



August 2023



Hello Teacher Leaders! I am Danielle Johnson, newly appointed assistant principal at ReNEW Schaumburg Elementary in New Orleans and former kindergarten teacher. I am excited to share that the Louisiana Department of Education has collaborated with educators who have extensive experience with the Louisiana Student Standards for Math to develop a resource to support K-5 math teachers in building students' foundational math skills. This new resource, Foundational Lessons for Accelerating Math Education (FLAME), is coming to you this fall! FLAME will be similar to its literacy counterpart, [FIRE](#). It will provide activities designed to build grade-level foundations alongside high-quality resources, formative tools for teachers to understand students' learning, and tools to communicate with parents. FLAME resources will post to the [Math Refresh](#) page in September.

One of the main priorities of all teachers is ensuring their students' progress toward *mastery* of their grade-level content. The most frequent question I hear from teachers is, "They didn't get it...what should I do next?" While I applaud my colleagues for taking responsibility for ensuring their students' learning needs are met, I know that many teachers are at a loss for what to do next. **FLAME remedies the daunting uncertainty around the next steps.** The mini-lessons in this resource will support students in solidifying math foundational skills. What makes FLAME unique is that, in addition to providing *standard-aligned activities*, each lesson will include *assessment items* and *actionable next steps*. Through FLAME, teachers can also access tools to communicate with parents about students' foundational skills. This resource will allow you to meet your students with varying needs right where they are. Be on the lookout this fall for FLAME!

As our students return to the classroom for the new school year, all educators must be prepared to meet their students' needs. Regardless of the subject you teach, we are all passionate about supporting our students in their pursuit of academic success!



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ACADEMICS

2023 Louisiana Guide to World Languages Programming Grades 9-12

The LDOE is excited to announce the release of the [New 2023 Louisiana Guide to World Languages Programming for Grades 9-12](#). This resource provides information about the importance of world languages education and guidance for world languages programming implementation, such as, scheduling, creating a pathway to the Louisiana State Seal of Biliteracy, and information about the [World Languages Indicators for the High School Interests and Opportunities Index](#).

Please contact languageacquisition@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Literacy Screener Support

The K-3 Literacy Screener consists of a set of measures for assessing reading skills. This universal screening identifies which students may be at risk for experiencing reading difficulties. Teachers use this data to set and monitor literacy goals, as well as provide instructional support.

Additional information can be found on the [new literacy screener landing page](#), such as

- Literacy screener training videos
- Literacy alternate assessment information
- Administration materials
- Family reporting documents

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Literacy Alternate Assessment Rubric (LAAR)

This Literacy Alternate Assessment Rubric (LAAR) is the alternate assessment to the K-3 Literacy Screener, DIBELS® 8th Edition, for students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades K-3. Only students that the IEP team has used the K-2 Alternate Assessment Decision Making Tool or the 3-11 Alternate Assessment Criteria to determine eligibility should be scored on the literacy screener using the LAAR. Literacy screener and the [LAAR](#) resources are located in the [Literacy Screener Library](#).

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Inclusion and the Law

Families Helping Families is hosting a virtual event that reviews why inclusion of children with disabilities in schools, classrooms, and communities is important and the demand for inclusion in federal law. [Inclusion and the Law](#) will take place August 14 at 12 p.m.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Lunch and Learn Webinar

LA-AEM is hosting a virtual event for educators of students struggling to read because of a print disability, visual impairment, severe dyslexia, or cerebral palsy. This event will review Bookshare, a free online library of accessible ebooks for all students with print disabilities. The webinar will build your knowledge and skills in the use of Bookshare, starting with creating student accounts and moving forward. The [Lunch and Learn Webinar](#) will take place August 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Updates

The LDOE has partnered with teachers across Louisiana to update the [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\)](#) curriculum. These updates include

- anticipated responses added to teaching notes to support formative assessment;
- additional diverse learner supports linked in teaching notes; and
- three new level three units to be released spring 2024.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Release and Review Information

The LDOE will release new ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) units in spring 2024. The [unit overview](#) document and [writing progression](#) for these units are now available on the [ELA Guidebooks web page](#).

Additional information regarding the ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) units, including webinars and feedback opportunities, will be shared in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Updates

The LDOE has partnered with teachers across Louisiana to update the [ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\)](#) curriculum. These updates include

- updated mentor sentence and vocabulary activities to deepen students' understanding of important skills and vocabulary;
- additional diverse learner supports linked in teaching notes to ensure all students are supported in their learning; and
- four new units to be released spring 2024 to provide school systems an additional option to select for implementation.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Professional Learning

The LDOE has released a [new professional learning resource](#) for social studies teachers and support staff. Teachers in grade 4 and grade 5 now have access to asynchronous professional learning modules that guide them through the design and key features of the [Bayou Bridges](#) curriculum, as well as utilize a unit study tool to support initial curriculum implementation.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Zearn Impacts Louisiana Students

New research indicates [Zearn impacts Louisiana students](#) by providing just-in-time support for students while informing the teacher of the performance and success of students in grade-level mathematics. Zearn can be used during core instruction, extra math time, or in summer learning programs.

To make the [greatest impact](#), ensure that

- students engage with three grade-level lessons per week;
- create incentives for students who meet the three lesson goal; and
- [inform parents](#) of how they can support their students with Zearn.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New Math Refresh Resources

To support school systems, schools, and teachers in implementation of high-quality instructional materials, the LDOE has released several new resources on the [Math Refresh](#) page. Resources include the following:

- Available now
 - [Accelerating Learning in High School Math](#)
 - [Zearn Implementation in Louisiana](#)
 - [Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series Recording and Slides](#)
 - [Family Math Engagement Library](#)

- Coming soon
 - Updated Louisiana Guides to Implementing adopted high-quality resources
 - New Foundational Lessons for Accelerating Math Education (FLAME) Resources

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Updated Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciEd High School Courses

To support school systems, schools, and teachers implementing the high-quality pilots for OpenSciEd in [biology](#), [chemistry](#), and [physics](#) the LDOE has released updated guidance. This guidance for each course provides options for systems and schools who

- want to implement all of the OpenSciEd units regardless of field test or revised status; or
- are interested in beginning to implement the OpenSciEd high school units and want to prioritize complete, revised units.

All Louisiana Guides to Implementing High-Quality Pilots, as well as Louisiana Guides to Implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials, can be found on the [K-12 Science Resources](#) web page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Back to School LMS Supports

Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, and Canvas are key educational technology tools with the primary purpose of supporting and enhancing the learning experience for our students. To support schools and teachers in utilizing best practices in their digital classrooms, the LDOE has released several new resources on guidance for LMS best practices. Resources include

- [Back to School: Google Classroom](#)

- [Back to School: Canvas](#)
- [Back to School: Microsoft Teams](#)

Additional resources will be available on the [Digital Learning](#) web page.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Proposals for Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics and Louisiana Science Teachers Association Joint Conference

The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) are hosting a joint conference on November 2-3 in Baton Rouge. This annual conference provides professional development and networking opportunities for all math and science educators throughout the state. Math and science educators are invited to [submit proposals](#) for concurrent sessions through **August 25**. Conference [registration](#) is now open.

Please contact scienceandmatheducators@gmail.com or STEM@la.gov with questions.

Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grant Program

The [Quality Science and Math Grant Program](#) awards grants of up to \$2,000 to Louisiana pre-K-12 public school teachers for the purchase of non-consumable materials and equipment to be used in science, math, and STEM courses. The [application portal](#) is now open and will close on **September 10**. [Grant writing resources](#) and full program details are available on the [QSM website](#).

Please contact qsminfo@lsu.edu with questions.

Free Registration for Educators for the LASTEM Annual Summit

[LASTEM](#), Louisiana's Regional STEM Network, is a system of STEM leadership entities strategically positioned across Louisiana whereby communities, parishes, multi-parish regions, and the state can achieve improved access to STEM education, participation, and advancement. The [LASTEM Summit](#) will be held on October 17 at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette. [Registration](#) is free for educators; however, those interested in attending should register soon as spaces are limited. For more information please visit the [LASTEM Summit web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers: Applications for spring and summer opening soon!

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 spring and summer of 2024 semesters will open September 4. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

2023-2024 Teacher Leader Advisors

The LDOE would like to send a warm congratulations to the [2023-2024 Teacher Leader Advisors](#). Teacher Leader Advisors are an exceptionally talented group of educators across Louisiana who play an influential role in raising expectations for students and in ensuring that fellow educators across the state have access to high quality instructional materials and resources, and curriculum-aligned professional learning. Teacher Leader Advisors participate in the LDOE’s Instructional Materials Review process, create tools for the Teacher Support Toolbox, and develop and lead both virtual and in-person professional development for educators across Louisiana.

To learn more about the [Teacher Leader Advisor program](#), please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov.

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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