



## September 2021

Hello Teacher Leaders!

My name is Kim Morgan, and I have been the English Curriculum Coordinator for Bossier Parish Middle Schools for the past five years. Since this summer, I have also served as Louisiana's Accelerate ELA Project Manager for the Accelerate ELA Summer 2021 Resources and the Accelerate ELA 2021-2022 Resources.

Louisiana has recognized the [learning obstacles](#) our students are facing, and the Department has responded with resources that can be used to provide personalized tutoring to accelerate student learning without requiring burdensome costs to parents. Additionally, the expectations have shifted **from remediation**--where students stay focused on *prior learning*-- **to acceleration** where teachers prepare students for *upcoming learning*.

To effectively address and prevent unfinished learning, students must be provided with **extra time to learn through equal-access tutoring**. [Accelerate](#) is designed to support school systems implementing tutoring to achieve significant results for all students.

Our brilliant team of grade-level content experts from around the state who are writing the tutoring lessons were challenged to think about their own students and consider the knowledge and skills that are most difficult for students to master. With that knowledge and skills in mind, we began creating lesson sets that can be used to build knowledge and practice those reading and writing skills immediately before they are needed in classroom learning. K-2 Lessons are built from CKLA and focus on the highest leverage foundational skills and knowledge-building texts. Knowledge-building text sets for Grades 3-10 include student copies with teaching hints and teacher copies with exemplar answers.



Ready to *Accelerate* your students? Read below for more information about the webinars being offered.



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## NEW: SUPPORTS AND STRATEGIES

### **Accelerate Tutoring Strategy**

[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. Grounded in the most impactful research-based practices, Accelerate is a just-in-time support model that addresses unfinished learning by building knowledge and connecting it to skills in current lessons. The Department will continue releasing content through the winter. Recorded webinars will be also located on the [Accelerate landing page](#). See more details in the [ELA](#) and [Math](#) sections below.

## LITERACY

### **Literacy Resources**

Teachers can access the [Literacy Library](#) for instruction, intervention, and extension activities and additional support. Support and resources are available on the following topics:

- Setting and monitoring literacy goals,
- Implementation of literacy best practices,
- Classroom and school libraries,
- Engaging families and providing literacy activities, and
- Science of reading professional development.

Specific, actionable guidance is also provided through ongoing, on-demand professional development sessions available in the [Literacy Library](#):

- K-2 Teacher PD Series presentations, recordings, and redelivery guidance,
- Leader PD Series presentations, recordings, and redelivery guidance, and
- Additional PD schedules and resources

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

## **K-2 Writing Series**

A new professional development series for teachers and leaders focused on [K-2 writing](#) instruction will be recorded and released on Tuesdays beginning September 7. Look for recordings and slide decks in the [Literacy Library](#).

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

## **Science of Reading Office Hours**

The Literacy Division offers weekly time for teachers to ask questions around science of reading topics, implementation, and research. [Frequently asked questions](#) are accessible in the [Literacy Library](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Every Monday at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96153652200>
- **Meeting ID#:** 961 5365 2200
- **Passcode:** literacy

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

# ELA RESOURCES

## **Librarian Resources**

The Department has partnered with experienced school librarian representatives Kim “Lovie” Howell and Amanda Jones to bridge gaps between librarians and the larger education community. Kim “Lovie” Howell is a School Librarian at Benton Middle School in Bossier Parish, President of Louisiana Association of School Librarians, recipient of the 2017 James. O. Modisette for School Libraries, and 2019 LA School Librarian of the Year. Additionally, Amanda Jones is a teacher-librarian at Live Oak Middle School in Watson, LA. Recently, she was selected as one of the 2021 School Library Journal Librarians of the Year, a 2021 Library Journal Mover and Shaker, the 2020 LASL School Librarian of the Year, and the recipient of the 2019 James O. Modisette for School Libraries.

This partnership was created to help reach all school librarians in the state in an effort to garner a support system and to connect librarians to key initiatives. School librarians have a wealth of knowledge but often have limited opportunities to network and grow within their schools and departments; however, Amanda Jones and Kim “Lovie” Howell will be connecting librarians across the state to resources through the Teacher Leader newsletter. Librarians can also stay connected by following the LA Association of School Librarians on Facebook at [Louisiana Association of School Librarians](#) and Twitter @LAofSL.

“School librarians have one of the most rewarding jobs in the world, with the ability to reach every child in the school,” Ms. Jones said. “We help our students discover the perfect books, provide a safe space, and ignite creativity.”

Please access the following resources for librarians:

[LA School Librarian Guidelines](#)  
[Advice for New School Librarians](#)  
[School Librarians in Louisiana](#)  
[LASL Website](#)

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

### **Accelerate ELA Updates**

Accelerate ELA resources are designed to provide proactive support for upcoming ELA classroom content so that students can be more successful in engaging with the grade-level, complex texts in their ELA Guidebooks unit or with other high quality instructional materials. K-2 Foundational Skills and Knowledge Building Lessons as well as grades 3-10 resources will be updated regularly throughout the year, with all resources posted by spring.

To learn more about the specific resources available and best practices for maximizing their use, view the Accelerate ELA Resources Overview [webinar](#) that was held on September 8.

[Accelerate ELA](#) resources include

- Google Slides for teachers and/or tutors to plan for and deliver individualized supports;
- Alignment to Instructional Materials; and
- Teacher and student resources

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

### **ELA Guidebooks Text Analyses for Grades 3-5 and 9-12**

Updated text analysis documents for selected ELA Guidebook units in grades 3-5 and 9-12 will be released on September 30. These updates include additional text complexity analyses and the addition of text ratings for the 9-12 ELA Guidebook units. These updated documents will be available through the Curriculum Hub which is accessible to educators, students, and their families.

Additionally, work to complete text analysis for all grades 6-8 texts has begun, and the release date of these text analysis documents will be communicated at a later date.

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

## SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

### **Updated World Geography Sample Scope and Sequence**

An updated sample scope and sequence for the high school World Geography course was released on August 30 for the 2021-2022 school year. The new World Geography materials have the same format as the updated scope and sequences for Civics, U.S. History, and grades 3-8 found on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page and include support for teachers to structure the course both regionally and thematically.

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

### **Social Studies Standards Review Update**

Louisiana's social studies standards are currently under review. The Social Studies Standards Review Steering Committee will convene in a public meeting on September 25 at 9:00 a.m. at the Claiborne building in Baton Rouge. An agenda for this meeting along with a copy of the revised draft standards will be posted by September 20. Access the latest working draft of the standards as well as materials from prior steering committee meetings in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). All stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on individual standards using an online form during the month of October. The form will be available in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) on October 1.

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

## MATH RESOURCES

### **Accelerate Math Updates**

[Accelerate Math](#) resources are built for teachers and tutors as proactive support for upcoming classroom content in order to ensure students' readiness for grade level mathematics. Resources were updated in July and will continue to be released through this winter.

[Accelerate Math](#) resources include

- Acceleration Tools, which function as screeners to diagnose unfinished learning ahead of a topic of instruction;
- Google Slides for teachers and/or tutors to plan for and deliver individualized supports; and
- Tutoring Exit Tickets to monitor student understanding.

Content-strong math educators interested in contributing to this work should [apply](#) today. Complete the [Accelerate Math feedback form](#) to help shape future updates and improvements.

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

## SCIENCE RESOURCES

### **New Resource: Grade 6 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify Science**

To support school systems, schools, and teachers in implementation of high quality instructional materials, the Department is releasing the [Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify Science for grade 6](#). This document provides guidance regarding how Amplify Science grade 6 units correlate with the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) (LSSS). The Amplify Science grade 6 curriculum provides ample instructional guidance for teachers. This Louisiana Guide for Implementing Amplify goes a step further to point out places in which Louisiana teachers may need to make strategic decisions considering student needs, time availability, and the local context. The Grade 6 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify can be found on the [K-12 Science Planning](#) page.

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

### **NEW Science Resource: Louisiana Student Standards for Science and NGSS Crosswalks**

To assist high school teachers, schools, and systems with determining alignment to Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) for resources designed for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the Department is developing crosswalks that show connections and differences between the two sets of standards. Crosswalks for Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physical Science, Earth Science and Environmental Science, and Grade 5 are now available on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#). Additional crosswalk documents are in development and will be released later this year.

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

### **Chemistry Sample Scope and Sequence Updated with New Resources**

To assist Chemistry teachers, schools, and systems with planning for the upcoming school year, the Department has updated the [LSSS Chemistry Sample Scope and Sequence](#) to include links to full, freely available Chemistry units. The revised document still includes information on choosing and using anchoring and investigative phenomena, a standards overview, and sample units with information about the phenomena, standards addressed, and links to resources.

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

### **Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciEd Updated**

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with planning for the upcoming school year as revised OpenSciEd units are published on a rolling schedule, the Department has updated the guides for implementing OpenSciEd for [grade 6](#), [grade 7](#), and [grade 8](#) on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#). The updates include

- pacing guidance for the first complete units in grades 6 and 7;
- updated unit release information; and
- implementation guidance for Grade 8 including two sample calendars to consider.-

The Department holds a monthly support call open to leaders of schools and/or systems piloting OpenSciEd on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions or to be added to the monthly call.

## EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

### **Searching for Louisiana's Next State Teacher of the Year**

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created.

The nominations portal is open now and will close on September 28. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please consider nominating a Teacher Leader, Teacher Leader Advisor, and/or school leader. Please also share the [nomination portal link](#) with others and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award's page](#).

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

Please visit the [research project information page](#) for more information or contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

### **Louisiana Fit Kids: Understanding Childhood Obesity Webinar Series**

September is Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Join The Department and Pennington Biomedical Research Center on Tuesday, September 14 at 1:30 p.m. for the [Louisiana Fit Kids: Understanding Childhood Obesity Webinar Series](#). Participants must [register](#) for the free webinar. Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian and Christina Economos, PhD, from the [Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University](#) in Boston, and R. Glenn Weaver, PhD, from the [Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina](#), will discuss trends in food sources and diet quality in U.S. children, strategies communities can use to address childhood obesity using a systems approach, and the impact of school breaks on children's health. The webinar will be moderated by Dr. Rani Whitfield of Baton Rouge, also known as "Tha Hip Hop Doc".

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

### **Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grants**

The [QSM Grant Program](#) was established for the purpose of providing Louisiana public school teachers with non-consumable instructional materials and equipment in math, science, and STEM.

- Full-time classroom teachers assigned to teach math, science, or STEM courses in a PreK-12 public regular education program including public charter schools are invited to apply.
- The [grant portal](#) is now open.
- The application deadline is Friday, **October 1** at 11:59 p.m.

[Workshops](#) will be held in September to guide teachers through the grant writing process and the QSM application.

Please contact Spencer Roby at [qsminfor@lsu.edu](mailto:qsminfor@lsu.edu) with questions.

### **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**

Nominations are now open for the [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#). The PAEMST are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. Anyone may [nominate](#) exceptional STEM teachers who are currently teaching grades K-6 for the 2022 award year. Teachers may also directly [apply](#).

The [nomination](#) deadline is January 7, 2022, and the application deadline is February 6, 2022, for outstanding elementary K-6 teachers.

Please contact Jean May-Brett ([jam05@bellsouth.net](mailto:jam05@bellsouth.net)) or Jan Graff ([jlgraff@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlgraff@bellsouth.net)) 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>
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 including Leap 360 and Eagle	<a href="mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov">classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</a>
Jump Start	<a href="mailto:jumpstart@la.gov">jumpstart@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>
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>