



October 2023



Hello! I am Mia Bowles, and I teach fifth grade English language arts at E.K. Key Elementary in Calcasieu Parish. Currently, I am also serving as a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA) for EdTech. As a TLA, I have the opportunity to work on projects I am passionate about, including creating resources about digital citizenship and cybersecurity. It is imperative for our students and educators to have a thorough understanding of what it means to be a digital citizen and how to be safe when using online tools.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, making it the perfect time to teach our students about digital citizenship. We can take this opportunity to ensure we are teaching cybersecurity best practices to our students. Two actions we can take that will have the most significant impact on keeping online information secure are creating strong passwords and using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). The LDOE has [resources](#) available to use with students to teach them the **importance of being safe online**. As one of the members of the Digital Citizenship Team at my school, I have helped coordinate events and activities for students to do with their parents to get the entire family involved. For example, during student-led conferences, students are required to explain ways they stay safe online. They share what they learned about cyberbullying, creating strong passwords, and recognizing safe websites.

Digital Citizenship Week also takes place each October, which provides another opportunity to engage our students in activities to learn more about digital citizenship. You can find information about how to help your students be **better digital citizens** on the [Digital Learning web page](#), including activities and lessons from [Common Sense Education](#), [Minecraft Education](#), and [Google's Interland](#).

Prioritizing cybersecurity and digital citizenship education is an important responsibility we must all embrace to ensure the safety of our students. This month, I encourage you to take some time to teach your students how to protect their data and navigate the online world safely.



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LITERACY

Summer Literacy Tour Sessions are Now Available

The sessions from the [Summer Literacy Tour](#) are now available in the Literacy Library. The three sessions include: Literacy Best Practices from Screener to Core, Using Screener Data to Support Literacy Growth, and Best Practices in Fluency and Comprehension.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Dual Language Immersion K-3 Literacy Screener Guidance Available

The LDOE's World Languages Team has developed guidance and support documents to aid schools and school systems with Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs to navigate the implementation of [Act 438 \(2021\)](#). [The K-3 Literacy Screener: Dual Language Immersion Education](#) guidance document is available on the LDOE's [Literacy Screener](#) web page. Sample Parent Reporting Letters for parents of students in DLI programs are available on the [LDOE World Languages and Immersion](#) web page.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Resources for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The LDOE is excited to announce the release of updated resources for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

- [Modified ELA Guidebooks](#) for students in grades 3-5 are aligned to the Louisiana Connectors for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
- [Prioritized Connectors for LEAP Connect](#) is a resource for teachers for instructional support and to familiarize students with the format of the LEAP Connect assessment, as well as the Connectors regularly assessed.
- [LEAP Connect Practice Tests](#) in ELA, math, and science are available to assist teachers in preparing students for the LEAP Connect assessment. Instructional tools and activities are also included.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA and Literacy Webinar

The ELA content and Literacy teams are conducting a webinar on October 17 at 3 p.m. to present best practices in planning for literacy support using High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM). Instructional leaders and teachers are invited to [register](#) for this webinar to learn more about how to bridge the gap between core instruction and literacy support.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

Please join the [LASL mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on additional professional development opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [Twitter](#).

[Registration](#) is now open for the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Conference being held in Tampa, Florida on October 19-21.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Overview Webinar

The LDOE's ELA content team will host a webinar to share information regarding the upcoming ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024). These new units will be available in the spring of 2024 for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. Teachers, school leaders, and system leaders are invited to attend this initial overview to learn more about the new units.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 6 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93449668654?pwd=NXpmN1VHQTFFWlIQWFpvK2MrenZMz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID #:** 93449668654

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Updates

All grade 4 Bayou Bridges units are now available. Please navigate to the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#) to access. Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All grade 5 units will be published by **October 31**.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Now Available: Foundational Lessons to Accelerate Math Education (FLAME)

[FLAME](#) resources are now available to support the development of foundational skills and fluency for students in grades K-5 math. The new resources are designed to complement your adopted high-quality instructional materials. FLAME offers short, engaging lessons and tools for teachers to track and inform parents of student progress. Unit 1 is now available, Unit 2 posts in November, and Unit 3 posts in January.

To learn more, join the FLAME Kickoff Webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 11 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96635687157>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 966 3568 7157

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

NASA Solar Eclipse Educational Materials

To help learners of all ages understand how to safely observe the [October 14 annular solar eclipse](#) and the [April 8 total solar eclipse](#), NASA has released a new set of resources for educators. Science and STEM teachers can utilize these [resources](#) alongside [high-quality instructional materials](#) to engage students with these exciting phenomena.

Additional resources and implementation guidance will be shared on the [K-12 Science Resources](#) web page ahead of the April 8 total solar eclipse.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Cybersecurity Awareness Month and Digital Citizenship Week

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and between October 16-22, schools across Louisiana are diving deep into Digital Citizenship Week. To support educators and students in these endeavors, the LDOE has curated a comprehensive collection of resources on the [Digital Learning web page](#). These resources will bolster teacher understanding of cybersecurity and support digital citizenship values in students.

- [Digital Citizenship Teacher Guide](#)
- [Digital Citizenship Student Guide \(Elementary\)](#)
- [Digital Citizenship Student Guide \(Secondary\)](#)
- [Digital Citizenship Parent Guide](#)
- [Cybersecurity for Students](#)

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

LACUE Annual Conference

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators invites teachers to attend the [LACUE 36th Annual Conference](#). The conference will be held November 28-30 at the Hyatt New Orleans.

[Registration](#) is now open and early bird pricing ends on **October 31**.

Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Evaluation Updates

The 2022-2023 VAM data will be released into the [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) on October 6. All 2023-2024 teacher evaluations should be finalized by **October 27**. Teachers should review final scores prior to this date as data cannot be entered or edited after the system closes for the 2022-2023 school year.

CIS will be open for the 2023-2024 school year on November 3. Following this date, teachers may begin entering [Professional Growth Plans \(PGPs\)](#) and [Student Learning Targets \(SLTs\)](#). Resources for [SLTs](#) are available in the [Compass Library](#). Evaluators and evaluatees must meet to discuss all SLTs.

Per [Bulletin 130](#), all educators will require two observations for the 2023-2024 school year.

The [2023-2024 Evaluation Guide for Teachers](#) is available in the [Compass Library](#). This document outlines all evaluation components to prepare teachers for the evaluation process.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Coming Soon: Green Ribbon School Application

In partnership with the [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#) (ED-GRS) program, the LDOE is excited to announce that applications for recognition as a Green Ribbon School for the 2023-2024 school year will open on October 16. Eligibility requirements include that schools, systems, and early learning centers show progress in

- reducing environmental impacts and costs;
- improving health and wellness; and
- providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

More information will be available in the application package posted on October 16 on the [Environmental Education](#) web page.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

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 learning and networking opportunities for all math and science educators throughout the state. The last day to [pre-register](#) for the conference is **October 27**.

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

Professional Learning for Teachers of French

On October 30, Catherine David, a senior lecturer at the University of Aix-Marseille, will travel to Louisiana for a one-day in-person workshop for all teachers of French language and French immersion teachers entitled Pédagogies différenciée et créativité. This workshop aims to introduce differentiation and variation methods to effectively address multi-level French language classes. Participants will engage in a comprehensive analysis of didactic resources and gain insights into crafting innovative learner-specific pedagogical approaches that capitalize on the diversity/differences among learners. The all-day workshop will be conducted in French and is funded by the Cultural Services of the Embassy of France. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE, in partnership with the Center for Assessment, is continuing its Assessment Literacy Initiative. The [Effective Assessment Practices Webinar Series for Teachers & Leaders](#) is a series of monthly, one-hour webinars that provide opportunities for Louisiana educators to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms.

The next webinar will be **Interpreting and Using Statewide Standardized Test Information** and a thirty-minute question and answer session will be held at 4:30 p.m., immediately following the webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 5 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84208934981>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 305-224-1968
- **Meeting ID#:** 842 0893 4981

Please refer to the [Effective Assessment Practices Webinar Series for Teachers & Leaders](#) document for more information regarding the full series of dates, topics, and Zoom links.

Please contact assessment@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
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EdTech	digitallearning@la.gov
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