department's vision for World Languages Education.

Sessions will focus on supporting participants in

- creating world language units that lead to proficiency;
- understanding the new [2023 Louisiana Guide to World Languages Programming Grades 9-12](#); and
- forming school and system-level partnerships and exchanges with Louisiana's international partners.

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

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

The 2023 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will offer [EdTech](#) sessions that will support teachers and leaders in understanding and enacting the Department's vision for meaningful technology integration of high-quality instructional materials focusing on

- supporting educators in technology integration with high quality instructional materials in addition to cybersecurity readiness for teachers;

- equipping students with computer literacy skills;
- resources for librarians; and
- strategies and tools for parent connection.

Additionally, there will be sessions with a hands-on virtual environment to practice cybersecurity skills that can be used with students.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Teacher Leader Advisors**

Are you a current [Teacher Leader Advisor](#) (TLA) who would like the opportunity to network in person with the other Teacher Leader Advisors across the state? Are you an educator who is interested in learning more about the Teacher Leader Advisor program? We are excited to announce that the 2023 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will offer a Teacher Leader Advisor Session for educators of all content areas and grade levels who are current, former or prospective TLAs. The Department's TLAs serve an integral role in creating and supporting the implementation of the next wave of instructional resources. TLAs work closely with Department staff throughout the year to make sure school systems across the state have access to high-quality instructional materials. All current or former TLAs who would like to share their experiences or give feedback, as well as those who are interested in learning about the work and potentially getting involved should attend this session titled: Teacher Leader Advisors: Collaborate, Create, IMPACT.

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

## **ACADEMICS**

### **New: Family Summer Support Toolkit**

The [Family Summer Support Toolkit](#) provides handouts for parents and sample social media posts for school systems to use in engaging families during the summer in math and literacy. The posts will include links to activities to send home and are designed to encourage families to continue learning throughout the summer in a fun and engaging way. The toolkit also highlights digital resources for families of students with disabilities and English Learners.

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

## **SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS**

### **CVI Range Assessments: The CVI Range**

LA-AEM is hosting "[CVI Range Assessment](#);" an in-person training on CVI assessments. There are two training locations available, Baton Rouge and Ruston.

The Baton Rouge [training](#) will occur Wednesday, May 17. The training will be held at the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired, located at 2888 Brightside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820.

The Ruston [training](#) will occur Wednesday, May 24. The training will be held at the Louisiana Center for the Blind, located at 101 S Trenton Street, Ruston, LA 71270.

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

## ELA RESOURCES

### ELA Summer Guidance

The Department is releasing new [ELA Accelerate](#) materials by this summer, and these resources can be used to build on the literacy materials that are available in the [Literacy Library](#). To assist systems with planning for how to use these resources, the Department is hosting a webinar to provide guidance for strong academics. This webinar will address summer learning instruction for grades K-10, which includes maximizing the use of the ELA Accelerate and Literacy resources.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 16 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93249456456>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 932 4945 6456

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

### ELA Guidebooks Text Updates

The Department made minor updates to two ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units for Grade 3, The Stories Julian Tells and Cajun Folktales. The Stories Julian Tells unit has a new edition of the anchor text, *The Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron (©2023), and the updated version of the text is now available in the [American Reading Company](#) portal. This text change affects section 3, lessons 1 and 2, and the teaching guide will be updated to align with each version of the text. In addition, “Animal Traits and Features” has replaced the text in section 7 of the Cajun Folktales unit, “Animal Facts.”

Additionally, due to shifts in text permissions, some texts in additional ELA Guidebooks units will no longer be accessible in the [XanEdu](#) Unit Readers. Educators should review the [ELA Guidebooks Licensing Updates](#) document for an overview of the affected units and updates to text access for each impacted unit. As the Department works with XanEdu to secure access to each text, the document will be updated with additional details.

For more information regarding shifts in text permissions and updates to text lists, join our informational webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 11 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95711471811>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 95711471811

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

### ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Updates

This fall, the Department will release three new level three units for ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). The new units that will be available are the following: Voices in America (Grade 3), Olympics (Grade

4), and Renaissance Art (Grade 5). Educators should review the updated [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Overview](#) which includes information regarding unit overviews, embedded assessments, and text lists.

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

### **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](mailto:GeauxLASL@gmail.com) for more information
- [American Association of School Librarians \(AASL\) Conference](#): October 19-21, Tampa, Florida

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

## **SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES**

### **Social Studies Course Frameworks Additional Units Added**

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.

Additional completed units have been added and can be accessed on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#). All remaining units will post prior to the upcoming Teacher Leader Summit.

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

## MATH RESOURCES

### **Last Chance: 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. Sessions are available in June and July in both virtual and in-person formats.

- Teachers should register for [Launching Zearn Math](#).
- Leaders should register for [Accelerating Impact with Zearn](#).

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

### **Math Teacher Leader Advisors Needed: Application 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? 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 to be a math TLA! Applications for math TLAs are now open and will close **May 7**. Educators do not need to be a school-site Teacher Leader to apply.

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

## SCIENCE RESOURCES

### **New Resources: Louisiana Student Standards for Science Crosswalk Documents**

To support systems, schools, and teachers in implementing the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#), the Department has released a series of crosswalk documents. The crosswalk documents provide guidance to assist with determining alignment to Louisiana Student Standards for Science for resources designed for the Next Generation Science Standards. Crosswalks for [Kindergarten](#) and [Grade 1](#) and have now been added to the suite of documents for grades K-8, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, and Physics. All crosswalk documents can be found on the [K-12 Science Resources webpage](#).

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

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

## **EDTECH**

### **Adobe Express for Education**

[Adobe Express for Education](#) is a powerful, user-friendly tool that supports users in creating graphics, collages, and videos in just a few clicks. Adobe Express can assist in creating engaging and visually appealing materials that will capture students' attention and inspire them to learn. Adobe Express is free for all educators and students.

In addition, Adobe Express integrates with LMS and EdTech tools, making sign in and managing the app easy and convenient. Create, assign, and grade student projects directly from Google Classroom and Canvas.

Using Adobe Express in the classroom can help teachers create materials that are engaging and effective, while saving time and effort. With its intuitive interface and powerful tools, Adobe Express is accessible to educators with any level of design experience.

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

### **Microsoft for Education Updates**

[Microsoft for Education](#) has released multiple updates to make teaching and learning even more efficient, collaborative, and engaging.

- Teams Templates: create templates for individual assignments, entire courses, or even school-wide initiatives
- Presenter Mode for PowerPoint Live: present your slides in a more engaging way, with the ability to add video feeds, audio, and virtual laser pointers to highlight key points
- [Microsoft Whiteboard](#): collaborate with students in real-time to brainstorm ideas, draw diagrams, or work through complex problems together
- [Flipgrid Shorts](#): create short videos that can be used for students to share their knowledge with the class
- [Immersive Reader](#): assists diverse learners by providing features such as text-to-speech, visual aids, and translations into other languages

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

## EVALUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **CIS Evaluation Closeout for Teachers, Counselors, and Librarians**

Teachers, counselors, and librarians are encouraged to review and sign off on all observation and Student Learning Target (SLT) data prior to leaving for summer break. Once the Compass Information System (CIS) transfers to the new school year in the fall, no teacher, counselor, or librarian evaluation data for the 2022-2023 school year can be added or amended. To create a streamlined process, it is recommended that educators complete the following tasks:

- Enter all SLTs in [CIS](#)
- Assess students and [report SLT](#) results in [CIS](#)
- Meet with evaluators to view and acknowledge observation and SLT scores

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

## EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

### **Save the Date: 2023 LATM/LSTA Joint Conference**

The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) Joint Conference will be held on November 2-3 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. Registration details will be shared on the [LSTA website](#) and in future newsletters.

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

### **BESE Tuition Program for Teachers: Applications for Fall Open Now!**

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the fall semester are open now through **June 2**. The application, program details, and information regarding [Frequently Asked Questions](#) can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

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

### **Mentor Teachers: How Can I Become One?**

Are you interested in supporting the next generation of teachers? Giving back to others? Making sure our newest educators are growing and learning every day? Mentoring might be the right fit for you.

In April 2021, BESE approved changes to Bulletin 746 regarding mentor credential requirements. These updates include honoring previous training and experience including

- EDL or previous administrative certifications
- NIET trained evaluators
- CLASS trained evaluators
- Supervision of Student Teachers

Teachers may already qualify for the Mentor credential. Teachers who meet one of the previous training experiences listed above can apply through the [certification portal](#) for the Mentor [credential](#).

Teachers selected to serve as Mentors to residents (undergraduate and post-baccalaureate) receive \$2,000 for their work.

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

## EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

### **New Teacher of the Year Finalists**

The Department is excited to announce the [2024 New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#). 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 17th Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala on July 22. This exciting event is co-sponsored by Dream Teachers.

Please congratulate this outstanding group of new teachers!

Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@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>

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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>
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Pupil Progressions	<a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a>
Math, Science, and STEM	<a href="mailto:STEM@la.gov">STEM@la.gov</a>
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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>