

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



A Resource to Inform and Celebrate
Louisiana's Building-Level Leaders



March 24, 2022

In This Issue

- [Principal Corner](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Educator Recognition](#)
- [Educator Opportunities](#)
- [Student Opportunities](#)
- [Principal Appreciation & Shout Outs](#)
- [Principal Newsletter Signup](#)
- [Dates to Consider](#)

Principal Corner



In what is likely the most challenging time to be an educator, thousands of us still wake up every morning to do the most important job on this planet-educating and cultivating the minds of children. The key component in that cultivation is an awesome classroom teacher. On my campus, in the City of Baker School District, and in the state of Louisiana, the applicant pool of certified or qualified teachers has been shallow. As campus leaders, we must work tirelessly to create a culture on our campuses that promotes positivity and hope that it is enough to make your teachers want to remain in your building.

The subject of teacher retention and teacher recruitment seems to be at the forefront of the minds of all campus and district leaders. In the City of Baker School System, the subject of retention and recruitment was made a bit easier this school year because of a \$6,000 stipend which was awarded to all teachers. Support staff also received a stipend. In addition, the district offered \$3,000 for employees who were new to the district. In a small, low paying district, these stipends and bonuses meant the difference between being fully staffed or not. It also made us competitive with surrounding districts. It is known that one of the reasons teachers leave the profession is compensation. The stipend can get them to the door; the way they are treated once they are there will keep them.

Another factor as to why teachers leave the profession is the lack of teacher development. Because of this, teachers have also been offered excellent opportunities to attend professional development conferences. This has been another exciting incentive to retain our already dedicated staff.

The third recruitment and retention strategy that has been used on my campus is creating adequate working conditions. In this unprecedented time of the pandemic, there are small adjustments which can be made that will allow your staff to feel as they should-that they have the greatest task given to man. At

Baker Heights we ensure that our teachers have daily duty-free planning time as well as weekly professional collaboration time to collaborate with grade-level colleagues. Additionally, we utilize a staff PBIS plan with rewards and incentives for our teachers that include free dress days, principal duty coverage, and more. Our educators are so valuable and it's time that we use any means necessary to recruit the young and gifted while keeping the veterans on board.

Principal, LaQuisha Comeaux, Baker Heights Elementary, City of Baker School District

Announcements

Principal Webinar Series

In March's Practicing Principal Webinar series, the LDOE will partner with Teach for America for this month's topic of effectively recruiting and retaining highly effective teachers. Please note that this webinar will only last for 1 hour.

- Webinar Date/Time: March 28 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link:
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Aspiring Principal Fellowship

In order to prepare future principals for success in their first year as a principal, the Aspiring Principal Fellowship will support the development of aspiring school leaders across the state. The Louisiana Department of Education launched a pilot cohort in 2021-2022 for aspiring principals and is expanding the Aspiring Principal Fellowship for the 2022-2023 school year. The fellowship will prepare up to 50 individuals with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role. This selective statewide fellowship is rooted in Louisiana's five priorities:

1. Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.
2. Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.
3. Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.
4. Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.
5. Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

APF cohort participants will meet monthly (Orientation at Teacher Leader Summit, commencing monthly in September) and explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, and reflection. Participants will exit this fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems need to cover the cost of the \$1000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than April 30.

Additional information in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Interests and Opportunities Preliminary Guidance

The preliminary Interests and Opportunities guidance has been published in the [Accountability Library](#). This guidance includes the menu, course codes, and general timeline information. Between now and June, information may be added to the guidance. Nothing will be removed from the menu or course offerings. A final guidance document will be published in June 2022.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

CLASS® Train-the-TrainerFunding Opportunity

During the 2022-2023 school year, schools are encouraged to choose CLASS® or NIET (TAP/Best Practices) as an option to replace Compass for [K-2 Professional Practice](#).

Maintaining trained, certified observers is an important component sustaining the use of CLASS® in K-2. Funding is available for the [CLASS® Observer Train-the-Trainer](#) model for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools. At the school system level, the Train-the-Trainer model will allow school system leaders to build and sustain a cadre of certified observers. Systems who wish to apply for this opportunity should complete the [K-2 Professional Practice Information Survey](#) no later than **April 1, 2022**. It will be used to help allocate seats for affiliate trainers.

For more information, email lori.pennison@la.gov.

CIS End of Year Closeout for Teacher Evaluations

The Department has issued a [CIS Timeline](#) to guide all school systems through the evaluation process deadlines for the 2021-2022 school year. To create a streamlined teacher evaluation upload process at the end of the year, it is recommended that all sites complete the following tasks in CIS:

- Updated rosters to reflect only 2021-2022 educators
- Assigned evaluators and correct evaluation types to each educator
- Assigned SLTs to each educator

The Compass Information System (CIS) will shut down for the 2021-2022 school year on September 1, 2022. Following this date, no teacher evaluation data for the 2021-2022 school year will be able to be amended or added. Please prepare to complete the following no later than August 26, 2022, in [CIS](#):

- Rate both SLTs for teachers and staff
- Enter professional practice scores for teachers and staff (A reminder that any teacher scoring a 2.5 or above is only required to have one professional practice score for the 2021-2022 school year only. This will be entered two times to ensure the CIS average is correct. Further guidance will be forthcoming.)
- Once data is uploaded, finalize teacher evaluations

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Teacher Funding Increase for 2021-2022

The Department has determined that Mentors supporting **year-long undergraduate residents** in the 2021-2022 school year will receive a \$1,800 stipend, instead of the usual \$1,000 stipend. These funds will be added to school system allocations in eGMS. School systems should have received an email with details regarding the Mentor allocations the week of March 7.

This additional funding is for **one year only**, based on availability of funds.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Events

Teacher Leader Summit 2022: Making a Comeback!

The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held May 31 – June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both “Making a Comeback” and our 10th year for this event. [Regular registration](#) will close on April 15 or at sellout. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

Based on participant feedback, enhancements have been made to the Teacher Leader Summit:

- Improved event app that allows networking with other attendees, Whova
- Increased registration value by including t-shirts and tote bags in the ticket price
- Networking opportunities throughout the event, including evening socials
- Length of day adjusted to meet the needs of participants

The Education Expo returns with high quality professional learning partners and nonprofit organizations.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Resources

ELA RESOURCES

Resources for School Librarians

LASL (Louisiana Association of School Librarians) will be hosting a [professional development](#) opportunity on April 30 at 8:30 a.m. at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge.

Please join the LASL [mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on additional professional development opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [Twitter](#).

Additional Resources:

- [LASL February Newsletter](#)
- [LASL 5 Minute Tips](#)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Teacher Collaboration Webinars

The Department is hosting webinars to support teachers and leaders in implementing Teacher Collaboration structures in conjunction with the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units. The Department will host one call for leaders and another call for teachers.

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Teacher Collaboration \(2022\) Webinar](#) for **Leaders** to learn about implementing structures to support teacher collaboration around ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 25 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98066162412?pwd=WUttU2s4RXk3bmFKVmROZ1pDTjZFdz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID #:** 980 6616 2412
- **Passcode:** 080812

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Teacher Collaboration \(2022\) Webinar](#) for **Teachers** to learn about unit planning and data analysis structures to implement during Teacher Collaboration meetings in conjunction with ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 25 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99737516262?pwd=OEQwR3F0aXpXZ2dCTkJHVzBqbHhHdz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID #:** 997 3751 6262
- **Passcode:** 280030

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Analyzing Mid-Year Data Guidance

The Department's Literacy Division has released a set of resources to support teachers and leaders with analyzing mid-year literacy screener data. These resources can be accessed in the [Literacy Library](#) under the Literacy Goals pillar.

The resources include:

- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data to Maximize Impact](#) with [slide deck](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - Screener Support Guide](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - School Reflection Guide and Action Plan](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - School and Teacher Scenarios](#)
- [Analyzing Mid-Year Data - Scenarios with Ideal Responses](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

New Phonological Awareness Activities Released

The Instruction, Intervention, and Extension section of the [Literacy Library](#) now has three sets of phonological awareness activity cards. These activity card sets increase in challenge level and provide a bank of activities that can be done anywhere - in the classroom, in the hallway, while waiting on the bus, or waiting in the cafeteria line. The activity card sets include engaging multi-sensory activities to build phonological awareness skills in students. [Card Set 1](#) and [Card Set 2](#) include mostly single syllable words with some blends and vowel teams, while [Card Set 3](#) adds in additional blends and multi-syllable words. These activities are suitable for students at any grade level that may be learning new skills or need additional support.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Middle and High School Professional Development Series

A new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy is being released weekly on Tuesdays in the [Literacy Library](#). Beginning with an introduction to the science of reading and how it connects to middle and high school instruction, recorded sessions will include topics designed to build knowledge around implementing literacy strategies and best practices across all content areas in the middle and high school grades. The first seven sessions have already been recorded and added to the library. Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a listing of session titles, descriptions, and release dates.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Revised OpenSciEd Pilot Resources

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with piloting the OpenSciEd middle school courses, the Department updates guidance resources as revised public units are released. The last three units in the middle school courses for OpenSciEd were released this month:

- Cells and Systems, Unit 6 on the [Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd Grade 6](#);
- Natural Resources and Human Impact, Unit 5 on the [Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd Grade 8](#); and
- Natural Selection and Common Ancestry, Unit 7 on the [Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd Grade 8](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New and Updated Resources for K-12 Science Planning

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with science planning, the Department has released new science resources and updated existing resources, all of which are on [K-12 Science Planning Page](#).

New resources include:

- [Grade 6 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify](#)
- [Grade 8 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Amplify](#)

The following resources have been updated to include alignment with curricula that recently earned a Tier 1 rating:

- [Grade 6 Science Eagle Assessment Items](#)
- [Grade 8 Science Eagle Assessment Items](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Standards Approved by BESE

On December 14, 2021, BESE charged the Department with reviewing public comment in order to submit a refined set of standards to BESE in March. Public comment for the most recent draft of standards was open from February 8 to February 22. The refined draft and public comment received was presented to and approved by BESE at the Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee on March 8.

[Initial implementation guidance](#) for the 2022 social studies standards has been posted to the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). Additional guidance will be provided in future communications.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Accelerate Math Updates

[Accelerate Math](#) resources are built for teachers and tutors as proactive support for upcoming classroom content in order to ensure students' readiness for grade level mathematics.

[Accelerate Math](#) tutoring resources for use during the academic year include

- Acceleration Tools, which function as screeners to diagnose unfinished learning ahead of a topic of instruction;
- Google Slides for teachers and/or tutors to plan for and deliver individualized supports; and
- Tutoring Exit Tickets to monitor student understanding.

For systems implementing tutoring as part of a Summer Learning Program, please see the [Accelerate Math Summer Learning](#) guidance.

In an effort to continually improve [Accelerate Math](#) resources, updates will be made this summer. Complete the [Accelerate Math feedback](#) form to help shape future updates and improvements. The Department is seeking content-strong math educators interested in contributing to this work, and [applications](#) are now open.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EdTech

Digital Learning Email Launch

The Department is excited to announce the Digital Learning inbox where teachers, leaders, and coaches can send questions regarding using technology to facilitate learning.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Google Docs Update

Citations can now automatically be added in Google Docs by searching for a text's ISBN number. This is a time saver for students and teachers utilizing Google Docs for research documents. View [this](#) quick demo to see how this tool can benefit your classroom.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Educator Recognition

New Teacher Of the Year Finalists

The Department is excited to announce the nine finalists for the *New Teacher of the Year* award. These amazing educators have demonstrated excellence in their very first year in the classroom. Finalists will participate in an interview process, and the overall New Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Dream Teachers gala in late July. Please congratulate this outstanding group of new teachers.

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Elementary | Riley Benjamin | West Baton Rouge |
| Elementary | Ally Coburn | Ouachita |
| Elementary | Charli Hauk | Avoyelles |
| Middle | Juliana Habisreitinger | West Feliciana |
| Middle | Annanaquia Smith | Rapides |
| Middle | Jamie Young | Calcasieu |
| High | Robert Daly | Collegiate Academy |
| High | Rachel Ryan | Bossier |
| High | Jordyn Vicknair | Ascension |

Department Names the 2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists

The Department is proud to announce the [2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists will be honored at the *16th Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala* that will be held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans on the evening of July 30, 2022. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Three Louisiana Educators Receive National Milken Educator Awards

This month, three exceptional Louisiana educators were named as national [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients. Each received an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize during surprise school assemblies.

The recipients were Laura Laiche of East Feliciana Parish, Jay Weisman of Benjamin Franklin High School, and Marco French of Caddo Parish.

[Learn more about recipient Laura Laiche.](#)

[Learn more about recipient Jay Weisman.](#)

[Learn more about recipient Marco French.](#)

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

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

Congratulations to Louisiana educator Stephanie Gullage for receiving a [2020 PAEMST award](#) for Grades K-6 Mathematics! This award is the nation's highest honor for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Stephanie has been a teacher for 29 years and has taught math from third grade to high school advanced levels.

At the time of the award, Stephanie was teaching gifted/academy mathematics at R.K. Smith Middle in Luling where she has been for seventeen years. In her time there, she has held several leadership roles including Mathematics Department Chair. Over the course of her career, she has received numerous awards including school and district level teacher of the year.

Stephanie believes that “mathematics is for everyone” and takes pride in her work with students in “[...] developing them as thinkers, and empowering them as problem solvers.”

Congratulations, Stephanie! We celebrate this well-deserved honor!

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

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

Congratulations to Louisiana educator James "Robbie" Evans, for receiving a [2020 PAEMST award](#) for Grades K-6 Science! This award is the nation's highest honor for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Robbie has been a teacher for 10 years at his alma mater, Sterlington Middle School, where he currently teaches sixth grade science and received the honor of Teacher of the Year in 2017.

Robbie's many years of experience as a journalist laid a foundation for teaching effective writing in science. He currently serves in a district-wide cohort aimed at improving student reading and writing skills. Robbie credits phenomenon-based, collaborative classroom experiences and activities involving science practices like modeling and investigations for keeping students engaged.

Robbie believes that “students deserve teachers who work every day toward excellence” and acknowledges that the PAEMST award demonstrates his own dedication, as well as the support from others, that has allowed him to “[...] continue to grow as a science teacher.”

Congratulations, Robbie! We celebrate this well-deserved honor!

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Opportunities

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast

[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.

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.

Jump Start Training Catalog

The [Jump Start Training Catalog](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available this summer. Please note that it is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed. School systems can submit training opportunities and/or training requests to erica.spencer@la.gov for review.

Training registration and associated costs for sessions are handled directly between the registrant(s) and the provider; not to LDOE. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration costs.

The catalog includes virtual, in-person, and hybrid training options for many IBCs on the State Focus list.

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application Deadline Extended

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting [applications](#) for up to forty one-time \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarship is geared toward students who have a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, and plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

[Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 20.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

STEM Teacher Micro-Credentialing Opportunity for High School Educators

The Department has received an Education Innovation and Research grant from the U.S. Department of Education to research and develop a new mechanism to provide high-quality professional support and one of the nation's first credentialing systems to recognize the expertise of STEM teachers. The Department is currently recruiting Louisiana high school teachers to be a part of this development and study. This opportunity is open to teachers who are currently teaching or plan to teach coursework within the Pre-Engineering or Digital Design and Emergent Media high school [STEM Pathways](#).

In addition to a stipend for participation, teachers selected to participate in the study will

- receive additional support on the execution of best practices for facilitating project-based STEM learning;
- create a virtual portfolio to reflect on their practices, analyze and critique lessons taught, examine and try new teaching practices, and use data driven instruction to maximize student outcomes; and
- have opportunities to strengthen expertise through collaborative online cohorts and individual feedback from experienced STEM educators.

Please visit the [research project information page](#) for more information or contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators

Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed psychologists or therapists through your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

What can we treat? Addiction, Adolescent Counseling, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, Attention Deficit, Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Depression and Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss Counseling, Insomnia, Marriage and Family Counseling, Postpartum Depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Work-related Stress

Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com and enter **Service Key: LDOE; Coupon Code: TEACH**

Please email anywherecare@ochsner.org or for 24/7 technical support, call 855-667-9711.

Student Opportunities

Science Camp Opportunity for Graduating Seniors

The [National Youth Science Camp](#) (NYSCamp) is a virtual program available to STEM enthusiasts graduating between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Students from around the country are challenged academically and given the opportunity to meet STEM professionals. Two students are selected to represent each state and Washington, D.C. at no cost to the students, schools, or districts. Students may apply through **March 31**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Principal Appreciation

Take a minute to send a shout-out of appreciation to a colleague who is a building-level leader using this [survey link](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

Shout Outs:

Hannah Fontenot from Kinder Elementary School in Allen Parish: "Mrs. Hannah has offered me guidance and support (and even a shoulder to cry on at times) in my first year as a Master Teacher. She understands my struggles and builds my confidence daily." *Submitted by Alana Tramel*

Richard Dewees from J.I. Barron Elementary School in Rapides Parish: "Mr. Dewees is encouraging, competitive, motivating, all the while inspiring greatness among our faculty, staff, and students! J.I. Barron is a fabulous place to be!!" *Submitted by Rose Johnson*

Dr. Joy Abernathy-Dyer from Villa del Rey in East Baton Rouge Parish: "Dr. Abernathy-Dyer's approach to sharing individualized student performance data with all stakeholders is innovative and impressive. Speaking with her elementary school students who can articulate their student performance and explain key steps to improve their deficiencies lets me know these students are on track to successfully improve their academic weaknesses." *Submitted by Dr. Mandy LaCerte*

Caddo High School Principals: "I would love to give a huge SHOUT OUT to the Caddo High School Principals and the work they do each and every day. With the challenges that present themselves daily, I am so grateful for a group of leaders that continue to emphasize high expectations of students and staff." *Submitted by Victor Mainiero*

Principal Newsletter Signup

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy along with [this link](#) and they will receive our next monthly newsletter.

Dates to Consider for Building-Level Leaders

| Upcoming Events | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Event Title | Zoom Link |
| Principal Webinar Series | March 28 at 2 p.m. |
| Upcoming Deadlines | |
| Teacher Leader Summit Registration | April 15 |
| Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application | April 30 |