

# TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



December 2020



Earlier this year, the Department announced an exciting partnership with [The Writing Revolution](#) (TWR) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing **The Hochman Method**® into [Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks](#). This partnership was made possible in part through the [grassroots effort](#) that [Monroe City Schools](#) (MCS) began after attending sessions provided at the Teacher Leader Summit in 2017. They ensured that teachers were **fully trained** in the method and given **time and space to collaborate** and develop resources aligned to the ELA Guidebooks. This team of teachers became the first generation of **TWR Revolutionaries**: a team of educators dedicated to “**changing lives, one sentence at a time.**”

Some members of this team of Revolutionaries have agreed to be a part of the first development phase of Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks that will fully, and explicitly, incorporate TWR writing strategies in unit updates for grades 3-5. This first phase of development is expected to be released for piloting in the 2021-2022 academic year. In order to update the units, each Revolutionary will be paired with a Unit Designer. The Designer team primarily consists of **Louisiana educators** who will be responsible for updating each unit to meet the [key design principles of the 2020 ELA Guidebook units for grades 9-12](#) that were revealed in March and are being piloted this year.

The grade 3-5 updates to Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks will:

- Explore a **central question** in every unit;
- Include more **diversity** in required unit texts;
- Integrate a streamlined and **coherent approach and practices**;

- Embed support and extension opportunities through **core and optional activities** to meet the needs of diverse learners;
- Outline **lesson look-fors** explicitly aligned to the knowledge and skill demands of the Culminating Task;
- Include **Application Units** for each grade level for students to explore topics of their choice related to the units of instruction they engage in over the course of the year; and
- Incorporate [The Hochman Method](#)<sup>®</sup> in the unit to **support students with expressing understanding of complex, grade-level texts through writing.**

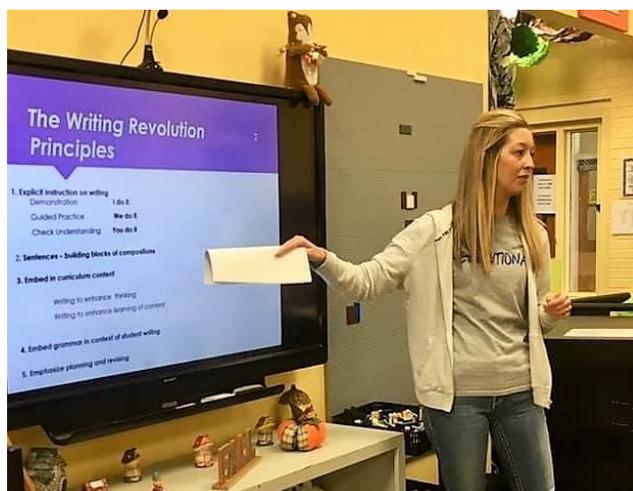
The revisions to these units, listed above, are largely **driven by Louisiana teacher feedback** collected through a [survey](#) given earlier this year. While the priority deadline for submitting feedback for units in grades 3-5 has passed, educators are encouraged to continue to provide feedback they would like to have considered during this year’s development phase.

The updated units will live **free and open** on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#), holding true to the original vision of ELA Guidebooks as a high-quality, open educational resource **“made by teachers, for teachers.”** State contracts for systems to purchase required ELA Guidebook unit texts will continue to be available through American Reading Company for unit trade books and XanEdu for Unit Readers.

The partnership with TWR is planned to extend to all ELA Guidebook units (3-12); however, future release dates for integration in grades 6-8 and 9-12 have yet to be determined. More details about ELA Guidebooks development will continue to be released through future Department newsletters and communications.

### **MCS’s Grassroots Effort** as told by Cassidy Burns

Advancing thinking through writing in Monroe City Schools - where did it all begin? Take it back to the Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit 2017. After attending three days of intense training on these strategies from Dr. Hochman herself, it was more than evident that our students **NEEDED TWR**. So we took these ideas back to our district leaders and redelivered to our colleagues at our back-to-school Professional Development events. Slowly, TWR strategies started to trickle into daily core instruction. As a result, MCS teachers saw light bulbs going off across the system with our students’ writing and critical thinking skills.



**Fast forward to the 2018-2019 school year — MCS English language arts (ELA) teachers dove into a full, comprehensive series of training with the TWR team.** In May 2019 the MCS Revolutionary Team was brought to life. Teams of ELA teachers from each grade-level were brought together to work closely

with TWR staff to design and align TWR activities to our ELA Guidebooks lessons. It was a beautiful thing to be a part of, knowing that this was going to be transformative for our students. Since then, our math, science, and social studies teachers have received TWR training as well.

The Writing Revolution has been just that: transformative. It has transformed the way I approach and teach writing in my classroom. It has transformed how my students feel about writing. These past two years, I've **witnessed my students' confidence and enthusiasm for writing explode**. I am thrilled to now be a part of the new updates with the 3-5 ELA Guidebooks Development Team. I am most excited to see the impact that these curriculum updates, along with TWR activities, will have on our students and teachers across the state of Louisiana. My hope is for all of our ELA teachers embrace these updates and new strategies to revolutionize their students' writing and thinking skills.

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## ELA RESOURCES

### **ELA Guidebooks: Distance Learning Guidebook Companions Release Update**

At the start of the school year, the Department released [Distance Learning Guidebook Companions](#) for grade 3 through grade 12. These resources are a **print-only/low-tech solution** for students with limited or no connectivity who are learning remotely. The second round of Distance Learning Guidebook Companions for grades 3-8 are available for download through the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) and [LearnZillion](#). These companions will be made available for download on [Louisiana Believes](#) through updated zip files after December 18.

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

## MATH RESOURCES

### **Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards: New Training Resources Available**

The Department, building on resources provided by the Achievement Network, has released the [Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards](#) guidance for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

This new document identifies critical prerequisite math standards from previous grade levels needed to anticipate potential unfinished learning and suggestions for prioritizing content to save instructional time. It also includes aligned lessons for the most widely used Tier 1 curricula.

Training on using this document to guide decision making is now available on the [K-12 Math Planning page](#) in the Planning for 2020-2021 section.

Available training includes:

- [a short introduction video](#);
- an elementary [training video](#) and [slide deck](#); and
- a middle school [training video](#) and [slide deck](#).

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

### **Math Remediation Guides updated to Learning Acceleration Guidance**

All students deserve equitable access to engaging and challenging grade level instruction. For students with unfinished learning, educators must accelerate access to grade-level content rather than delay it through the provision of disconnected work best suited for earlier grades. To better match this focus, the Standards Remediation Guides have been retitled as [Learning Acceleration Guidance](#). The content of the documents remains the same. All resources on the K-12 Math Planning Page will be updated in the coming months to reflect a shift from reactive remediation to proactive acceleration of knowledge in order to ensure students' readiness for grade level content.

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

## SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

### **Continuous Learning**

In an effort to provide standards-aligned content experiences and enable continuous learning in remote learning or hybrid school settings, distance learning packets are being developed for each course in grades 3-8 and US History for units 1, 2, 3, and 4. The packets do not cover the entire content of the unit but instead focus on a key topic. Teachers can use the packets as a cornerstone to build materials for additional content coverage. The materials are designed to be low tech but can be adapted for schools using an online learning platform. The Department will evaluate the need for more distance learning support throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

[Social studies distance learning packets](#) for grades 3-8 and US History have been updated to include topics within units one, two, and three and are posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#). Topics for unit four have been posted for Grades 3 and 6, and U.S. History. All packets will be updated with unit four topics in January. The teacher materials and student materials sections of the social studies distance learning packets have been separated. The teacher materials have been [password protected](#) to help ensure only teachers have access to the answer keys.

In addition to the introductory webinar, [Using the Social Studies Distance Learning Packets](#), another webinar, [Using the Social Studies Distance Learning Packets for In-Person Instruction](#), has been posted on the Louisiana Believes YouTube channel under the Distance Learning playlist, and both are available on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#). This new webinar provides guidance on how to adapt the distance learning packets for in-person use in the classroom.

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

### **Social Studies Instructional Materials Updates**

An updated scope and sequence for the high school World Geography course will be released in early fall 2021 for use in the 2021-2022 school year. The new World Geography materials will be in 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](#).

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

## **SCIENCE RESOURCES**

### **Distance Learning Support for OpenSciEd and inquiryHub Biology**

To support school systems and teachers in ensuring continuous student engagement with high-quality science curriculum in fully remote or hybrid school models, the Department continues to release guidance for implementing OpenSciEd and inquiryHub in a remote learning setting on a [rolling schedule](#).

The first several OpenSciEd and inquiryHub units are available now. Recently published unit guidance includes OpenSciEd Forces at a Distance and inquiryHub Biology Unit 3 Bend 1. All units and additional resources appear on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#) in the Distance Learning Box.

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

## **EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Teacher Leader Summit Seat Allocation and Virtual Series**

The 2021 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 25–27 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Both the Department and the Convention Center are taking measures to protect the health and safety of all participants, and as a result, we will have a reduced overall capacity.

Due to social distancing parameters, the Department will allocate a specific allotment of seats to each school system and each early childhood lead agency for the in-person event. The Department will notify each school system of their total number of seats the week of December 14 via an email to the Superintendent/CAO.

Each school system will be issued a unique registration code for all tickets during the registration process. (**For example:** Pelican Parish is allocated 14 seats using the code ABC123!)

Registration for the Summit will occur in three phases:

- Early bird registration via allocation (January 8 through March 1)
- Regular registration via allocation (March 2 through April 12)
- First-come, first-serve registration for any remaining tickets (Opens April 13)

**Note:** Due to capacity constraints, there will be **no** onsite registration this year. All registrations must be completed in advance of arriving at the event.

It is up to each school system to determine the best path for distributing seats across their schools and educators. It is also a school system's choice to take advantage of early bird registration or wait until the session lists are publicly released on April 9, which is during the regular registration window. All allocated seats must be used to purchase tickets by **April 12**. Should any unused seats remain, the Department will open a first come, first served registration window on April 13. School systems will receive additional seats for Department-led pilot programs and initiatives, as necessary.

In addition to the in person Teacher Leader Summit, the Department will offer a Virtual Series Wednesday, June 2 - Friday, June 4. To assist school systems in disbursing tickets to the in-person Summit, the Department will publish in mid-December a one-pager outlining which topics will be delivered at the in-person event and which will be delivered during the Virtual Series the following week. Specific information regarding registering for the Virtual Series will be released later in the spring via normal communication channels.

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

### **2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest**

The Department is seeking inspiration for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators and students with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 5** to [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov). The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

### **Apply to Lead a Session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021**

Louisiana educators are invited to apply to lead a session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021. The application link is now open and can be found in the [Teacher Leader Library](#) under "2021 Teacher Leader Summit Materials". Applications are due by Wednesday, **January 6**.

While we welcome applications on all topics aligned to the Department's strategy, we are particularly eager to hear from the field on select topics listed in the application. Please be sure to read the application in full before you begin planning your session.

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

### **Green Ribbon School Awards: Entries being Accepted through December 31**

The Louisiana Department of Education is now accepting applications for those seeking nomination for the [2021 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#) (EDGRS) awards. These awards recognize schools, districts, colleges and universities that demonstrate a significant commitment to reduce environmental impacts; improve the health and wellbeing of students, faculty and staff; and provide effective environmental education programs. Applications, due by **December 31**, should be submitted to [environmentaleducation@la.gov](mailto:environmentaleducation@la.gov) as attachments in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Applications should be written in a narrative form documenting progress in the three pillars defined by [EDGRS](#).

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

### **Louisiana STEM Pathway Teacher Contact List**

The Department's STEM team is creating a statewide internal contact list of [Louisiana STEM Pathway](#) teachers. The contact list will be used to invite teachers to pathway-specific opportunities such as networking and professional development events. Teachers of STEM Pathway courses who are interested should complete this [form](#).

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

### **2021 Jump Start Virtual Convention**

[Registration](#) for the 2021 Jump Start Virtual Convention is now open. The Convention will be held on the afternoons of January 26 and 27 from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Reminders:

1. There is no group registration. There is a maximum of 1 registration per email.
2. After registration ends, all attendees will receive communication to select the sessions they will attend each day.
3. Please register early as we are expecting the Convention to sell out.

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

### **ACESSE Professional Learning Opportunity for Middle School Science Teachers**

This [Equitable Remote Learning Professional Learning Series](#) through CU Boulder and the [ACESSE](#) project is focused on creating more equitable learning experiences in science in the time of the pandemic. The

grant funded series is designed for middle school science and engineering teachers who are teaching remotely and offers compensation to participants up to \$425.

This series requires teachers to attend four 90-minute virtual sessions on January 21, February 4, February 18, and March 4, 2021 and to test equity strategies in the classroom in between those sessions. Teachers interested in participating should complete this application [form](#) by **December 31**.

Please contact [SEET@colorado.edu](mailto:SEET@colorado.edu) with questions.

## EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

### Teacher Leader Advisors Selected

Congratulations to all of the Louisiana educators who have been selected as [2020-2021 Teacher Leader Advisors](#)!

Teacher Leader Advisors play a critical role in creating tools and facilitating professional development for fellow Louisiana educators by creating instructional and assessment resources, such as the ELA Guidebooks and EAGLE items, participating in the Department's Instructional Materials Review process, and leading sessions at the Teacher Leader Collaboration Events and the annual Teacher Leader Summit.

Please contact [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with questions, or visit our [website](#).

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Student Essay Contest: NASA Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest

NASA, in partnership with Future Engineers, launched the [Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest](#). The content, which is open to all students in grades K-12, asks participants to imagine they are leading a one-week expedition to the Moon's South Pole. In the essay, students will need to describe to NASA what (and who) they would bring to help make their expedition a success.

Every student who submits an entry will receive a certificate from NASA and be invited to a special NASA virtual event with an astronaut! Semifinalists will be invited to represent their state in a series of Artemis Explorer session with NASA experts, nine finalists will travel with a parent to NASA's Johnson Space Center in 2021 to learn about lunar exploration, and the national winner in each grade division will win a family trip to see the first Artemis test launch from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida!

For full content details visit the [Moon Pod Essay Contest website](#). Entries are due no later than 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time on **December 17**. Read the full description of content rules at [Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest \("The Challenge"\) Rules](#).

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

### **Seeds to Success to Begin Seed Distribution in January 2021**

The **Seeds to Success** program will distribute seed packets to each school across the state beginning in January 2021. To request additional packets and gardening materials at no charge, create an account on the [Seeds to Success website](#). Your account will allow you to select and save growing guides and lesson plans specifically designed for use with the mailed seeds. Additionally, there is a Seeds to Success Facebook group to connect Louisiana teachers and gardeners in an open, interactive forum, to ask and answer gardening questions and exchange tips on lessons and activities.

**Seeds to Success** is a program that brings the garden into Louisiana classrooms with engaging educational materials related to agriculture and nutrition. The website and program support school gardens with practical growing information and lessons to integrate into both classroom and virtual learning. Seeds to Success is a branch of the LSU AgCenter Louisiana Farm to School Program in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education.

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

### **2020 Louisiana Farm to School Conference Sessions Available**

Recorded sessions from the [2020 Louisiana Farm to School Conference](#) are now available for viewing. Each session contains a link to watch the recording, a description of the session, speakers and their contact information, and resources to further the conference experience. The resources for each session include websites, activities, additional farm to school information, and tips on how to get involved in your community food system. The following sessions may be of particular interest to teachers: *Farm to School Garden Sustainability* and *Farm to School Education at Home*.

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

## **CONTACT US**

<b>For questions related to...</b>	<b>Contact:</b>
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>
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>
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>
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, Content Leaders, Mentor Teachers, and Teacher Leader Advisors	<a href="mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov">louisianateacherleaders@la.gov</a>