

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



July 2020



Dear Colleagues,

This is the time of year many educators are enjoying the final weeks of summer vacation. Though I know a number of you are still hard at work serving families during the pandemic, I hope you've been able to use this time to rest and recharge. Our children will need you more than ever when school resumes.

I'm just past the one month mark as State Superintendent. I've enjoyed learning from educators around the state, as well as the team here at the Louisiana Department of Education. During my first 100 days, I'm focused on ensuring a Strong Start to the school year for our students and educators. I encourage you to [read my 100 day entry plan and keep up with my weekly progress reports](#). I'm leading and learning during my first months as head of the Department.

Since my first day on the job, I've been working with Louisiana school leaders and the Louisiana Department of Health on [school reopening guidance](#) for 2020-2021. As we look towards next school year, even with these guidelines and resources, we're all facing many unknowns. I understand the concerns you have. Just over a month ago, I was a superintendent leading the largest system in the state through the pandemic. That experience confirmed my belief in the resiliency of Louisiana educators. I saw teachers go the extra mile to help students and families. Although we are in uncharted territory in education, I have no doubt that Louisiana teachers will once again prove they are the best in the nation.

Regardless of what things look like in August, we have to find a way to safely provide an education to our children. It will take innovation and urgency like never before, but I know we can get there together. As we look ahead to 2020-2021, I am excited to stand alongside each of you as we meet these challenges and ensure all students can achieve high expectations.

Dr. Cade Brumley
@cadebrumley

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[How a St. Charles Parish Teacher Leader Advisor Supports Student and Educator Success](#)



Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) play an influential role in raising expectations for students and supporting the success of teachers. These educators use their robust knowledge of

teaching and learning to review and create the next wave of high-quality instructional materials and training tools that are used by thousands of teachers across the state. As the Department searches for highly-motivated educators to become TLAs, we sat down with Amy Crochet, of Hahnville High School in St. Charles Parish to understand the role and its importance.

To nominate an educator to be featured, complete this [quick survey](#). Read more about [Teacher Leader Advisors and apply](#) for openings this year!

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebook's Strong Start 2020 Updates

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks Distance Learning Strong Start Guidance](#) document can be used to support school systems and teachers as they plan to implement ELA Guidebooks with a Strong Start for the 2020-2021 academic year. This document is updated frequently to reflect the most up-to-date guidance and information about newly released resources.

The latest edition includes the following updates:

- Access to Distance Learning Guidebook Companions and Feedback Guides
- Links to Teacher Leader Summit session materials and recordings for all sessions related to ELA Guidebooks
- Access to Independent Reading Protocols to support flexibility during distance learning
- Access to ELA Guidebook Parent Guides for each grade level for grades 3-8

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Curriculum Hub: ELA Guidebook Unit Access

The [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#), Louisiana’s open-source, digital platform, is live.

- Grades 9-12, ELA Guidebooks (2020), units are available in digital format via the online platform.
- Grades 3-8, ELA Guidebooks (2018), units are available in downloadable format via the bulk downloader tool.

The bulk downloader tool allows users to download full, customizable units of content from the ELA Guidebooks, grades 3-8, to a personal Google Drive. By clicking “Authorize,” users give permission to the bulk downloader to download a new copy of ELA Guidebooks unit material into a folder in a personal Google Drive.

Once downloaded, the units are organized into folders and all the files are editable, rather than view only. This allows users to make any needed changes to the ELA Guidebook materials without having to download each individual lesson and document. This also allows users to upload the unit content into Google Classroom more easily to better support distance learning, as users will have an organized unit on a personal Drive from which they can create assignments and quizzes in Google Classroom.

Directions for using the bulk downloader tool are [available](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020)

[Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Overview](#) document has been updated to include the most up-to-date information about this program. A copy of the amended unit release schedule is available below.

An updated version of the ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Curriculum Guide is now [available](#).

Grade	Available Now	Coming July 2020	Coming August 2020	Coming 2021
9	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> <i>The Joy Luck Club</i> <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Application Unit	The Teenage Brain	--	Photojournalism
10	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> Hamilton <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> Application Unit	--	<i>Life of Pi</i>	Bioethics
11	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> <i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i> Homeownership Application Unit	<i>Friday Night Lights</i>	--	Film in America

12	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hamlet</i> Artificial Intelligence 1984 Application Unit</p>	Education	--	<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>
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Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Strong Start ELA Planning Resources

To support school systems, schools, and teachers in strategically diagnosing and addressing unfinished learning in ELA due to school closures and communicating student readiness for on-grade-level learning with parents, the Department has released the following resources:

- [Using LEAP 360 Diagnostic Assessments](#): guidance on administering and interpreting the results of the LEAP 360 Diagnostic assessments
- [Addressing Unfinished Learning Gaps](#): guidance that defines the specific actions teachers need to take by grade band and discipline to address unfinished learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year, with the right supports, at the right time

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Strong Start Math Planning Resources

To support school systems, schools, and teachers in strategically diagnosing and addressing unfinished learning in math due to school closures and communicating student readiness for on-grade-level learning with parents, the Department has released the following resources:

- [Using LEAP 360 Diagnostic Assessments](#): guidance on administering and interpreting results of the LEAP 360 Diagnostic assessment
- [Louisiana Guides to Implementing](#): guidance that has been updated to reflect changes in the LEAP 360 Interim assessments
- [LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping](#): unit-by-unit mapping of LEAP 360 Diagnostic items for all of Tier 1 Math Curricula posted under LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping on the [K-12 Math Planning page](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Intensive Algebra I School Guidance:

To support school systems in strategic planning for the 2020-2021 school year, the Department has released [Intensive Algebra I Guidance for Schools](#), a research-based course designed to support students who persistently struggle in math with passing Algebra I in their first year of high school.

The document linked above includes information on the following:

- Course overview
- Enrolling students

- Scheduling recommendations
- Selecting a curriculum

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Strong Start: July Math Lesson Broadcasting

The Department, in partnership with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), Great Minds, Illustrative Math (IM), and SchoolKit, is broadcasting Eureka (K-5) and Illustrative Math (6-Algebra I) lessons. These lessons are airing on LPB from Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 31 on a regular daily schedule. They are also available on-demand at the [Great Minds](#) and [Illustrative Mathematics](#) websites.

To ensure accessibility for students with disabilities, live broadcasts have closed captioning and on-demand videos are available with closed captioning and audio description.

[This guidance document](#) contains lesson details and information about purchasing student materials, watching LPB broadcasts, and watching on-demand.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Continuous Learning Materials Released

Distance learning packets for unit 1 have been released and are posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page.

In an effort to provide standards-aligned content experiences and enable continuous learning in the event of school facility closures at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, distance learning packets are being developed for each course in grades 3-8 and US History for units 1 and 2. The packets do not cover the entire content of the unit but instead focus on a key topic. Teachers can use the packets as a cornerstone to build materials for additional content coverage. The materials are designed to be low tech but can be adapted for schools using an online learning platform. The Department will evaluate the need for more distance learning support throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Unit 2 packets will be released on a rolling basis from now until September.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Professional Development Opportunity for Social Studies Teachers

[The OER Project](#) is presenting a free professional development opportunity for K-12 social studies teachers called the [OER Conference for Social Studies](#). This will be a three-day, virtual conference taking place August 5-7. At the OER Conference for Social Studies, participants will

- hear from authors, historians, educators, and expert moderators;
- watch Track Talks (TED-style, 10-minute videos) created by expert educators from diverse backgrounds, grade levels, and specializations; and

- collaborate with fellow educators in moderated live discussions aligned to the eight conference tracks.

Visit the [conference website](#) to register, review the schedule and track topics, and see video previews of talks.

Please contact OCforSS@oerproject.com with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Science Distance Learning Support - OpenSciEd and Inquiry Hub

To support school systems, schools, and teachers in ensuring continuous learning in science in the event of school closures, the Department will release guidance for implementing high-quality, open-source science curricula in a remote-learning setting. Distance learning plans for OpenSciEd Grade 6-8 and Inquiry Hub (Biology) will be available on the following schedule:

Resource	Release Date
Sample Unit (OpenSciEd Grade 7 Weather)	Available Now
Recorded Webinar: Overview of Distance Learning Units	Available Now
First lesson sets for OpenSciEd units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grade 6 Unit 1 ● Grade 7 Unit 1 ● Grade 8 Unit 2 Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1 Bend 1	August 1
Full OpenSciEd Units (listed above) Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1 Full Unit	August 15

The distance learning plans will contain the following:

- Links to OpenSciEd remote-learning resources
- Unit guidance
- Detailed lesson-by-lesson guidance, including activities and slides for virtual classes
- Printable lesson documents to send home with students as needed

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Science Professional Development

Inquiry Hub Biology

[Registration](#) for Inquiry Hub [virtual professional learning](#) sessions is now open for Biology educators.

Date	Course	Location
July 13-17	Inquiry Hub Biology 101	Virtual
August 3-7	Inquiry Hub Biology 101	Virtual

Please contact inquiryhub@colorado.edu with questions.

Great Minds, PhD Science K-5

[Registration](#) for Great Minds virtual professional development on PhD Science grades 3-5 is now open for elementary school educators.

Course and Grade Level	Dates
Launch PhD Science K-2	August 4
Launch PhD Science 3-5	August 4
Focus on Instructional Techniques 3-5	August 4

Please contact phdscience@greatminds.org with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher Leader Advisor Applications: Now Open

The Department is searching for **highly-motivated educators** to support the mission and vision of the Department’s academic content team. 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 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 Department, and develop their understanding of curricula and teacher training.

Here’s what current TLAs have to say about their experience:

“Being a Teacher Leader Advisor has **ignited my interest in teaching** and is extremely rewarding. **Building relationships with other teachers** from across the state to provide resources is an enriching professional development experience. I enjoy having academic conversations with other individuals who care deeply about the work that we do.”

“My favorite thing about my experience as a TLA is the **growth and confidence I received** from this experience. This program has allowed me to **understand the standards deeper** and **makes me more reflective about my instruction**, which impacts my students. I highly recommend this to every educator!”

“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.**”

There is a specific need for expert educators in the areas of **early literacy, intervention specialist, early childhood (birth to age 3 and pre-K), and K-12 science and STEM**. We also need **K-12 teachers across ELA and math** content areas and **librarians**. **Special education teachers** who specialize in these areas are encouraged to apply.

Apply now to be a [Teacher Leader Advisor](#)!

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Science Content Leader training

BESE has approved three providers to begin offering Science Content Leader training:

- University of Texas, Dana Center
- Great Minds, PhD Science
- SchoolKit Group

The training details, including contact information, can be found on page 7 of the [approved provider list](#).

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

LaCUE Cares: Virtual Professional Development

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LaCUE) is offering free professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators through December. Each event will be focused on key education technology topics:

- July 23-24 - Using Technology as a Tool with Leslie Fisher
- September 18-19 - Innovation in the Classroom with Michael Cohen, The Tech Rabbi
- October 17 - Tech Talk with Northwestern State University
- November 13-14 - Blended Learning with Weston Kieschnick
- December 4-5 - Celebrating Teachers and Technology with Eric Sheninger

[Register](#) to attend each session.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

The Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS) for EDL1 Candidates

In December 2019, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS) as an alternative to the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for those seeking the Educational Leadership Certificate (EDL1). This exam is now available along with this [LLAS User Guide](#) inclusive of exam previews.

Educators wishing to become assistant principals or principals choose between the SLLA Praxis and the LLAS to fulfill the exam component of all leadership pathways leading to the EDL1 Certificate.

The assessments for the LLAS are portfolio-based and are aligned to the competencies the state requires through Bulletin 125 for the role of a building-level leader, the National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards, and the Professional Standards for Educational Leadership (PSEL).

The LLAS builds off of the Content Leader and Mentor Teacher assessment series, though it is not required that you have served in either role to complete the series.

More information is [available](#). Completing the [sign-up form](#) will enable you to preview and purchase the LLAS. No payment is required to preview the assessments. You will receive an email notification within two business days of completing this form.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year Finalists

The Department is proud to announce the [2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists](#). 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 finalists and semi-finalists will be honored at the 14th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which will be held virtually this year.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

PRINCIPALS' CORNER

Reminder: Graduation Requirements

During the first two years of high school, students should focus on building on the knowledge and skills they gained in previous grades. Every 9th and 10th grade student will take core academic classes to pursue a diploma. At the completion of the 10th grade year, a student may choose a Jump Start TOPS Tech Pathway, the TOPS University Pathway or both. Students, families, and educators collaborate to make these decisions based on a student's interests, capabilities, and ambitions. These decisions are updated annually in the student's [Individual Graduation Plan](#) (IGP).

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Non-core Opportunities

The [Career and Technical Education Vendor Guide](#), included in the [Strong Start 2020 Non-core and CTE Curriculum and Course Materials guidance](#), includes specific information on system requirements to install and run software and system requirements to test Industry Based Certifications.

The [2020-2021 Supplemental Course Allocation Preliminary Provider Directory](#) includes a grid identifying the various types of coursework offered by each provider.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov or sca@la.gov with questions.

Financial Aid Assistance

In December 2015, the BESE Board approved a revision to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, which requires public school students graduating in spring 2018 and beyond to

- submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- apply for TOPS;
- submit an opt-out non-participation form or letter; or
- receive a waiver through the school system.

[Resources](#) for financial aid planning are available.

Please contact ldefinancial@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
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Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources including Leap 360 and Eagle	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
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STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
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