

# TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



**April 2019**



My name is Jodi Sanchez, and I teach 7th grade science at Lusher Charter Middle School in Orleans Parish, in addition to serving as the science instructional council chair for my science department. I have taught for twenty years in three different states, and I can say at this point in my career that there could be no better time for science to shine in our state and nation!

Last summer, I attended an [OpenSciEd](#) professional development, a project that is building out a full middle school curriculum. The layout and sequencing of the OpenSciEd units are very unique. Each lesson builds as part of a coherent storyline and strategically helps students use the three-dimensions of the science standards to understand real-world phenomena.

During the training, I learned how to incorporate specific tools and classroom routines embedded in the curriculum, such as the driving question board, to support [phenomenon-based instruction](#). A driving question board is an instructional tool that I use together with students to gather and organize students' questions about phenomena. These questions serve to help us navigate future lessons and investigations to uncover new ideas that deepen and refine our understanding of big ideas of the unit of study. The driving question board has been very beneficial in my classroom because my students can continuously pose and answer questions as they figure out how and why phenomena occur in the real-world. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing my students' excitement, frustration, and overall engagement as they eagerly attempt to make sense of phenomena that is relevant and meaningful to them. They've had several ah-ha moments- you know those, where the light bulb turns on, and they shout out loud, "I get it!"

I look forward to this year's Teacher Leader Summit 2019 experience! Science educators will have the opportunity to attend specialized tracks, such as the OpenSciEd initial trainings for middle school teachers, to deepen understanding of how to utilize high-quality resources to support mastery of the middle school performance expectations. Such specialized science tracks centered around high quality instructional materials will be offered for each grade band. I hope that I meet some of you there.

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## TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

### **2019 Teacher Leader Summit**

The [Teacher Leader Summit](#) is an annual celebration of Louisiana's educators. This year's event will take place **June 26–28**, at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans and will equip educators in every level of the system with tools and training that provide all students the opportunity to:

- build knowledge of the world;
- read meaningful texts;
- express ideas through writing and speaking;
- solve complex math problems; and
- attend a school that treats them with dignity and respect.

Please **register for the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit by June 14**. Review the [Summit overview](#) for more details, including the link to register. The **Department will release the session list and mobile app at the end of April** through a special edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter.

**T-shirts for the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit are now on sale** featuring the winning design inspiration by Michelle Johnson, teacher at Montegut Elementary School in Terrebonne Parish.

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

### **Support for Diverse Learners**

Effective collaboration around a common set of expectations for student learning is essential to the success of diverse learners. In order to collaborate effectively, all teachers— including general education teachers, special education teachers, and ESL teachers— must share a deep understanding of both the curriculum and the tools and resources available to support diverse learners. This year's Teacher Leader Summit is designed to support collaborative adult learning across grades and content areas. ELA and math tracks will highlight curriculum-specific supports and instructional strategies that assist diverse learners within that curriculum so that all teachers will leave with common tools and a plan to support all students. As you plan your Teacher Leader Sessions, register for the track that fits closest to the grade level(s) and/or subject area(s) that you support. Also, consider attending with a general education colleague so that your combined learning can have the most impact upon your return to school.

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

## ELA

Pre-registered tracks will be available at this year's Teacher Leader Summit to ensure that each ELA teacher receives the content that is most beneficial for successful curriculum implementation in the 2019-2020 school year.

- **Day 1:** Sessions will focus on incorporating complex texts, building knowledge, and using formative assessment.
- **Day 2:** Sessions will focus on topics such as understanding unit design and making sound instructional decisions that maximize student learning. These sessions will be curriculum specific.
- **Day 3:** Sessions will focus on collaborative planning for the next school year to support the needs of diverse learners.

The session list will be released at the end of April through a special edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Teachers are encouraged to register for the Summit track that aligns most closely with their grade-band and Tier 1 curriculum.

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

## Math

Agile Mind, College Board (Springboard), Great Minds (Eureka Math), Illustrative Mathematics, JUMP Math, Patterson Geometry, and Zearn will be present at Teacher Leader Summit to support implementation of high quality curriculum. Pre-registered tracks will be divided into grade-bands and will focus on three key areas for teachers:

- **Initial curriculum implementation:** Curriculum-specific sessions will focus on the basics of effective implementation, key curriculum components, planning through lesson annotation, and a deep dive into curriculum lessons.
- **Advanced curriculum implementation:** These curriculum-specific sessions are designed for experienced users of the Tier 1 curriculum. Learning will focus on planning for individualized instruction, supporting student-led mathematical conversations, and understanding the connections between curriculum and LEAP 2025 assessment item types.
- **Support for diverse learners:** Participants will learn research-proven methods for supporting students who persistently struggle in math. Learning will include an overview of supports, a deep dive into supporting diverse learners, and strategies for effective remediation to support mastery of on-grade-level math standards.

The session list will be released at the end of April through a special edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter.

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## Social Studies

Three full-day, pre-registered sessions focusing on social studies content will be presented at this year's Teacher Leader Summit.

- **Social Studies 101:** This day of sessions is targeted at grades 3-8 and U.S. History and is focused around how to use the Companion Documents and Scope and Sequences, assessment resources, and LEAP 2025 rubrics to support instruction. Participants that attended similar sessions at the 2018 Summit or Collaborations, as well as other grades/courses, should advance to Social Studies 201.
- **Social Studies 201:** This day of sessions explores how to establish and manage an inquiry-based classroom in social studies. For grades 3-8 or US History, participants should attend Social Studies 101 (or have past experience with similar professional development) prior to attending Social Studies 201; there is no prerequisite for other grades/courses.
- **Social Studies 301:** This day of sessions engages participants in a guided inquiry process to answer the compelling question: How do we improve social studies instruction in Louisiana? Participants must have completed Social Studies 201 on a previous day of Summit to attend Social Studies 301.

The session list will be released at the end of April through a special edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## Science

Several full-day, pre-registered sessions focusing on science content will be presented at this year's Summit.

- **Teaching and Learning to Meet the Science Standards in Grades K-2:** This full day session will engage participants in exploring key features of 3-dimensional science and specific strategies for bringing Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) to life at the elementary grades through resources Teacher Leader presenters have co-created and adapted to align with LSSS. Participants will engage in several hands-on learning experiences from a student perspective.
- **Great Minds PhD Science Launch Trainings for Grades 3, 4, and 5:** In these 2-day sessions, participants will experience a PhD Science Module from a student perspective and develop knowledge of the curriculum's intentional design. This session will also offer an opportunity for participants to practice key components of successful lesson delivery.
- **OpenSciEd Initial Trainings for Grades 6, 7, and 8:** These 3-day sessions begin the day before the Teacher Leader Summit (Tuesday, June 25) and are designed to prepare teachers to implement high quality, three-dimensional science instruction through a deep dive into one of the open-sourced OpenSciEd Units. Participants will deepen understanding of specific classroom routines and instructional approaches to support student sensemaking and discovery and will learn strategies to promote productive and equitable science discourse.
- **Inquiry Hub in Biology Initial Training:** This 2-day session is designed to prepare Biology teachers to implement high quality, three-dimensional science instruction utilizing the open-sourced Inquiry Hub (iHub) materials. Participants will engage in key learning experiences from a student perspective and will also offer critical debriefing and discussion from a teacher perspective through a deep dive into an Inquiry Hub Unit. Participants can expect to deepen their understanding of the central role of phenomena and Science and Engineering Practices in building a coherent storyline.

The session list will be released at the end of April through a special edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter.

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## SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

### **Supporting Students with Significant Disabilities**

Instructional and assessment guidance, materials, and resources dedicated to the support of students with significant cognitive disabilities can now be accessed from the new [Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#) tab on the Louisiana Believes website.

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

## SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

### **EAGLE**

LEAP 2025 Practice Test assessment items have been added to EAGLE for grades 3-8 and U.S. History. (Note: The technology enhanced items associated with these sets are not available in EAGLE.)

For a complete listing of the social studies item sets in EAGLE, including alignments to Scope and Sequence units, see the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#).

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

## SCIENCE RESOURCES

### **LEAP 2025 Science Reporting Information**

Please share with science teachers and supervisors.

The LEAP 2025 science assessment guides, in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#), have been updated to include information about how student performance on the new science assessments will be reported. The new reporting categories support the multidimensionality and depth of the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#). The reporting categories and general descriptions are provided below; for more specific information, please access each grade-level LEAP 2025 science assessment guide.

1. Investigate: Students will ask questions, define problems, and plan investigations.
2. Evaluate: Students will analyze and interpret data, use mathematics and computational thinking, and engage in argument from evidence.
3. Reason Scientifically: Students will develop and use models, construct explanations, and design solutions.

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

## Science Curriculum Updates

As school systems consider science curriculum for the 2019-2020 school year, the following high quality options are closely aligned to the standards.

Grades	Options
K-2	Option 1: Use the <a href="#">scope and sequence documents</a> Option 2: Carolina Building Blocks of Science 3D ( <a href="#">Tier 2</a> )
3-5	Option 1: Great Minds PhD Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 4 earned a <a href="#">Tier 1 rating</a></li> <li>Grades 3 and 5 will be finished in late spring 2019 and will be submitted for <a href="#">Instructional Materials Review</a> at that time.</li> </ul> Option 2: Carolina Building Blocks of Science 3D ( <a href="#">Tier 2</a> )
6-8	OpenSciEd (open sourced) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spring 2019: scope and sequence documents will be updated with sample implementation calendars</li> <li>12 of 18 (66 percent) units released in 2019-2020</li> <li>18 of 18 (100 percent) units released in 2020-2021</li> <li>Will submit for <a href="#">Instructional Materials Review</a> in 2021</li> </ul>
HS	Biology: Inquiry Hub (IHub) (open sourced) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linked in <a href="#">scope and sequence documents</a></li> <li>Submitted for <a href="#">Instructional Materials Review</a></li> </ul>

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

## EAGLE

The following item sets have been added to EAGLE for science:

Grade	Passage Name	PE Alignment	Passage ID Number	Item ID Numbers
3	Gr3_Bowling	3-PS2-1 3-PS2-2	136089	1022699, 1022700, 1022701, 1022702, 1023015
4	Gr4_Hurricanes	4-ESS2-1 4-PS4-1	130061	1022404, 1022407, 1022408, 1022409, 1022412
4	Sierra Nevada	4-ESS1-1 4-ESS2-2	136150	1022790, 1022792, 1022794, 1022797, 1022799
5	Biomes	5-LS1-1 5-ESS3-1	136183	1022930, 1022933, 1022934, 1022935

10	Wolves	HS-LS2-1 HS-LS2-6	136275	1023275, 1023279, 1023280, 1023281, 1023282
HS Physical Science	Electromagnetic Radiation	HS-PS4-1 HS-PS4-4	136151	1022819, 1022820, 1022821, 1022823

For a complete listing of the science items in EAGLE, see the Appendix of [A Teacher’s Guide to LEAP 360](#).

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

## EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

### **Teacher Leader Advisor Applications: Now Open**

The Department is searching for **highly-motivated educators** to support the mission and vision of the Department’s Office of Academic Content. You **do not** need to be a school-site Teacher Leader in order to apply.

Becoming a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA) not only allows educators to expand their positive impact by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators, but it also provides an opportunity to deepen and refine their leadership skills, learn about key priorities and projects at the Department, and develop their understanding of curricula and teacher training.

Here’s what current TLAs have to say about their experience:

“Being a Teacher Leader Advisor has **ignited my interest in teaching** and is extremely rewarding. **Building relationships with other teachers** from across the state to provide resources is an enriching professional development experience. I enjoy having academic conversations with other individuals who care deeply about the work that we do.”

“My favorite thing about my experience as a TLA is the **growth and confidence I received** from this experience. This program has allowed me to **understand the standards deeper** and **makes me more reflective about my instruction**, which impacts my students. I highly recommend this to every educator!”

“It’s just about **the best thing I’ve ever done as an educator**. The opportunities to collaborate with state leaders and high-quality classroom teachers have changed my classroom instruction **in ways that almost no other method could have done.**”

There is a specific need for expert educators in the areas of **early literacy, intervention specialist, and K-12 science**. We also need **K-12 teachers across ELA and math** content areas. **Special education teachers** who specialize in these areas are also encouraged to apply.

Apply now to be a [Teacher Leader Advisor](#)!

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

### **Complete Surveys to Participate in Educator Review Committees**

The Assessment Development Team with the Office of Academic Policy and Analytics is recruiting for educator review committees scheduled to convene May through August. Interested teachers need to access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees](#) document in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#) to learn specific information about the review committees convening for 2019. This document includes links to surveys for each committee that teachers should complete in order to be considered for participation.

Survey closing dates:

- **April 26** for June committees and science standard setting committees
- **May 15** for July committees
- **July 5** for August committees

Please share this information with other teachers in your school system, including teachers of special education (students with disabilities and significant disabilities), visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, and English learners. Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **2019-2020 Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Nominations**

The Department is collecting nominations for the 2019-2020 Mentor Teacher and Content Leader training. The [nomination template](#) and guidance are available to schools and school systems in both the [Mentor Teacher](#) and [Content Leader](#) libraries. **The deadline to submit nominations is April 18.**

All nominations must be submitted by school systems or charter schools, so interested teachers are encouraged to contact their school principal and/or school system contact to let them know about their interest in this training.

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

### **Jump Start Super Summer Institute**

Super Summer Institute (SSI) will be offered regionally across the state to secondary and post-secondary educators. SSI provides educators the opportunity to attend training sessions and earn statewide industry-based certifications aligned to Jump Start pathways. **Registration closes on April 26.**

**The registration links below offer additional information about the sessions offered at each location. Click on each location for more information and for registration.**

- [NEMSA](#): May 6-July 19
- [Lafourche](#): June 10-15
- [Calcasieu](#): June 10-15
- [Bossier](#): July 15-19
- [Operation Spark](#): July 15-26
- [Livingston](#): July 22-26
- [New Orleans](#): July 22-26

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

## PRINCIPALS' CORNER

### Teacher Leader Summit: Track for Principals

This year's [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will equip educators in every level of the system with tools and training that provide all students the opportunity to:

- build knowledge of the world;
- read meaningful texts;
- express ideas through writing and speaking;
- solve complex math problems; and
- attend a school that treats them with dignity and respect.

New to the Summit this year will be a session track specific to CIR/UIR-A principals in helping them develop and implement strong school-based academic plans. These principals will receive a stipend to attend in their school system's April Super App Allocation.

The track will include:

- a 2019-2020 academic strategy session introducing the principal learning series;
- curriculum-based trainings across grades for ELA and math; and
- sessions on how to use Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers.

Principals from non-CIR and UIR-A schools will be able to attend sessions offered as part of track as space allows.

The session list will be released at the end of April through a special edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter.

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

### Principal Fellowship/NISL Orientation

The orientation session for the 5th cohort of the Louisiana Principal Fellowship/NISL will be offered at two times and locations. Confirmed Principal Fellowship/NISL participants for the 2019-2020 school year should plan on attending **one** of the two orientation sessions:

- **June 13** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Alexandria
- **June 25** from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Convention Center in New Orleans (*Day prior to Teacher Leader Summit*)

Confirmed cohort members will receive further details for orientation in the coming weeks, including the schedule, cohort locations, and calendars for the remainder of the Fellowship.

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

### 2018-2019 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

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.

**April 8-April 18 (2 weeks): CVR Open for View-only:** During this time, users can view and check the roster data for accuracy but **cannot** make changes in the system. The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a district must correct in the source data systems.

**May 6-May 17 (2 weeks): CVR Open for Roster Verification:** This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers use the system to track verification completion at the district and school level.

An [updated user guide for CVR](#) is available.

Please contact the CVR help desk, [ldoecvr@la.gov](mailto:ldoecvr@la.gov) with questions regarding roster verification. Please contact the Compass help desk, [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov), with general Compass related questions.

### **Important Changes to Educator Certification Applications**

The Department processes over 4,000 certification questions and applications per month. In order to better serve school systems, the Department recommends the following:

- Use [Teach LA Live!](#) to submit both applications and questions to the Certification Team.
- While school system leaders may contact the Certification Team at any time at [certification@la.gov](mailto:certification@la.gov), they may **schedule office hours in the online portal for a guaranteed time to discuss specific certification questions.**
  - Please include **name and contact number** when scheduling.

To increase efficiency, **the Department will no longer accept paper applications after May 1.**

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

## **CONTACT US**

- For questions about instructional support and resources including LEAP 360 and EAGLE, contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov).
- For questions related to the Teacher Leaders, Content Leaders, Mentor Teachers, and Teacher Leader Advisors, contact [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov).
- For questions about registration for the Teacher Leader Summit, contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov).
- For questions about assessments and related supports, contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- For questions about the Educational Leader licensure policy update, contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).
- For questions about the Collaborations, contact [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov).
- For questions about the PD Vendor Guide, contact [louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov](mailto:louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov).
- For questions about the Behavior Intervention Summit, contact [behaviorintervention@la.gov](mailto:behaviorintervention@la.gov).
- For questions about Jump Start, contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).
- For questions about Compass, contact [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov).

- For questions about AP courses and exams contact [collegereadiness@la.gov](mailto:collegereadiness@la.gov).
- For questions about teacher certification, contact [certification@la.gov](mailto:certification@la.gov).