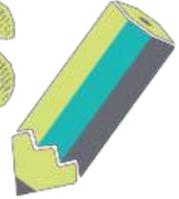


TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



October 2020



In 2018, the Department, in partnership with the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, launched the inaugural [Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship](#). The fellowship allows recipients to spend the upcoming school year **advocating for a key education initiative** of their choosing. Winners are chosen from the previous year's list of Louisiana [Teacher of the Year Finalists](#). The fellowship is supported by a stipend of state funding that is utilized to offset the costs incurred while conducting the work of the fellowship. To date, the Department has named four recipients as Public Interest Fellows. This year's fellows are excited to share more about their passions and inspiring work initiatives.

Hello! I'm **Jessica Borland**, and I teach 4th-grade math at South Grant Elementary in Grant Parish. As a 2020 Teacher of the Year Fellow, I will focus on developing and implementing the New Teacher Academy: Lead for Success. From my own experience, I know that the first year in the classroom is the most challenging. I had no idea how much time being an educator required, nor did I know how to use my resources to the fullest. The guidance I received from experienced educators inspired me to provide this same support for new teachers to also be successful. The future of our teaching profession depends on it. I am excited that this program will help **establish a culture that creates and supports effective teachers** and will ensure equity of learning opportunities for all students. This program will provide essential components aimed at meeting the needs of newly-hired teachers while ensuring an effective transition from teacher preparation programs and other workforce areas of those seeking alternate certification.

My name is **Chris Dier**, and I teach AP U.S. History at Benjamin Franklin High in Orleans Parish. I am honored to be one of two recipients of the 2020 Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship. One of my passions is for students to experience learning that represents them and puts their identities at the forefront. When teachers spotlight identity and reflect students' experiences, students feel emotionally supported and remain actively engaged; they take ownership over the learning process. With this fellowship, I aim to **craft equitable, inclusive, and culturally responsive content** under the direction of the Louisiana Department of Education. I will collaborate with students, teachers, administrators, cultural figures and other stakeholders to analyze instructional practices through an equity lens. My initiative will also seek to provide professional developments on culturally responsive pedagogy while designing a curriculum that allows students to contextualize the present by understanding the past. Through these collaborative, state-wide efforts, I hope to advance educational initiatives that affirm students by highlighting their cultures and identities to better meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population.

In This Issue

- [Support For Diverse Learners](#)
- [Educational Technology \(NEW\)](#)
- [ELA Resources](#)
- [Math Resources](#)
- [Social Studies Resources](#)
- [Science Resources](#)
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- [Student Opportunities](#)
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SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Strong Start 2020: Guidance to Support English Learners (ELs)

In September, the Department released the [Strong Start 2020: Guidance to Support English Learners](#) to help school systems ensure that ELs continue to have equitable access to high-quality instruction across virtual, hybrid and traditional learning scenarios. The guidance includes specific considerations for providing ELs with language support services across learning scenarios including preparation and delivery of supportive instruction, accommodations, and frequently asked questions.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Google Training: Virtual Professional Development

The Department has partnered with [Google](#) and [friEd Technology](#) to provide a series of Facilitated Online Learning Experiences (FOLE) that will enhance teachers' Google Skills and best practices for Digital Learning.

- Teachers can register for all three FOLEs or single events.
- Three session topics will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 500 registered participants.
- Training dates range from October 7 to October 29. Registration is now [available](#).

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

LACUE: Virtual Professional Development

Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LaCUE) is offering free virtual professional development opportunities to support digital learning. Go to LaCUE's website to [register](#) for any of the LaCUE Cares sessions.

- October 17 from 8 a.m. until noon - Tech Talk with NSU
- November 13-14 - Headliner Weston Kieschnick with sessions focused on Blended Learning
- December 4-5 - Headliner Eric Sheninger - "Celebrating Teachers and Technology"

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks: Future Development

The Department has partnered with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks. This work will be completed by Louisiana teachers and a special team of "Revolutionaries" from [Monroe City Schools](#). The first phase of development will happen for grades 3-5 and will be available for piloting in 2021-2022.

Educators who support grades 3-5 are encouraged to [submit feedback](#) on current units prior to **Thursday, October 15**. More details about this partnership and future release dates will be announced via this newsletter.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks: Grades 3-5 Foundation Supports Updated

The ELA Guidebooks Foundations Supports to support students in grades 3-5 who struggle to read fluently have been updated. These resources include both teacher-facing directions and student-facing materials.

- The teacher-facing directions provide guidance for explicitly teaching foundational phonics skills and practicing grade-level fluency.
- The student-facing materials include targeted skill activities and fluency practice passages directly related to the grade-level ELA Guidebook unit texts used during whole-class, core instruction.

The updated materials will be available for download through the [bulk downloader tool](#) on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). Each ELA Guidebook unit folder will have a folder entitled “Foundations Supports.”

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025 Assessment Updates

In response to the delay of school system openings due to COVID-19, the test administration schedules for fall high school and spring grades 3-8 have been modified. The [LEAP 2025 assessment guides](#) have been updated with the following information:

- **LEAP 2025 High School Fall Administration** now includes two windows from which school systems can choose based on their revised school system calendars (a system cannot use both windows):
 - Original Fall Window: December 1-18; All subjects
 - Newly Added Window: January 6-26; All subjects
 - School systems will indicate their selections during the DRC INSIGHT enrollment process between October 1-9.
- The **LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8 Spring Administration** has been rescheduled for all school systems:
 - Computer-based testing: April 26-May 26
 - Paper-based testing: April 28-30 ELA and mathematics; May 3-4 science and social studies
 - Student score reports will be available no later than July 31, 2021.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 360 Updates

A [LEAP 360 Interim Guidance](#) document has been created and posted on the [LEAP 360 homepage](#). It describes the updates to the LEAP 360 Interim Assessments for the 2020-2021 school year, provides a list of Interim resources, and includes guidance on how to use the resources to help achieve the goal of integrating the Interims into high-quality ELA and mathematics curricula.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Illustrative Math Distance and Unfinished Learning Guidance

Illustrative Math has released guidance to assist teachers in making decisions about unfinished and distance learning. Grade level documents are posted in the [IM Community Hub](#). Resources include Curriculum Adaptation Packs and Section Guides for Distance Learning. More information can be found on the [Illustrative Math Blog](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Free Training & Tips from Zearn Math for Parents and Caregivers Supporting Remote Learning

Zearn is jumping in to help all adults who are supporting distance learning this year. As part of this work, Zearn is offering

- a 20-minute virtual orientation, available in English and Spanish that includes an overview of Zearn Math digital resources as well as strategies to support remote learning;
- printable [Zearn Helpers](#) that include strategies to help adults motivate and support their child's Zearn Math remote learning; and
- weekly tips and ideas on Zearn's new Instagram channel (@zearnmath), including a scrollable toolkit to help grown-ups engage in their child's learning

Visit the [Remote Learning webpage](#) to access these resources.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Leap 360 Diagnostic Mapping

To address any gaps caused by school closures last spring, teachers should begin the 2020-2021 school year with on-grade-level curriculum and weave in previous grade-level skills and supports as needed to ensure readiness for grade-level content. The [LEAP 360 Diagnostic](#) assessments provide specific information on each student's readiness. To assist teachers in acting on this information, the Department developed LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping documents aligning each math diagnostic item to units of instruction for the most commonly used high quality curricula. Documents are posted on the [K-12 Math Planning](#) page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Quality Science and Math Grant Applications are Open

Grants of up to \$1,000 for approved materials and equipment will be awarded on a competitive basis to Louisiana public school teachers. Applicants must show that their proposals will enhance the quality of instruction for regular education students enrolled in mathematics, science or STEM classes. [Grant proposals](#) are due **November 30**.

For more information please visit the [QSM](#) homepage or email gsminfo@lsu.edu.

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Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Continuous Learning

In an effort to provide standards-aligned content experiences and enable continuous learning in remote learning or hybrid school settings, distance learning packets are being developed for each course in grades 3-8 and US History for units 1, 2, 3, and 4. The packets do not cover the entire content of the unit but instead focus on a key topic. Teachers can use the packets as a cornerstone to build materials for additional content coverage. The materials are designed to be low tech but can be adapted for schools using an online learning platform. The Department will evaluate the need for more distance learning support throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Packets for units 1 and 2 are posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#). The teacher materials and student materials sections of the social studies distance learning packets have been separated. The

teacher materials have been [password protected](#) to help ensure only teachers have access to the answer keys.

Unit 3 packets will be released by November, and unit 4 packets will be released by January. A pre-recorded webinar, [Using the Social Studies Distance Learning Packets](#), has been posted on the Louisiana Believes YouTube channel under the Distance Learning playlist. This webinar provides guidance and recommendations on how to use the distance learning packets to support social studies instruction.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

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The grades 5-8 social studies [assessment guides](#) also include an update on field testing. In the past, a sample of students taking the grades 5-8 social studies assessments were required to participate in a short field-test session. This spring, no field testing will take place at grades 5-8 in social studies.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

2020 Farm to School Conference Registration Available

The 2020 Louisiana Farm to School Conference: Farm to School - Virtually Everywhere will be held entirely online over four days and will occur in 2-hour sessions from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on September 30, October 1, 7 and 8. While there is no charge, attendees must [register](#). The session scheduled on October 7 at 10 a.m. may be of special interest to teachers as it will provide information about a variety of resources that may be used both in the classroom and at home.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Farm to School Program Launches *Seeds to Success* Website

The Louisiana Farm to School Program's new website, [Seeds to Success](#), launched on October 1. The website houses all teachers and students need to know about how to grow fruits and vegetables in Louisiana and apply these skills to learning, how to start and maintain school gardens (including classroom container gardens), and how to turn student interests into budding careers. Lesson plans and activities are available and organized by grade group or by crop interest. Create an account to save crop guides and lesson plans, and use the Louisiana Resource page to discover places, events, and organizations related to Farm to School. Louisiana teachers are encouraged to request free growing materials for classroom education.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.

PhD Science Open Enrollment Virtual PD Sessions

Great Minds is offering live, interactive professional development sessions modeled after the design and learning goals of their in-person training. Sessions are designed to meet the needs of a variety of PhD Science users. Session costs range from \$35-\$100 per person. Access available dates and sessions at the PhD Science [Virtual Open Enrollment PD page](#).

Please contact PD@greatminds.org for more information.

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The grades 3-8 science [assessment guides](#) also include an update on the science test design. See the grade-level assessment guides for more specific information.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Searching for Louisiana's Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year

The Department recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a [nominations portal](#) was created.

The nominations portal is open now and will close on October 16. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please consider nominating a Teacher Leader and/or Teacher Leader Advisor. Multiple and self-nominations are accepted. Please also share the [nomination portal link](#) with others and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award's page](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers - Applications for Spring 2021 Coming Soon

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the spring 2021 semester open **October 30**. The deadline to submit completed applications is **November 13** at 11:59 p.m. Program details, as well as a link to the application once it becomes available, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators](#) page.

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page, or contact STEM@la.gov.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

2021 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines

Please share with superintendents, supervisors, administrators and counselors.

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of our students through the Louisiana Student of the Year Awards Program. The application for the 2021 Student of the Year program is now available, and all school systems are encouraged to participate.

To participate, please review the recently revised [Student of the Year Selection Guidelines](#) for the program and current [Student Application Packet](#) for 2021 and complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [School System Information Form](#) and email it to marian.johnson@la.gov by October 16. This information will enable the Department to determine zone and regional sites and to communicate directly with coordinators on upcoming events and activities related to this program.
2. Make the [Student Application Packet](#) available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Please share with high school principals and counselors.

The Louisiana Department of Education and the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Virtual United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to virtually participate in a series of online meetings during the week of March 15 in 2021. Upon participation of all of these meetings, each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. The Department requests your assistance selecting these students.

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](#). If students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, they can submit the position previously held during the 2019-2020 academic year. Please ensure that students understand the rules and regulations governing this competition. For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems and will not be available on our website. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

The names of the students selected by each high school and their application portfolios must be received at marian.johnson@la.gov no later than November 16. Finalists will be notified by December 4 for the December 15 final phase of selection.

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

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
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
ELA Guidebooks	elaguidebooks@la.gov
Financial Aid Assistance	ldefinancial@la.gov
Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources including Leap 360 and Eagle	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progressions	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders, Content Leaders, Mentor Teachers, and Teacher Leader Advisors	louisianateacherleaders@la.gov