December 2022

My name is Mélanie Arseneau, and I am from Tracadie, a small community in the North East of New-Brunswick, Canada. As an Acadian myself, we share ancestors who were resilient, and Louisiana makes me feel a sense of belonging, and that I am reliving a piece of history.

CODOFIL (Council on the Development of French in Louisiana), has given me the opportunity to come teach in Louisiana for the last five years. Being an International Associate Teacher (IAT) creates an opportunity where myself and other teachers can **grow** and **learn** in many ways beyond learning a new curriculum.

This is my second stay as a French immersion teacher in Louisiana, and I am currently teaching at Prairie Elementary, in Lafayette. During my time here I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the other teachers in my community. This has allowed me to learn more about the culture in Louisiana, while refining my teaching practice along with my peers.

"Viens back" (come back), as many love to say here, is a very appropriate expression for me! I like to think that life brought me here because my purpose was to inspire people. As my time in Louisiana as an IAT is coming to an end, I have learned that **there's no limit to what you can do, as long as you seize the opportunity**.

My name is Ana Ramirez and in 2018 I came with my family from Costa Rica to teach Kindergarten Spanish Immersion at Fairview Elementary School in Calcasieu Parish.

When my adventure as an International Associate Teacher started 5 years ago, I was a little scared because of the big challenge, but now I can say it was the best decision I have ever made for me and for my family.

While connecting with my school community I have the opportunity to improve my English, as I share a little bit of my culture and learn about theirs. The school's staff, parents, students, and I **work together** as a team for the **well-being of the children**. As we see our students grow, like how I see my students' Spanish vocabulary grow, we are motivated to give our best as a teacher.

The **collaborative community** I have experienced as an IAT has been influential to my growth and development as a teacher. I am very grateful to have this wonderful experience and be able to put my knowledge into practice. I have learned that **with languages, you are home anywhere**.

In this Issue

LITERACY

Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program

In an effort to provide families with additional opportunities to advance their child's literacy development, the Louisiana Department of Education launched a new literacy tutoring program for eligible public school students in grades K-5 in November. For more information on this program, school leaders can access the Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Admin Letter in the Literacy Library under Instruction, Intervention, and Extensions.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Office Hours

The Diverse Learners Team will host office hours on Tuesday, January 24 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Educators are invited to join the Zoom call to discuss topics relating to support of diverse learners.

- **Webinar Date and Time**: January 24 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link**: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99463888239
- **Phone Number**: 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #**: 994 6388 8239
- **Passcode:** 311142

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020)

The Department has partnered with teachers across Louisiana to enhance the ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) units. These enhancements will include updating the mentor sentence, vocabulary, and writing activities within each lesson to provide additional instructional support for students and teachers. Section diagnostic exemplars will also be included in these updates in order to provide teachers with a model in order to evaluate student work in formative assessments. Additional information regarding the release of these updates will be provided in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

K-2 ELA/Literacy Instructional Materials Update

This summer lawmakers passed a law to ensure that all textbooks and instructional materials used to teach students to read are high-quality, fully aligned to state content standards, and based on literacy strategies that are scientifically researched with proven results in teaching phonological awareness, letter formation, phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

As a result, the Department is actively engaged in a process to ensure that instructional materials on the Tiered Reviews webpage are in compliance with this law. Publishers were asked to submit their materials for re-review. The following titles were not submitted by publishers for re-review: ARC Core, Grades K-2, IRLA Foundational Skills Toolkit, Grades K-2 (FS Only), and Language Arts 1 A/B, Gr 1. Therefore, these instructional materials have been removed from the Tiered Reviews webpage and added to the Not Reviewed for Compliance Under Act 517 report. These materials are no longer considered Tier 1.

The Department recommends that teachers review their materials prior to classroom instruction to ensure that they are utilizing high-quality materials which **require students to draw on their phonics knowledge to decode words and do not prompt students to use cues** such as looking at the picture or drawing on context to identify words.

While the implementation of new instructional materials does not have to occur during the 2022-2023 school year, classroom instruction and practice should be modified to remove any and all use of three-cueing, MSV, etc. Examples of three cueing include instructing students to memorize sight words, pre-teaching words using context clues (often pictures), using predictable texts that often rely on pictures, and using images with a main focus on the first letter of the word.

Teachers can find **additional support on literacy instruction from their science of reading training** and additional resources in the literacy library. Additional information about instructional materials re-reviews will be provided in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies Implementation Information

The 2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. The K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies FAQ is posted to the K-12 Social Studies Resources page and the Grades 9-12 Social Studies Teacher Library. The Department will continue hosting webinars this winter to support district leaders, school leaders, and teachers to help prepare for the transition to the 2022 K-12 LSSSS. The information for the upcoming webinar is below.

Join the High School U.S. History and Civics webinar to learn about implementation of the 2022 K-12 LSSSS for high school.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 8 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99908161762?pwd=eHRDWDdLaEZpY0dQV2ZGUFYyV09ndz09
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 99908161762
- **Passcode:** 967543

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Zearn Accounts and Related Professional Learning for All LA Public Schools K-8 Beginning in January

As part of the Louisiana Math Refresh, the Department is partnering with Zearn to provide school accounts, which will be activated in January, to all public schools serving K-8 students. Training registration is now open to support teachers and leaders in successful implementation.
- In the Launching Zearn Math session, participants will explore the interventions integrated through Zearn's digital lessons that provide students with just-in-time foundational support on the grade-level content. Participants will deepen their understanding of how to interpret student productivity, progress, and misconception data captured in Zearn Class Reports to maximize growth through intentional decision making. Finally, the session will conclude as participants apply learnings to their own classrooms, schools and districts and leave with a data driven action plan to ensure every student gets the celebration and support needed. Registration for this free two-hour virtual professional learning is now open to all K-8 Louisiana public school teachers whose role includes core math instruction or supporting students with math learning.
- In Professional Learning for Leaders: Accelerating Impact with Zearn, leaders will build on their familiarity with Zearn and refine how they will support school sites as they prepare to implement and monitor progress. In this four-hour, in-person session, participants will explore Zearn's flexible instructional materials, features of the educator and administrator accounts, and how to utilize the embedded reports that capture real-time data to accelerate math learning for all students. Leaders will walk away with materials to turn-key and leverage at their school sites as they launch Zearn.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

OpenSciEd Elementary Science Pilot Coming Soon

As part of an effort to increase statewide access and opportunity for students to engage with high-quality science instructional materials aligned to standards, the Department is seeking elementary educators to pilot OpenSciEd science materials for grades K-5 during the development phase. Participating teachers will have the opportunity to represent Louisiana and help shape the curriculum's design by field testing and providing feedback on the units. Professional learning for teachers selected to participate in the pilot for the first round of field test units will begin in the summer of 2023. Anyone interested in nominating an individual teacher or cohort of teachers for participation in the pilot should secure the necessary approvals from school and system leadership and complete this short form.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STEM RESOURCES

Hazards Mitigation Environmental Science Elective Pilot Opportunity for 9-12 students

University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) is offering a pilot of classroom resources designed to engage high school STEM students in learning about environmental hazards and related mitigation efforts. Students will engage with authentic phenomena designed for Louisiana's context to explore the application of measures that humans can use to manage and mitigate environmental hazards connected to weather, geologic phenomena, and aquatic phenomena. The ULM development team will support interested Louisiana high school educators in piloting the resources and providing feedback to inform the design and potential future implementation of the new coursework. The pilot materials are designed to be administered as part of a single credit elective in the 2023-2024 school year. Pilot teachers should be educators who are comfortable teaching grades 9-12 STEM, environmental science, and/or earth science topics.

Please contact casehanks@ulm.edu with questions.

EDTECH

CS Ed Week

Computer Science Education Week will be celebrated December 5-11. CS Ed Week is an annual call to action to encourage K-12 students to learn computer science. A variety of resources are available to support educators in inspiring and introducing students to coding and computer science skills. Code.org has activities for every student at every level. Google Applied Digital Skills also has activities to introduce coding for a range of abilities. This is a great opportunity for students and educators to dive into the world of computer science.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Hour of Code

As part of CS Ed Week, Code.org will be hosting the Hour of Code campaign. Trying an Hour of Code activity is an easy and engaging way to introduce students to computer science without any special downloads or software. Participating in Hour of Code requires no background knowledge of Computer Science for students or teachers. Code.org has created a detailed participation guide to support anyone interested in participating. Register the school's participation to be added to the map with the other school systems participating.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: New Episode Released

Teacher Leader Lagniappe offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Educators can subscribe to the podcast and listen to the latest episode.

Season 2, Episode 8: Building Relationships with Louisiana's New Teacher of the Year Jordyn Vicknair
We chat with Louisiana's very first New Teacher of the Year, Jordyn Vicknair. A graduate of Louisiana State University's GeauxTeach program, Jordyn shares her journey through her first year of teaching, her love of teaching math, and the relationships she grew with her students. The graduates of Louisiana's 2022 Aspiring Principals Fellowship makes Em Cooper smile this week.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit pictures of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Nominations for the 2023 Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Teaching

Nominations are now open for the 2023 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for outstanding K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics and/or computer science teachers. This year's cycle will recognize teachers of grades 7-12. Nominations close on **January 9**.

Please contact info@paemst.org with questions.

Computer Science Education Feedback Opportunity

The Department is seeking K-12 teacher feedback to help guide and inform the Department's future work in computer science. In order to gather diverse perspectives representative of all K-12 teachers, including those without experience teaching STEM or computer science, all Louisiana educators of students in grades K-12 are invited to take this brief survey.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

2022-2023 Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grant Awardees Announced

The Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grant Program has selected the awardees for the 2022-2023 grant cycle. These Pre-K-12 grade educators will receive grants of up to $2,000 which can be used to purchase non-consumable materials and equipment to be used in science, math, and STEM courses.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact qsminfo@lsu.edu with questions.

TEACHER EVALUATION RESOURCES

Student Learning Targets (SLTs)

Teachers are encouraged to set and enter their Student Learning Targets (SLTs) into the Compass Information System (CIS) by **December 5**. This suggested timeline allows educators an opportunity to progress monitor and adjust instruction accordingly to successfully meet targets. The SLT Assessment Identification Guide outlines approved assessments to measure student progress. Teachers are encouraged to use high-quality curriculum based assessments or approved literacy screeners when available.

Please contact compass@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
Compass	compass@la.gov
Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers	believeandprepare@la.gov
Diverse Learners	diverselearnersupport@la.gov
EdTech	digitallearning@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
ELA Guidebooks	elaguidebooks@la.gov
Environmental Education	environmentaleducation@la.gov

Financial Aid Assistance	ldefinancial@la.gov
Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progressions	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
Math, Science, and STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
World Languages and Language Acquisition	language.acquisition@la.gov