

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



October 2019



A teacher's mindset about their students and the expectations they have for their students play a larger role in student achievement than some may realize, [research](#) shows. I am Otylia Benson, an Instructional Coach and Curriculum Coordinator for Choice Foundation Schools in Orleans Parish. I am serving in my 4th year as a Teacher Leader Advisor on the ELA Content Team, and this year I am increasingly grateful to be participating in [Intervention Content Leader \(ICL\) training](#). The training has been invaluable as I work with

teachers to bridge the knowledge gap for our students using the supports embedded within our [Tier 1 curricula](#).

Through the training, I've learned that when teachers have a deficit mindset about what their students can do, this leads to issues of equity. **Often the students who need the most exposure to on-grade level instruction are getting the least.** Language shapes the way we think and the way we behave, meaning we need to shift the deficit-based language we often hear in schools. So, "my low group" becomes "my students with unfinished learning." "My struggling readers" becomes "my students not yet reading on grade level." This requires teachers and leaders to establish a shared vision of excellence for high-quality instruction for all students. It also requires leaders to **establish school structures that prioritize core instruction and co-planning.**

At Choice Foundation, our ICLs are bringing their learning back to teachers and students by supporting teachers with mindful lesson annotations in Math and qualitative text annotations in ELA. ICLs are working with school leaders to establish sacred time for common planning as well as time to support students with unfinished learning outside of their core instruction. By promoting access to grade-level instruction for ALL students and shifting our mindset and expectations, we are taking a step towards closing the knowledge gap.

"Being an ICL has shifted my fixed mindset to a growth mindset. This growth mindset has enhanced my ability to teach, and is improving academic outcomes for my students."

- Ynez Bevins, 3rd Grade Interventionist at Lafayette Academy, a Choice Foundation School

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CYBERSECURITY

Broken Links on the Department's Website

Due to recent cyber-attacks on Louisiana's school systems, the Department has taken preventative measures. In an effort to ensure all documents on our webpage are secure, **links that are not secure (do not contain [https://](#)) have been blocked**. We are working to correct the links in highly-accessed tools and libraries, but given the hundreds of embedded links, it will take some time.

If you receive an error message about internet connectivity, it could mean you are trying to access one of the blocked insecure sites. Please help us correct it by sending an email to ldoecommunications@la.gov with the broken link and the page you found it. Thank you for your patience during this process!

As a reminder, the majority of documents teachers need can be found in [these planning resources libraries](#):

- [K-12 ELA Planning Resources](#)
- [K-12 Math Planning Resources](#)
- [K-12 Science Planning Resources](#)
- [K-12 Social Studies Planning Resources](#)
- [Curriculum Implementation Observation Tools \(zip file\)](#)
- [Teacher Support Toolbox](#)

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions about finding resources. Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov to report a broken link.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

LEAP Connect Resources and Information Updates

Please share this LEAP Connect information with special education teachers, supervisors, and school test coordinators.

All three of the [LEAP Connect assessment guides](#) have been updated to include:

- information about the new science field tests and sample science tasks for grades 4 and 8, and high school; and
- a new appendix which lists the ELA and math vocabulary for American Sign Language (ASL) translation, object replacement, tactile graphics, word boards or word banks, and Assistive Technology and Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AT/AAC) devices.

The Department will host a webinar on using the LEAP Connect sample math constructed-response tasks. Participants will learn how to administer, score, and use the [LEAP Connect Sample Math Constructed-Response Tasks](#) and [Directions for Administration](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 16 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/448611621>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID:** 448 611 621

The LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (OTT) has been expanded from one OTT to six. The OTT is now separated by ELA and math, and then by grade bands 3 to 5, 6 to 8, and high school. The OTTs not only include tasks from the previous OTT but also include some new tasks from the assessment guides. New Directions for Administration and Reference Materials for each OTT are available in eDirect and the Assessment Guidance library. LEAP Connect science OTTs will be added in the winter and will include all the science samples found in the assessment guides.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ELPT Sample Writing Items (Grades 6-12)-Webinar

The Department created a set of [ELPT sample writing items](#) for teachers to use with EL students to help practice the writing skills that will be assessed on ELPT. We presented a [webinar](#) on how to use these items along with guidance for how to [score](#) them, how to create additional practice opportunities, and how to use these collaboratively.

Please contact alice.garcia@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks: Grades 3–5 Foundation of Reading Supports

The foundational skills supports aligned to the 3–5 ELA Guidebooks will be released on a rolling basis

this year. These support documents will include foundational skills mini-lessons, decodable texts, practice from the anchor text, and quick checks.

The purpose of these supports is to:

- support teachers in determining where students might be struggling;
- provide foundational skills instruction; and
- provide direct practice that relates to unit texts.

The first set of supports is available for immediate download. The materials are located in the Section 1 “Additional Materials” folder for each unit. Links to each unit landing page are provided below.

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Cajun Folktales Because of Winn-Dixie	American Revolution	The Birchbark House

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12

The new Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12 are set for release in Summer 2020.

In the Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12, students:

- explore central questions that connect units in a year-long pathway;
- examine texts by diverse authors and about substantive topics;
- engage in varied reading, discussion, writing, and presentation opportunities in and out of class; and
- experience integrated instruction and assessment leading to a comprehensive ELA experience.



Get a [preview](#) of the design, and see an overview of texts, topics, and tasks on page 3.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide Updates for Grades 3 and 4

Please share this information with elementary school teachers and test coordinators.

The LEAP 2025 assessment guides for [grade 3](#) and [grade 4](#) have been updated to include the 2019-2020 paper-based testing schedule.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools

The Department is currently working to enhance the [Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools](#). These enhancements will provide teachers with additional resources for supporting students who have unfinished learning in accessing grade level content. Updated versions of [Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools](#) for Module 2, Topics A and B with targeted mini lessons and student activity sheets are now available. The projected schedule for additional updates is outlined in the table below.

Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tool	Projected Material Updates
Module 2, Topic A	Available now
Module 2, Topic B	October 3
Module 2, Topic C	October 10
Module 4, Topic A	November 14
Module 4, Topic D	December 5
Module 4, Topic G	January 16

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

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SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Scope and Sequence Updates

The social studies scope and sequences for grades 3-8 have been revised for the 2019-2020 school year to better support unit pacing. While a few tasks were reduced, removed, or resequenced to allow more time for prioritized content, the updates do not include changes to instructional approach or new content.

Overview of updates:

- Addition of high-level pacing guidance by quarter for each grade

- Grades 7 and 8: Reduction/elimination of nonessential content to support better pacing
- Grade 8: Resequencing of instructional tasks to match the order recommended in the companion document

Updates for all grade levels have been released on the [K-12 Social Studies Resource page](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

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SCIENCE RESOURCES

Tools and Resources

The Department is helping educators implement the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) (LSSS) in the 2019-2020 school year by releasing tools to support the effective implementation and field testing of high-quality curriculum. The following documents have been released or are in development:

Grade Band	Resources
K-5	<i>Coming fall 2019: Louisiana Guide to Implementing PhD Science grade 4</i>
6-8	Louisiana Guides to Implementing IQWST: Grade 6 , Grade 7 , Grade 8 Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd: Grade 6 , Grade 7 , Grade 8
9-12	Louisiana Guide to Piloting inquiryHub for Biology

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Updated: LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide for Grades 3 and 4

Please share this information with elementary school teachers and test coordinators.

The LEAP 2025 assessment guides for [grade 3](#) and [grade 4](#) have been updated to include the 2019-2020 paper-based testing schedule.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025 Annotated Student Responses

The LEAP 2025 practice test answer keys for [grade 5](#), [grade 6](#), and [Biology](#) now include new annotated student responses for the extended-response tasks in the corresponding practice tests. Teachers can look to these annotations to gain a better understanding of the expectations for student written communication called for in the shifts in science instruction.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Nominate Outstanding Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors

The Louisiana Department of Education 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. To learn more about the current winners and the benefits of participation, visit the [Award's page](#).

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, and other stakeholders.

Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors often make wonderful candidates for Teacher of the Year. If you or someone you know meets the [criteria](#), please submit a nomination. Multiple nominations and self-nominations are accepted.

The nominations portal deadline has been extended. Please submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#) by October 10.

Nominations will be sent to the local school districts for consideration as they select their top candidates to participate in the state-level process.

For questions, please contact excellenteducators@la.gov.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers - Spring 2020 Applications Open Now

[Applications](#) for spring 2020 funding through the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers are now open. The deadline to submit completed applications is **October 11**. [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. Applicants will be notified by mid November regarding acceptance.

[Learn more about the program](#), or contact stem@la.gov with questions.

Save-the-Date: 2020 Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium

Join educators from around the state at the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the Department's annual environmental education conference **March 6-7** at Fontainebleau State Park in

Mandeville. At this year’s event, sessions and short courses will explore the theme “Take It Outside! Explore Nature’s Classroom,” with resources and training focused on outdoor learning.

Experienced educators interested in leading a session at the symposium should complete the brief [presenter proposal form](#).

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

PRINCIPALS’ CORNER

2019-2020 Jump Start Updates

The Department has released several [Jump Start](#) updates, listed below, that provide detailed information for implementing various Jump Start programs.

- [2019-2020 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#)
- [2019-2020 Jump Start Funding Guidance](#)
- [2019-2020 List of CDF Qualifying Courses](#)
- [2019- 2020 Jump Start Pathway Updates](#)

Jump Start Convention Save-the-Date

The **2020 Jump Start Convention** is scheduled for **January 28** at the Baton Rouge River Center. Attendees of the convention will include school system administrators, high school principals, career and technical education (CTE) leaders, regional economic development, and workforce development organizations.

For more information, please contact jumpstart@la.gov.

Registration for Fall Counselor Institutes

Please share these updates with middle and high school counselors.

Registration is now open for the fall 2019 Counselor Institutes. Formerly known as Counselor Collaborations, these events provide participants with important updates from the Department. This is also an excellent opportunity for school counselors to meet colleagues from schools across the region.

To register, please click on the date for the event you wish to attend.

Northern Region Contact emily.bradley@la.gov	
Date and Time	Location
October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Bossier Instructional Center 2719 Airline Dr., Bossier

October 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Monroe City School Board 206 Tower Dr., Monroe
October 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Allen Parish School Board (<i>location change</i>) 1111 West 7 th Ave., Oberlin

Southern Region Contact lee.smith@la.gov	
Date and Time	Location
October 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Acadia Parish Education Center 2402 N. Parkerson Ave., Crowley
October 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Jefferson Parish Public School System Administration Building 501 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey
October 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	East Baton Rouge Parish School System (<i>location change</i>) Professional Development Center, Building C 3000 N. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov with questions about these events.

AP Coordinator Exam Order Training Dates

Please share with Administrators and AP Coordinators

The preferred AP exam ordering deadline is **October 4**. Please register for one of the nine remaining [Preparing and Submitting the Exam Order](#) sessions for AP coordinators to prepare for the changes. The sessions will be offered at varying times on the following dates.

- October 10 at 6:00 p.m.
- October 31 at 3:00 p.m.
- November 6 at 11:00 a.m.
- November 12 at 8:00 a.m.

The final deadline for submitting AP exam orders is **November 15**.

For more information, please email collegereadiness@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
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources including Leap 360 and Eagle	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders, Content Leaders, Mentor Teachers, and Teacher Leader Advisors	louisianateacherleaders@la.gov