



December 2023



My name is Amanda Ingargiola. I am the Master Teacher at Patrick Taylor Science and Technology Academy, an advanced studies school in Jefferson Parish. In this role, I am fortunate to be able to support teachers through feedback, coaching, and professional learning.

My true passion is teaching English, and I am grateful that I still have the opportunity to teach one section of eighth grade English I. Three years ago, I became a [Teacher Leader Advisor](#) for the Louisiana Department of Education; I currently work on the [Instructional Materials Review](#) (IMR) team for secondary ELA. While I have learned a lot during my twenty years in education, I have learned a great deal more in my role as a TLA. Learning the intricacies of the rubric and objectively evaluating materials

has enabled me to broaden my knowledge of high school content by gaining a clearer understanding of the longitudinal nature of the curriculum. The IMR rubrics require TLAs to be critical of all aspects of a curriculum, from activities to questions to assessments. Doing this work as a TLA has helped me to recognize the difference between *materials that advance student learning* as opposed to those that simply reinforce what has already been learned. For these reasons, my role as a TLA has made me a stronger classroom practitioner and Master Teacher.

Every educator understands the importance of our students having the *highest quality instructional materials* in the classroom and how these materials will *prepare our students for success throughout their educational journey*. As a Teacher Leader Advisor, I have met and worked with incredible educators and administrators across the state. I encourage you to consider [applying](#) to become a Teacher Leader Advisor today!

In this Issue

- [Teacher Leader Summit](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [ELA Resources](#)
- [Social Studies Resources](#)
- [Math Resources](#)
- [Science Resources](#)
- [EdTech](#)
- [Educator Opportunities](#)
- [Educator Recognition](#)

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit

The 12th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held May 28-30, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. We are excited to begin “Leading the Next Level.”

The objectives for the Teacher Leader Summit are:

- to improve the everyday practice of educators in Louisiana by building their knowledge and skill in key areas related to their role.
- to provide opportunities for educators to collaborate and share best practices.
- to introduce high-quality strategies, resources, and professional learning aligned to the state priorities that can be adopted and scaled in schools and school systems across Louisiana.
- to foster a culture that celebrates and engages educators and empowers and inspires them to take on an even greater leadership role within their classrooms, schools, and school system.

Early Bird Registration opens January 5, on a first-come, first-served basis, and will close on **February 2**. Regular registration will open on February 3, and will close on **March 15**, or at sellout.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Presenters

The LDOE is looking for talented teacher leaders to apply to present sessions at this year’s Teacher Leader Summit. Presenter applications will open **January 5**, and will close **February 2**. Join one of the webinars on December 11 to learn more about the application process and how to serve as a presenter at Teacher Leader Summit 2024.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** December 11 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87335008474>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** (346) 248-7799
- **Webinar Meeting ID:** 873 3500 8474

- **Webinar Date/Time:** December 11 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87335008474>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** (346) 248-7799
- **Webinar Meeting ID:** 873 3500 8474

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

ACADEMICS

Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment will host the January session of the monthly webinar series on January 11. The focus of this session is Beyond Multiple Choice: How Can Teachers Use Quality Classroom Assessments? How Can Leaders Support the Use of Quality Classroom Assessments?

Each session in the [Effective Assessment Practices](#) series will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators—both leaders and classroom educators—to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in

school systems and classrooms. An optional question and answer session will take place immediately following the webinar. For your convenience, we will record the webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 11 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83183752599>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-931-3860
- **Webinar ID#:** 831 8375 2599
- **Passcode:** 817705

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Fluency Supports

The ELA team is partnering with educators across the state to create ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) unit-aligned fluency supports. The FUEL (Fluency Utilized to Engage Learners) materials are designed to provide intensive support for students performing well below benchmark on ELA assessments and/or foundational reading assessments.

The FUEL materials will be released on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) as they become available, with all materials available for use in the 2024-2025 school year. Review the [FUEL Overview](#) document for implementation guidance.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Professional Learning Series

The [ELA Professional Learning Series](#) now includes all updated sessions available for asynchronous professional learning. Complete this learning series to explore the interactive supports, updated mentor sentence and vocabulary activities in ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020), the newly released Let's Set the Context videos, and accelerating learning in ELA. View the videos to learn more about each resource, and incorporate this new information during instructional planning.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks Let's Set the Context Activities

Let's Set the Context activities aligned with the updated ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units are now available. The videos are located on each unit's homepage on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). Materials and implementation guidance are included in the appropriate activities throughout each unit. During instructional planning, consider how to utilize these resources to support student knowledge building around the substantive topics included in each unit.

Teacher Leader Advisors are currently developing Let's Set the Context activities to align to the ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) units and the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) development 6 units. These activities will be available as the new units are released throughout the spring.

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 learning opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [Twitter](#).

Upcoming Events:

- [Louisiana Library Association Conference 2024](#): March 10-12 in Shreveport, LA.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

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

All grade 3 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 6 units will be published by January 18.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

FLAME: Unit 2 is Now Posted

[Foundational Lessons to Accelerate Math Education](#) (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. Units 1 and 2 are now posted, and Unit 3 posts in January. To learn more, reference the recording of the [FLAME kickoff webinar](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

High School Science Regional Professional Learning

To support learning acceleration in high school science, the LDOE is hosting a series of professional learning sessions in early January for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics teachers. These in-person, two-day sessions will take place in five regions across the state and will be open to any teacher planning to implement at least one of the [OpenSciEd high school pilot units](#) in the spring of 2024. To request a seat in this training, please complete the [registration form](#) by **December 19**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Kami Update

Add some tech sparkle to the classroom with Kami! Kami will be available to all K-12 students in the 2024-2025 school year. The rollout is now in full swing, and licenses are being distributed as school systems sign up. It's time to get digital!

Professional learning opportunities will be shared in future communications. Additional information about Kami and tutorials are now available on [Kami's website](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Chromebook Care Resources

The LDOE recently published two resources designed to empower students with Chromebook care knowledge and best practices. These resources are particularly relevant to foster a culture of responsible technology usage among learners.

- [Chromebook Care Guidance](#)
- [K-5 Chromebook Care](#)

Both of these resources and more educational technology integration information can be found on the [Digital Learning web page](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - Now Open

Are you looking to expand your influence beyond your classroom and get paid in the process? Have you ever considered attaining a leadership role or engaging in work that reaches students and teachers across the state? Our [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) are highly motivated educators who work alongside the LDOE team to support the mission and vision of the Louisiana Department of Education. TLAs serve an essential role in supporting key priorities by creating resources for teachers, engaging in work that allows them to develop their understanding of curricula, and providing training for teachers. Teacher Leader Advisors are paid for the work they complete, and the experience allows educators to expand their positive impact beyond the classroom. Learn more about [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) today! [Applications](#) for the 2024-2025 Teacher Leader Advisors are now open and close on **January 12**. Educators are not required to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Nominations are now open for the 2024 [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#) (PAEMST). 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 K-6. [Nominations](#) close on **January 8**.

Please contact info@paemst.org or STEM@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact
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