

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

September 23, 2021

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Principal Corner

Introducing the Director of Leader Development

Greetings, dynamic leaders. I am Victoria McMullen-Dunn and I am so excited to be working to support you in leading students to greatness. I recently began working with the Louisiana Department of Education as the Director of Leader Development in the Office of Educator Development. I have served as an educator for 19 years. I have been an agriscience teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Throughout my years as an educator, I have been awarded Beginning Teacher of the Year, District High School Teacher of the Year, District Principal of the Year, and 2019 Louisiana High School Principal of the Year. I am strongly rooted in education and passionate in growing students and leaders. In my new role I will be working with aspiring principals, current principals and the recruitment and retention of educators.

One initiative we are piloting is the Aspiring Principal Fellowship which will support the development of school leaders across the state. The fellowship will prepare 25 individuals with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve as a school principal. 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.

We are focusing on communications structures that go directly to principals. The Principal's Newsletter and Principal Webinar Series are designed to provide support to practicing principals on a monthly basis. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform leaders of pertinent information from the Louisiana Department of Education and highlight an outstanding principal doing high quality work with proven results. The webinar is planned for leadership development including LDOE priorities such as school improvement best practices and observation and feedback cycles.

One initiative in our recruitment and retention strategy is bringing together school system leaders from across the state to help ensure every child learns from a high quality teacher through a fellowship. This

fellowship allows human capital leaders to develop strategies to recruit and retain educators in their system.

I am thrilled to be supporting dynamic educational leaders across the state of Louisiana.

Victoria McMullen-Dunn, M. Ed.

**Director of Leader Development
Louisiana Department of Education**

Announcements and Resources

Principal Webinar Series

The LDOE will hold a monthly webinar series for current school leaders. The September webinar will highlight our 2022 State Principal of the Year, Marco French, and Division Level Honorees Ronnie Harvey, Karen Robertson, and Jeremy Muse. These celebrated principals will take part in a panel discussion focusing on strong back to school practices.

Webinar Date/Time: September 28 from 2:00-4:00 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.

Teacher and Principal of the Year- Nominate an Outstanding Teachers and School Leaders

The Department is searching for Louisiana's next State Teacher and Principal of the Year. Please nominate outstanding teachers and school leaders to be considered in this process.

Please submit your nominations in the [nominations portal](#) by Friday, October 8. Multiple nominations and self-nominations are accepted. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share the nominations portal link with your stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and school leaders. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the Award's page.

For questions, contact excellenteducators@la.gov.

Completing Mentor Waiver Credential Principal Attestation

At the March 2021 BESE meeting the Board approved an extension of the waiver of policy, contained in Bulletin 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel, and Bulletin 996, Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs, regarding the requirement that all undergraduate residents and post-baccalaureate candidates be placed with mentor teachers holding the ancillary mentor teacher certificate, the ancillary provisional mentor teacher certificate, or the Supervisor of Student Teaching certificate. **The waiver application requires that Principals (or a**

designee) complete an attestation form confirming the applicant meets the requirements of the credential waiver.

Based on feedback, the application process and portal have been updated this year. Principal attestations will be e-mailed from noreply@mail.smapply.net.

More details about completing the Principal Attestation can be found on page 14 of the [Mentor Credential Waiver Guide 2021-2022](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate

[Accelerate](#), Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal-access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students.

- School leaders should schedule tutoring time during the school day with effective teachers; however, schools may also plan tutoring time outside of school hours (i.e., before or after school, weekends, intersessions).
- School leaders should ensure that teachers and students have access to and use resources that complement and are directly connected to the high-quality core curriculum to prepare students for new learning.
- School leaders should ensure effective instructional practices delivered by effective educators will substantially accelerate learning.

School system and school leaders should be implementing Accelerate in their schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Acceleration Professional Development

The recent weather event has further disrupted the education of students throughout Louisiana. As school systems continue with instruction, they must address the unfinished learning their students experienced as a result of the pandemic, as well as Hurricane Ida. As part of our work to provide continuous guidance and support to our educators, we will continue to offer professional development to school systems as they work to address unfinished learning through acceleration.

All teachers have access to the 2021-2022 [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) to support their efforts to accelerate learning. The [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) includes 6 trainings that are designed to help educators target their instruction and coaching on the most effective strategies.

These trainings will be provided by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). All teachers, teacher leaders, school leaders, and district leaders are invited to attend these focused learning opportunities. Each training is a full day and the sessions will be offered virtually and in-person several times a week over the course of the 2021-2022 school year.

Educators may use this [link](#) to register for one or all of the first three sessions. Registration for the other sessions will open later this month.

September 13 - October 5	Analyzing and Using Data to Meet the Needs of Students
October 11 - November 11	Maximizing Collaborative Structures to Support Acceleration
November 10 - December 16	Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning
December 15 - January 13	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in Math
January 10 - January 31	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in ELA
January 31 - March 10	Setting-up Effective Summer Learning Opportunities

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

School systems and schools may need to make staffing and scheduling adjustments to accommodate for the unfinished learning that resulted from Hurricane Ida school closures.

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched in March provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below. School schedules should look different in the 2021-2022 school year in order to address unfinished learning.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff.
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

To culminate the second round of [staffing and scheduling supports](#), system and school leaders are encouraged to attend the Staffing and Scheduling Q&A session on September 29, 2021 at 1 p.m. Participants may register using this [link](#).

The final round in the series of [staffing and scheduling supports](#) will continue this fall. Participants must register to attend.

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Staffing and Scheduling Q&A Session	October 6 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Best Practice Webinar	October 13 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors and	October 20 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link

Counseling Leadership		
Job Alike Support Session for School Leaders	October 20 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

WorkKeys

ACT WorkKeys® assessments are the cornerstone of ACT workforce solutions. The assessments measure foundational skills required for success in the workplace, and help measure the workplace skills that can affect job performance. WorkKeys assessments are for high school juniors and seniors.

The WorkKeys state realms will open for testing on October 6 and remain available through April 29. The assessment [calendar](#) will be updated to reflect the dates.

The first accommodated testing window is outlined below:

Testing Window 1/Initial Testing: October 6-18

Testing Window 2/Makeup Testing: November 3-9

2021-2022 Course Choice/SCA Catalog

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training and dual enrollment course providers. The [SCA Portal](#) is now open for 2021-2022 reporting.

The 2021-2022 [Course Choice Provider Directory](#) is now available. Schools register students directly with the course provider college and/or university. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Procedures](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the Course Choice Reporting System.

The [SCA Portal](#) closes at 5 p.m. on October 1 for Private Provider fall and full year enrollments. Postsecondary enrollments should be reported by October 8 at 5 p.m. The portal will reopen for spring enrollments on November 22.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Rescheduled - 2022 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines

The 2022 Student of the Year Guidelines webinar has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 28.

Review the recently revised [Student of the Year Selection Guidelines](#) for information about the program and the [Student Application Packet](#) for 2022. To participate in the program complete the School System Information Form and email it to marian.johnson@la.gov by October 16. The [Student Application Packet](#) should be made available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

You are encouraged to join the webinar on the Student of the Year Program.

- Webinar Date and Time: Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 10 a.m.

- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92786427342>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 927 8642 7342

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions or if you need an extension on the deadline.

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Please share with K-12 social studies teachers.

Louisiana's social studies standards are currently under review. The Social Studies Standards Review Steering Committee will convene in a public meeting on September 25 at 9 a.m. at the Claiborne building in Baton Rouge. Access the latest working draft of the standards as well as materials from prior steering committee meetings in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). All stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on individual standards using an online form during the month of October. The form will be available in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) on October 1.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

K-2 Writing Series

A new professional development series for teachers and leaders focused on [K-2 writing](#) instruction is underway. The first session is available in the [Literacy Library](#). Sessions will be added weekly on Tuesdays.

Please contact sarah.stohlman@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2022

Save the Date! The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit will be held the week of **May 31, 2022** at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional development conference which brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts who inspire, innovate, and impact meaningful growth for every student. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2022-2023 school year.

Additional details regarding registration and session topics will be available this winter.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, is offering a \$10,000 scholarship opportunity for two outstanding juniors or seniors from Louisiana who will be selected as our state delegates for the U.S. Senate Youth Washington Week, March 5-12, 2022. Delegates must attend all of the scheduled meetings that will be scheduled either in-person or virtually to receive the scholarship.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit a Louisiana [application packet](#). For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

Because so many high schools have been impacted by Hurricane Ida, many students have been displaced and are unable to access the necessary resources for their portfolios. Please assist them with securing the needed recommendations, transcripts and essay topics. The application portfolio is due via e-mail to marian.johnson@la.gov by October 5. Finalists will be notified by October 27, for the final phase of the selection process on November 9.

If you need further assistance, please contact marian.johnson@la.gov.

KEA and K-3 Literacy Screening

For school systems that have had closures due to the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, closed days do not have to be included in the first 30 day count. The department will work with affected school systems to determine if the reporting date of October 15 will need to be adjusted.

KEA and K-3 screening in the fall will remain the same as in the prior year. Please see the [assessment calendar](#). The options are below.

- KEA administration: DRDP-K or GOLD-KEA
- K-3 literacy: Acadience Reading, DIBELS 8th, STEP, and STEEP

Deadline: School Plan Family Presentation Survey

Per state law, CIR and UIR schools must present families with their state-approved school improvement plan within 60 days of the start of the school year at a school meeting. The School Plan Family Presentation template is located in the School Improvement Library. Schools are required to communicate the following to families in these meetings:

- School and student performance data caused the Department to identify the school as being in need improvement;
- Detailed overview of the improvement plan;
- Timelines for implementation of the plan and attainment of performance goals; and
- Implications of the plan for students, families, and educators.

Families shall be notified at least one week prior to the date of the meeting. Meeting dates must be reported to the LDOE no later than December 1 via the [School Plan Family Engagement Survey](#).

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Compass Evaluations

Leader evaluation scores will be entered from the 2020-2021 school year later this fall when SPS scores become available.

The required 2021-2022 Rater Reliability training can be found in the Compass Library. This annual training must be completed by new and returning evaluators prior to any formal evaluations. The survey at the end of the training should be completed to mark attendance. Timestamps are available upon request at compass@la.gov.

Pending BESE approval in the upcoming October meeting, only one formal observation for the 2021-2022 academic year will be required for evaluated personnel earning a rating of Highly Effective or Effective:Proficient (2.5 or higher) on the first formal observation.

Evaluated personnel earning an observation rating of Ineffective or Effective:Emerging (2.4 or lower) will require two observations.

Current policy requires that teachers and administrators be observed twice per year.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Statewide Check-In

All school leaders connected to [Grow Your Own](#) work are encouraged to attend this check-in as we'll discuss and share updates related to the pathway and continue to highlight best practices for establishing a strong regional Grow Your Own Program.

Webinar Date and Time: Friday, September 17 at 12 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

Meeting ID: 345 504 8179 Phone number: 1-470-381-2552

Please contact believeandpepare@la.gov with questions.

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.

Episode 9: School Culture and Climate with Dr. Erin Stokes

Episode 10: Music, Art, and Movement with First Lady Donna Edwards

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.

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:

Erin Howard from Glasgow Middle School in East Baton Rouge Parish: “Mrs. Howard has given us the confidence to start school safely with a positive attitude for serving our students in such scary times. We can always count on her to keep us safe and motivated!” *Nominated by Nathalie Roy*

Audry Easley from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School in Jefferson Parish: “Thank you for your amazing leadership through radical collaboration and transparent communication! Your care for others shows in all that you do.” *Nominated by Amy Hoyle*

Elaine Fitzgerald from Satellite Center in St. Charles Parish: “Elaine's drive to make the Satellite Center the best Career Center in the state has been a pleasure to watch. She has dedicated this portion of her career to making sure everyone in our community and beyond knows about the opportunities we offer for students in St. Charles Parish. Elaine works such long hours and has become my mentor as I transition to an administrative role this year. She is teaching me how to become a school level leader.” *Nominated by Brian Gough*

Ginger Gustavson from Captain Shreve High School in Caddo Parish: “When Ginger stepped into the role of Head Gator, we knew change was coming, and the Swamp had been changed for the better. Ginger conceives ambitious goals for her school and her people, while placing utmost importance on the mental and emotional health of all her staff and students, emphasizing a strong sense of community and family on campus.” *Nominated by Carrie Loidans*

Nicole Gagnard of Marksville Elementary School in Avoyelles Parish: “Nicole Gagnard is a spectacular leader who leads with her heart. She makes sure every student and staff member knows that they are valued and loved. Mrs. Nicole is the 2020-2021 Avoyelles Parish Principal of the Year.” *Nominated by Cicely Jacob*

Kalandra W. Loyd of Vidalia Lower Elementary School in Concordia Parish: “Mrs. Loyd works tirelessly to see that the needs of the students, parents, faculty, and staff of Vidalia Lower Elementary School are met. Mrs. Loyd goes out of her way to show appreciation for everyone at the school. She instills structure, guidance, and confidence in her teaching staff. This type of encouragement pushes us to be the best version of ourselves as educators.” *Nominated by Brittany Green*

Brandon Singleton of Grand Coteau Elementary School in St. Landry Parish: “Mr. Singleton partnered with local community leaders and rolled out the red carpet to greet his new students at GCES. The students felt like movie stars and what a great way to create community involvement activities at GCES. Great job and good luck this school year!” *Nominated by Tiffany Perry*

Phaedra Burks-Blake of Robinson Elementary School in Ouachita Parish: “Mrs. Blake is an innovative leader who goes beyond the typical day-to-day demands of her job to create an exceptional environment for all students and staff members. She offers constant encouraging words and support and

will NEVER ask you to do anything that she isn't willing to do herself. Robinson Elementary loves and appreciates her so much!" *Nominated by Lashonda Jones*

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
Risk Assessment for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile Virtual Training	September 28 at 11 a.m.
Principal Webinar Series	September 28 at 2 p.m.
Emergency Operations Functional Planning for Schools Virtual Training	September 29 at 11 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations Portal Closes	September 28
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1