



September 2023

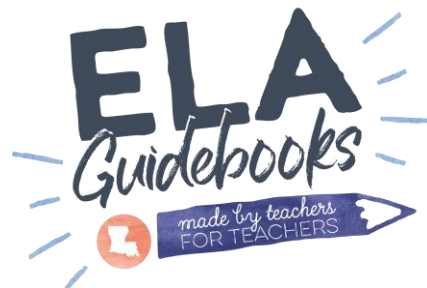


Hello, my name is Sammi Caillouet. I have been an English language arts teacher in St. Charles Parish for the last 23 years, and I also currently serve as a curriculum developer for the LDOE.

My experience in the regular classroom setting, as well as 15 years within the gifted classroom, has given me insight into the divergent needs of our student learners. As a developer for the new [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\)](#), I have utilized my experience as a classroom teacher to incorporate a range of learning levels and styles into the upcoming units. Additionally, I have been fortunate throughout this curriculum development process to collaborate with teachers from other school systems, learning from their expertise. As a curriculum development team, we use research-based best practices and educator feedback from across the state to infuse lessons with supports for diverse learners and to create units that utilize multiple genres of texts about topics that are relevant to Louisiana's students. We are excited to share these units with teachers across Louisiana in spring 2024.

This school year, I accepted a new role as the [Educators Rising](#) facilitator at the St. Charles Parish Satellite Center. In my new position, I am privileged to work with high school students interested in exploring the field of education as their future career. Through my work on the new ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024), I have gained a deeper appreciation of why **high-quality curriculum matters** for the **current and future teachers and students** of our state. I now feel even better prepared to lead potential educators in gaining the deep knowledge and skills they need to understand their craft and positively impact the children of Louisiana.

Teachers believe in the power of learning. I hope you will join me this year in continuing to seek opportunities for growth through collaborative, meaningful learning experiences. Our continued growth helps accelerate learning for all Louisiana students.



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LITERACY

Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program Is Looking for Tutors

The Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring program is looking for certified teachers who are interested in becoming a tutor. Interested teachers should complete the [Literacy Tutor Interest Form](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Back-to-School Professional Learning Series

The first session of the [ELA Back to School Professional Learning Series](#) is now available. This session focuses on using the [Interactive Supports](#) that are now available on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#).

This learning series will support teachers in implementing newly released ELA resources. Additional sessions of the Back to School Professional Learning Series will be released on a rolling basis, with the next session coming in September.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

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

[Registration](#) is now open for the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Conference being held in Tampa, Florida on October 19-21.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Course Frameworks

The [Social Studies Course Frameworks](#) for grades K-8 and high school Civics have been updated. All video links are now functional. Additionally, the final unit in grade 8, The Modern Era, is now available. The course frameworks will be continually updated throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Teachers should look for updates to the suggested primary sources, as well as new scoring notes for written and extended responses using the framing questions as prompts.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Zearn Checkpoint

Now is the time to set expectations and check data for [Zearn Implementation](#) in the classroom. Reflect on the key factors of planning, behavior management, engagement, and goal setting through the use of the class reports.

Consider the following:

- Are teachers and students signing in to Zearn regularly?
- Are students getting 90 minutes per week with Zearn?
- Are students completing three grade-level Zearn lessons per week?

Reflecting on this data supports teacher success with the [high-impact tool](#), Zearn.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Updates with inquiryHub Biology

The developers of [inquiryHub Biology \(iHub\)](#), one of Louisiana's identified [high-quality pilots in science](#), have partnered with OpenSciEd to build on their previous work and develop new instructional resources for biology, chemistry, and physics. Full courses will be published on a rolling basis on the [OpenSciEd's website](#). The current iHub materials and [Louisiana Guide to Piloting iHub Biology](#) will remain available; however, all curricular updates and professional learning will shift to the OpenSciEd versions of the materials.

Louisiana guides to piloting OpenSciEd in [biology](#), [chemistry](#), and [physics](#) are available on the [K-12 Science Resources web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

LACUE Annual Conference Call for Proposals

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LaCUE) is excited to announce that the Annual Conference for 2023 will take place from November 28-30 in New Orleans. This event gathers educators, administrators, and technology specialists from across the state to engage in invaluable learning and networking experiences.

Teachers are encouraged to share their expertise and innovative ideas in the field of educational technology. [Proposals](#) are currently being accepted to present at the conference from thought leaders who can provide fresh perspectives, actionable strategies, and effective solutions for K-12 educators. The proposal deadline is **September 22**, and acceptance notifications will be sent out by October 13.

Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT

Evaluation Updates

The deadline for systems to enter or upload 2022-2023 teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluation data into the Compass Information System (CIS) will follow VAM release in October. Teachers should meet with evaluators to review 2022-2023 observations and Student Learning Targets (SLT scores).

The [2023-2024 Evaluation Guide for Teachers](#) is available in the [Compass Library](#). This document outlines all evaluation components to prepare teachers for the evaluation process.

Teachers should begin setting [Student Learning Targets \(SLTs\)](#) for the 2023-2024 school year and resources for [goal setting](#) are available in the Compass Library. **Evaluators and evaluatees must meet to discuss all SLTs.** SLTs may be entered into CIS once the system opens for the new year.

Per [Bulletin 130](#), all educators will require two observations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Free Registration for Educators for the LASTEM Annual Summit

[LASTEM](#), Louisiana's Regional STEM Network, is a system of STEM leadership entities strategically positioned across Louisiana whereby communities, parishes, multi-parish regions, and the state can achieve improved access to STEM education, participation, and advancement. The [LASTEM Summit](#) will be held on October 17 at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette. [Registration](#) is free for educators; however, those interested in attending should register soon as spaces are limited. For more information please visit the [LASTEM Summit web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Deadline Approaching: Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grant Program

All Louisiana pre-K-12 public school teachers are eligible to apply for a Quality Science and Math Grant of up to \$2,000 for the purchase of non-consumable materials and equipment to be used in science, math, and STEM courses. The deadline for submissions for the [Quality Science and Math Grant Program](#) is **September 10**. Interested teachers should visit the [QSM website](#) to access the [application portal](#) and [grant writing resources](#).

Please contact gsminfo@lsu.edu with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

The LDOE recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the LDOE honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs, as well as the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year programs, and the New Teacher of the Year program. (Candidates for the New Teacher of the Year program must have less than one year of teaching experience.)

Part of the selection process for naming the school system and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, school system employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a [nominations portal](#) was created. This portal is now open and will close on **September 22**. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon closing of the portal, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit their nominations through the [nominations portal](#) to recognize outstanding teachers and leaders.

Please contact the following with questions.

- Teacher/Principal of the Year excellenteducators@la.gov
- New Teacher of the Year laurie.carlton@la.gov
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year shallan.jones@la.gov

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions for Teacher/Principal of the Year. For New Teacher of the Year contact laurie.carlton@la.gov and for Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year contact shallan.jones@la.gov.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact
AP Courses and Exams Contact	collegereadiness@la.gov
Assessments and Related Supports	assessment@la.gov
Collaborations	districtsupport@la.gov
Compass	compass@la.gov
Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers	believeandprepare@la.gov
Diverse Learners	diverselearnersupport@la.gov
EdTech	digitallearning@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
ELA Guidebooks	elaguidebooks@la.gov
Environmental Education	environmentaleducation@la.gov
Financial Aid Assistance	ldefinancial@la.gov
Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
Language Acquisition	language.acquisition@la.gov
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progressions	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
Math, Science, and STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
World Languages	language.acquisition@la.gov