



Principal's Newsletter



August 23, 2024

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LEADS Corner

Welcome instructional leaders to the 2024-2025 school year.

Thanks to everyone for your attendance and participation in the LER and LLR trainings. The atmosphere in our LEADS trainings across the state this summer have been filled with passion-driven leaders and determined staff who are dedicated to advancing academic achievement while maximizing the potential of every child.

After completing the training, you should receive an email to begin your certification assessment. Follow the [steps](#) in the email and complete the assessment so that you may begin your observations.

Below are some actions that will continue to ensure a smooth transition to LEADS.

- Designated observers and evaluators of educators develop an implementation timeline for educator evaluation (orientation for educators, master observation schedule including one to three observation cycles (depending on the teachers' experience and prior ratings) that account for the length of the cycle, a pre-conference (announced observation only), observation, observer of record, post-conference, data entry, and follow-up coaching cycle).
- Each school shares their master observation schedule with system-level leaders.
- Schools orient educators to the Evaluation Learning Year components and processes.
- School leaders develop a long-range plan for the instructional leadership team to build LER depth of knowledge, inter-rater reliability, and coaching and feedback skills.

In addition, the [Guide for School Leaders: Planning for Implementation](#) is an available resource to support LEADS implementation.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Announcements

The LDOE Names State-Level Honorees for Award Programs

On the evening of July 27, the LDOE — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — celebrated excellence in education at the *18th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala*, which was held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. During the event, the Department announced the [2025 State Elementary, Middle and High School Teacher and](#)

[Principal of the Year honorees](#), the [2025 New Teacher of the Year](#), and the [2025 Early Childhood Leader of the Year and the 2025 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year](#).

In addition, the [New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader Finalists](#), [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients, [Louisiana's Public Interest Fellowship recipient](#), and the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists and Finalists](#) were honored.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Interests and Opportunities

The I&O Jotform Survey for the 2024-2025 school year will open on Monday, August 26. Informational letters with the jotform link and unique access codes will be emailed to principals and accountability contacts on Monday, August 26. The survey will remain open for school leaders until Wednesday, November 6. In addition, the survey must be validated by your superintendent or their designee by Wednesday, November 13. The 2024-2025 Interests and Opportunities Menu and Guidance can be found in the [Accountability Library](#).

Please contact accountability@la.gov with any questions.

Evaluation Updates

All 2023-2024 evaluation data will be finalized in [CIS](#). The deadline to enter or [upload](#) 2023-2024 evaluation data into CIS will follow VAM release in October. Once a date is set for VAM release, the deadline for data entry will be published. All non-VAM teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations can be finalized now. VAM teacher evaluations must be finalized manually or via spreadsheet upload after VAM release. Leader evaluations will be due following the release of School Performance Scores (SPS) in late fall.

All 2024-2025 evaluation data will be entered directly into LES; there will be no transfer of scores or spreadsheet uploads. Following pilot testing, LES will be opened later this month.

Resources for implementing evaluations are located in the [LEADS Library](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

RESOURCES

Educator Talent And Workforce Development

The New Teacher Experience - Professional Learning Modules

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly professional learning modules on topics that are critical for new teacher success. These modules include online asynchronous content followed by an in-person learning lab where participants practice and apply these concepts.

Teachers are expected to complete the entire series of [Professional Learning Modules](#). These five modules are designed to build learning throughout the year.

- Module 1: Classroom Management/Classroom Environment
- Module 2: Standards and Curriculum
- Module 3: Data Literacy
- Module 4: Literacy for 21st Century Learners
- Module 5: Parent and Community Engagement

This year, complimentary seating for the first 245 registrants will be offered. Half of the seats for the northern location (Monroe) and half for the southern location (Port Allen) will be reserved as complimentary seating. Once those seats are exhausted, teachers may still attend but there will be a cost of \$1,272.00 per teacher to complete the series of modules.

Teachers will be asked to receive approval to attend from their school leader. [Registration](#) is now open. Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations. Participants will also receive an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Educational Leadership Alternative Pathway 4 LDOE Training

The Educational Leadership (EDL) Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for current MPA, MBA, or JD holders, and honorably discharged commissioned officers from the US military to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. To be eligible, candidates must complete training provided by the LDOE and have passed either the School Leadership Licensure Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series. For the 2024-2025 academic year, interested applicants should [complete the application](#).

The pathway requirements state that candidates must be provided a mentor to support their induction and transition into the Educational Leadership role. The Department is currently seeking mentors to support these candidates. Any current school/system leaders interested in serving as a mentor for novice principals are encouraged to complete the [mentor application](#) by October 25.

Please contact Louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Implementation Monthly Webinars

The Division of Educator Talent and Workforce Development will host [LEADS Implementation Monthly Webinars](#) to build the capacity of system and school leaders by providing focused, high-quality professional learning opportunities that can be replicated at the school and system level. These learning opportunities will build a deeper understanding of LEADS components and processes and advance implementation. Learning will focus on the key evaluation components and will allow time for systems to network during breakout sessions. System and school leaders are encouraged to join calls that are most relevant to meeting specific needs. The first calls will be held in September.

School Observation Schedules

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 11 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99470752162?pwd=2qbpIT7zf8vmXspltbUSrdavhNJOQf.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 994 7075 2162

The BOY Conference Goal-Setting Process for Leaders

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 12 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91654213527?pwd=PFXWoLzR9Qrx8ECjmaTsaBvXlm2Y7.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 916 5421 3527

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Certification Resources

Educator Certification Resources and Updates to Online Certification Portal

[Certification Bulletin, Bulletin 746](#) and the [Online Teacher Certification Portal, Teach LA Live!](#) support educators in maintaining their certification.

The online certification portal allows educators to submit certification applications (where allowed in policy), or connect with a Certification Specialist to [ask questions](#). Current application processing time is approximately 15-25 business days. Question responses are provided via email in approximately 3-5 business days. The portal question and application system will be redesigned and implemented in phases. Phase 1 includes the updating of the question submission system. The testing window occurred this summer and full implementation is set for August. End users will need a [MyLa account](#) to submit questions in the new system.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

ELA

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024)

The [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\) units](#) for grade 8, Persuasion and Paving the Way, will be available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) this fall. The Persuasion unit will be available in August and the Paving the Way unit will be posted in early October. The texts are available through American Reading Company and Unit Readers will be available from [XanEdu](#) in the coming weeks.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) Let's Set the Context Videos

The Let's Set the Context videos for the grades 3-8 ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) units are now available in the Let's Set the Context folder within each unit on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). These videos provide students with background information, allowing students to engage with the texts within their unit.

As a reminder, the open-access version of the ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) curriculum is only available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub site](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Math

Math Website Updates

In preparation for transition to the new Louisiana Department of Education website, all math resources have moved to the [Louisiana Math](#) site. K-12 Math Planning has been archived.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Math Leader Toolkit

The [Math Leader Toolkit](#) was developed to support math teachers and leaders in their transition to the [Louisiana Educator Advancement Development System \(LEADS\)](#). The math team at the Louisiana Department of Education

collaborated with NIET to create this toolkit of resources to build connections to the new LEADS rubric while keeping high-quality instructional materials, student, and teacher needs at the forefront.

The [Math Leader Toolkit](#) is comprised of

- the Student Work Analysis Process to aid teachers in using student work to identify needs and reflect on instructional practices,
- the Student Work Analysis Coaching Tool to aid instructional coaches, master teachers, and other instructional support staff in supporting classroom teachers through the Student Work Analysis process,
- the Content Specific Framework for Leaders to aid administrators in supporting coaches, instructional support staff, and teachers through the Student Work Analysis Process and Coaching Tools, and
- the Acceleration Program Appraisal to reflect on current math programming in all contexts to identify and adjust for misalignments.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Science

Monthly Office Hours to Support Implementation of OpenSciEd High School Materials

To further support learning acceleration in high school science, the LDOE is hosting monthly office hours to support teachers implementing the OpenSciEd High School materials. Office hours take place on the second Wednesday of each month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and serve as an open forum for teachers to ask questions related to implementation. Participating biology, chemistry, and physics teachers may join monthly using the information below.

- Webinar Date and Time: Second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98654189894>
- Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 986 5418 9894
- Meeting Passcode: 345192

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Monthly High School Science Pilot Support for Leaders

The LDOE welcomes science leaders to join monthly office hours designed specifically for schools and systems implementing OpenSciEd in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics for the 2024-2025 school year. The monthly call takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. These optional, drop-in sessions are designed to support science system- and school-level leaders with all aspects of OpenSciEd implementation, including but not limited to

- updates to pilot resources;
- professional learning opportunities; and
- materials purchasing.

A summary of updates is sent to participants following the call.

Please contact STEM@la.gov to be added to the monthly call and with questions.

Diverse Learners

Best Instructional Practices to Support Students with Disabilities in Classrooms

Congratulations to educators and leaders for the hard work resulting in continued growth for students with disabilities on LEAP assessments for the third year in a row. The LDOE remains committed to supporting the implementation of the [Special Education Playbook](#) and its adoption of three best instructional practices (1) a focus

on high-quality core instruction and access, (2) extra time to learn/intervention, and (3) content strong educators providing core instruction and intervention.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Free Science of Reading Modules Extended

The LDOE has extended free access to the [Science of Reading Modules](#) through the 2024-2025 school year for educators in grades 4-8, special educators, interventionists, and reading specialists. Educators can still register to access the five teacher-friendly modules to gain knowledge and skills for supporting reading instruction in intermediate and middle school classrooms.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Webinar Series - Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8

The LDOE has partnered with Public Consulting Group to offer a free, four-part webinar series on developing strong literacy skills in grades 4-8. The first webinar will discuss foundational research supporting the science of reading, provide an overview of five progressive, online modules, and provide time for questions.

- Webinar Date and Time: September 18 at 3 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349718798>
- Webinar Phone Number: 301-715-8592
- Meeting ID#: 82349718798

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science and STEM

Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications

Our Computer Science [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. Computer Science TLAs will serve an essential role in supporting the implementation of the upcoming K-12 Computer Science Standards 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. [Applications](#) for the 2024-2025 Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisors are open and close on August 30. Educators are not required to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Ed Tech

Back to School LMS Support

Begin the new school year with confidence in your edtech tools. Explore these essential resources to make the most of your Learning Management System (LMS).

LMS back-to-school resources include:

- [Back to School - Microsoft Teams](#),
- [Back to School - Preparing Your Canvas Course](#), and
- [Back to School - Preparing Your Google Classroom](#).

Additional resources can be found on the [LDOE Digital Learning website](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Digital Citizenship Support

As educators prepare for the new school year, consider incorporating digital citizenship into back-to-school activities. Establishing a foundation of safe and responsible online practices sets the stage for a successful and secure learning experience for all students.

Digital citizenship resources include:

- [Digital Citizenship - Cybersecurity for Students](#): Equip students with essential skills to protect themselves online;
- [Digital Citizenship - Elementary Student Guide](#): Introduce young learners to responsible digital practices;
- [Digital Citizenship - Secondary Student Guide](#): Guide older students in navigating the complexities of online life;
- [Digital Citizenship - Parent Guide](#): Empower parents to support their children's digital learning journey;
- [Digital Citizenship - Teacher Guide](#): Provide educators with strategies and activities to foster digital citizenship in the classroom; and
- [AI Teacher and Admin Guide](#): Support teachers and leaders with an introduction to using AI in a school setting.

By integrating these resources, educators ensure that students understand the importance of online safety, etiquette, and responsible use of technology. This foundation will benefit them throughout the school year and beyond.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Kami Webinar Recordings

The LDOE hosted a Kami summer webinar series and regional face-to-face trainings to support the implementation of Kami statewide. As announced last year, all K-12 public and charter school teachers and students have access to Kami's premium features at no cost for the 2024-2025 school year.

The [Kami Webinar Series recordings and slides](#) can be found on the [LDOE Digital Learning web page](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Third Grade Promotion Act Guidance

Guidance is now available for [Third Grade Promotion](#) in the Literacy Library. It is important to include families in communication regarding Act 422. The [Third Grade Promotion Flier](#) and the [Third Grade Promotion Family Letter](#) should be sent home with the beginning of the year paperwork. The family letter requires a parent's signature and ensures documentation that third-grade families in traditional public schools were notified of the new Third Grade Promotion Act regarding literacy.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reading and English ACT Series Launch in the Literacy Library

The literacy division has launched a four-session series for ACT English and Reading. The slide decks and recordings can be found in the [Literacy Library](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Principal Newsletter Signup

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive our next monthly newsletter.

Principal Appreciation

If you have an extraordinary building-level leader you would like to recommend to be highlighted in future newsletters, please submit information about the outstanding leader using the [LDOE Principal's Newsletter Leader Spotlight Nomination Form](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

Lyndsey Rhoads, North DeSoto High, DeSoto Parish

"Mrs. Rhoads is a tremendous leader with a relentless passion for always doing what is best for students. Our campus is a better place because of her expertise and her character." *submitted by Joseph Saverino*

Dr. Markita Grant, Ellender Memorial High School, Terrebonne Parish

"Dr. Markita Grant exemplifies what it means to build capacity within the school she leads and within the district. She has provided unwavering support and unsolicited resources to first-year principals during our opening of school initiatives while fulfilling her list of duties." *submitted by Dr. Lakisha Nelson*

Elsie Semien, St. Landry Charter School, St. Landry Primary

Principal Semien makes invaluable contributions to our school system, imparts extensive knowledge and fosters growth among her staff. Her unwavering belief in the students, parents, and staff is greatly appreciated." *submitted by Dalaina Johnson*

Dates For School Leaders

Important Dates	
Computer Science Teacher Leader Applications due	August 30
LEADS Implementation Webinar: School Observation Schedules	September 11 at 12 p.m.
LEADS Implementation Webinar: BOY Conference Goal-Setting Process for Leaders	September 12 at 1 p.m.
Developing Strong Literacy Skills Grades 4-8 Webinar	September 18 at 3 p.m.

Reader Survey

We want to hear from you! In an effort to ensure that the LDOE is providing you with the best and most useful information in our newsletter, we are conducting a brief survey to learn more about how you read and use the Principal's Newsletter. Please take a moment to complete the [survey](#) by September 15. Thank you for your time!