

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



November 2019



My name is Bianca Deliberto, and I am a Science and Social Studies Curriculum Specialist for the Zachary Community School District. I have been a Teacher Leader Advisor since 2015. For the past year, I have supported the teachers in my district as they implement high-quality science curricula. Being an active participant in this movement and sitting alongside students as they share experiences, develop driving questions, and showcase their individual understanding of science phenomena has been extremely rewarding for teachers as well as students.

These instructional materials have not only given teachers the anchor they need to embrace instructional changes with more confidence, but they have also given our students keys to drive their own learning. In the PhD Science curriculum, students investigate, observe, and develop models to answer questions such as, “How can windmills change wind to light?” Students continuously take on the roles of scientists and engineers as they revisit, explore, and answer student-generated questions.

Providing students with intentional, sequential learning experiences is one of the foundational reasons why curriculum aligned to standards is critical to student and teacher success in all classrooms. The “science storyline” approach provides students with coherent experiences that are motivated by the students’ own desires to solve a problem or explain something they don’t understand. For example, middle school students explore a real case study about a girl, M’Kenna, who recently started feeling sick all the time. Throughout the [OpenSciEd](#) unit, in trying to determine the girl’s illness, students learn about the different systems in the body and how they both function independently and systematically.

As science teachers in my district have discovered how to lean into the [shifts](#) and received training on [PhD Science](#) and [OpenSciEd](#) using tools such as the Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciEd (Grade [6](#), [7](#), and [8](#)), they have become more aware of the intentionality behind the sequence of lessons within a unit. These tools and trainings have given teachers a better understanding of phenomenon-based instruction and three-dimensional learning. As the Department prepares for the launch of [Science Content Leaders in 2020](#), administrators and science teachers alike can be excited about working together through these new opportunities to spotlight science education!

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ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks: Grades 3–5 Foundation of Reading Supports

The Foundational Skills Supports, aligned to the 3–5 ELA Guidebooks, are being released on a rolling basis this year. These include foundational skills mini-lessons, decodable texts, and practice from the Guidebook anchor text.

The Foundational Skills Supports:

- help teachers determine where students might be struggling;
- provide explicit instruction in the foundations of reading; and
- provide direct practice related to unit texts.

This second release will be available in early December. The materials will be located in the Section 1 “Additional Materials” folder for each unit.

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Louisiana Purchase	Lightning Thief	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

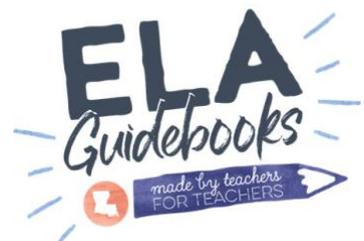
Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12

The new [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12](#) (2020) will be housed on a free, open platform. Units will be published on a rolling basis beginning in February. The website address will also be announced in February.

A **draft** [text list](#) for the new Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12 (2020) is now available. Please be aware that this text list is in draft form and currently undergoing a permissions process and is therefore **subject to change**.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.



MATH RESOURCES

Enhanced Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools

The Department is currently working to enhance the [Grade 6 Eureka Remediation Tools](#). The updated versions 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, B, and C 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	Available now
Module 2, Topic C	Available now
Module 4, Topic A	November 14
Module 4, Topic D	December 5
Module 4, Topic G	January 16

For additional information on helping students access grade-level content using the newly enhanced ER tools, consult [this video](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Accelerated 8th Grade Algebra I Informational Webinar

Offering Algebra I to qualifying students in 8th grade gives them a greater opportunity to access more advanced mathematics courses in high school. The Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin, in collaboration with Agile Mind, is offering a new approach to make this possible with the development of the **Accelerated 8th Grade Algebra I** course. This approach is designed to ensure that students experience all of the standards in both 8th grade and Algebra I fully, laying a strong foundation for future math learning. To learn more about this course, [register](#) to attend the informational webinar on Wednesday, **November 13**, at 3 CT.

Please contact a.joyopravitno@austin.utexas.edu with questions or for more information.

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.

Social Studies Fall Professional Development

As previously announced, the Louisiana Department of Education is hosting a day-long social studies professional development, repeating four times throughout the state. All sessions are fully booked at this time. Session materials will be posted and shared in a future Teacher Leader Newsletter.

Resources and Events at the Louisiana Old State Capitol

Please share with high school teachers.

Louisiana's Old State Capitol, part of the Office of Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin, has partnered with the National Park Service to host an exhibition called [Victory from Within: The American POW Experience](#) through **December 20**.

Upcoming programs and initiatives include:

- November 3 from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.: Free showings of "The Ghost of the Castle" and related activities. (Recommended Audience: All ages)
- November 13 at 5:30 p.m.: Part One: An American Prisoner of War Experience. (Recommended Audience: High school students and above; not for sensitive audiences)
- November 14 at 5:30 p.m.: Part Two: Victory from Within. (Recommended Audience: High school students and above; not for sensitive audiences)

Visit [Louisiana's Old State Capitol's](#) webpage for more information on all exhibits and upcoming events, including how to book a tour.

Please contact ckennedy@sos.la.gov for additional information.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Instructional Materials Reviews: High-Quality Programs Identified

New science curricula have received high-quality ratings through the [Instructional Materials Review process](#), which means they have earned the best possible rating on all indicators of quality alignment to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#).

The following table includes high-quality science curriculum available for 2020-2021 implementation in schools.

Grade(s)	Title	Status
K-2	Amplify	Tier I
	PhD Science	Pilot (grades K-2)
3-5	Amplify	Tier I
	PhD Science	Tier I
6-8	OpenSciEd	Pilot (Grades 6 , 7 , and 8)
	IQWST	Tier I
9-12	InquiryHub	Pilot (Biology)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Tools and Resources: Louisiana Guides

The Department is developing tools to support science educators in the effective implementation of the high-quality science curriculum. Each Louisiana Guide offers curriculum-specific instructional guidance such as a sample scope and sequence and a chart of EAGLE items associated with each unit of instruction as well as information on places in which teachers may need to make strategic decisions considering student needs and time availability.

Grade	Resources
K-5	Louisiana Guide to Implementing PhD Science for grades 3 , 4 , and 5 Louisiana Guides to Implementing Amplify for grades K-2, 3, 4, and 5 (Coming fall 2019)
6-8	Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciED for grades 6 , 7 , and 8 Louisiana Guides to Implementing IQWST for grades 6 , 7 , and 8
9-12	Louisiana Guide to Piloting InquiryHub for Biology

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

PhD Science Pilot Opportunity

Great Minds, PhD Science, is offering teachers and students in grades 3, 4, and 5 the opportunity to pilot high-quality lessons in the PhD Science program. The 3-5 program received a [Tier I](#) rating in the Louisiana [Instructional Materials Review process](#). Educators interested in trying these lessons in their classrooms can read more about the [piloting opportunity](#).

For additional information, please reach out to phdscience@greatminds.org.

Professional Development

The Department is supporting the implementation of high-quality curriculum through professional development opportunities on OpenSciEd, an open-sourced middle school curriculum. Middle school educators can register to attend the two-day training. The Department will cancel the training if a minimum number of 25 participants per grade level do not register for the training. For registration information, contact dana-k12@austin.utexas.edu.

Date	Location
January 28-29	Bossier City, LA
February 4-5	Baton Rouge, LA

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

LEEC Environmental State Symposium Call for Presenters

On March 6-7, 2020, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) will host the Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium at Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville. This year's theme is "Take It Outside! Explore Nature's Classroom," which will emphasize the importance of learning in our natural spaces.

Call for Presenters: Do you have a hands-on workshop, lesson activities, or an exemplary program that incorporates the outdoor learning experiences aligned to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science? Would you like to share with other educators? Consider presenting at the upcoming 2020 Environmental Education State Symposium. Help teachers by giving them the tools necessary to conduct quality environmental lessons. Teachers love presentations made by fellow teachers, so if you are a classroom teacher with an innovative lesson, please consider using the symposium as a way to reach a larger audience of students and inform your peers about the great things you're doing in your classroom. Submit a proposal using the [online form](#). The deadline for proposals is **November 22**.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

2019-2020 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

Please share with principals and teachers.

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analyses. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, math, science, social studies (grades 4-8), and Algebra, Geometry, English I and English II EOC courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores.

November 1 - December 13, 2019 (6 weeks): CVR Open for View-only

- Users can view and check the roster data for accuracy and make changes in the source data systems (SIS, CUR, PEP). The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a district must correct in the source data systems.

An updated user guide for CVR is [now available](#). Please contact ldoecvr@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification and compass@la.gov with general Compass related questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

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

Congratulations to lead teacher and Teacher Leader Advisor Mandy Boudwin of Lutchter High School in St. James Parish for winning the [PAEMST](#) for Grades 7-12 Math! This award is the nation's highest honor for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In addition to the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., Mandy and the other awardees were celebrated and treated to a week of D.C. festivities including dinner at the Kennedy Center and a White House tour. Well deserved, Mandy!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

LEEC Art and Language Arts Contest

Please share with students.

The 2020 LEEC Student Environmental Awareness Art and Language Arts Contest will feature the theme "Take It Outside! Explore Nature's Classroom." Entries should be student works of visual and language arts that demonstrate the important role nature plays in education.

Sample Instructions for Students: Does your teacher have an outdoor classroom? Have you ever taken a field trip to a natural area? Do you participate in scouting, camping or other outdoor recreational activities? Write a story or draw a picture about something you have learned from being outside!

Winners will be selected from four age groups in both categories. First, second and third place winners will receive a cash prize and will be honored at a special ceremony in summer of 2020 in Baton Rouge. Winning pieces will be featured in the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission 2021 calendar, which is printed and distributed around the state.

The deadline for the contest is **April 24, 2020**. Download the contest [brochure and entry form](#).

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts Contest

Please share with teachers of juniors and seniors.

The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts has opened [submission portals](#) for both its [Art and Songwriting competitions](#)! The deadline for both Contests is **January 17, 2020**. In addition to the organization's Annual Scholarship Art Contest, the Songwriting Competition will provide a platform for

high school songwriters (juniors and seniors) across Louisiana to showcase their work. Three young songwriters will be awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships, a chance to record their winning songs in a state-of-the-art professional recording studio under the mentorship of Grammy winning producers and engineers, and the opportunity to perform their songs on stage during the Trombone Shorty Foundation's annual "Shorty Fest" benefit concert during the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. The award ceremony will take place on Saturday, March 21 at the Sheraton in New Orleans.

PRINCIPALS' CORNER

LEAP 360 Updates

LEAP 360 will continue to be a Department-funded resource for school systems in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. This includes access to K-2 formative tasks, diagnostics, and interim test forms at no cost to school systems.

Given school systems' continued work to reduce unnecessary testing through the increased use of high-quality curriculum with embedded assessments, the LEAP 360 program is evolving:

- The number of ELA interims is being reduced this year to provide only Form 1 for each grade or course.
- Math will continue to offer two forms in grades 3 through 8 and three forms in high school.

LEAP 360 resources (e.g., A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360, A District's Guide to LEAP 360), available in the [Assessment Library](#), will be updated to reflect this change later this month.

School systems that wish to continue using LEAP 360 will be required to sign and return the [LEAP 360 MOU](#) by June 26.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New Principals Workshop

The Louisiana Association of Principals (LAP), in conjunction with the Department, is offering a half-day new principals workshop. This workshop is designed for principals with 0-3 years' experience. The New Principals Workshop will be held on Tuesday, **December 10**, in Lafayette at the DoubleTree Hotel. The cost is free for LAP members and \$100 for non-LAP members. Seating is limited to the first 100.

Additional information including registration links are [available](#).

Please contact debra.schum@laprincipals.org with questions.

CLEP Preparation and Exam Funding

Please share with School Counselors, Administrators and Instructional Leaders

[Modern States](#), a philanthropy dedicated to making college more accessible and affordable, offers an opportunity for interested students preparing for CLEP exams to participate in 32 free online courses

taught by college professors from across the country. Upon successful completion of the course and practice exam, Modern States will provide a voucher to cover the \$89 CLEP exam fee.

Encourage your students to [register and enroll](#) today to start saving time and money on their college degree. (The length of each course is six to eight weeks.)

Please contact collegereadiness@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	collegereadiness@la.gov
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