



November 2023



Greetings from Natchitoches Parish! I am Jessie Church, and I serve as the Teaching and Learning Science Specialist for my school system. I am also a member of the math and science collaboratives, where our work is aimed at developing [model methods courses for pre-service educators](#). As a former science teacher and member of the science standards work group, my priority is increasing student achievement by supporting educators in delivering high-quality science instruction.

Recently, I had the opportunity to become a facilitator for [elementary and high school OpenSciEd](#) professional learning and was excited to hear that the LDOE would be providing resources to systems who are implementing the available high school units. Natchitoches Parish is currently implementing the [full Biology pilot curriculum](#) from OpenSciEd across all high schools, as well as the grade 3 units in a few classrooms.

The OpenSciEd resources address the [shifts in science](#) called for by the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science \(LSSS\)](#), ensuring students are engaging in grade-level content. The units provide opportunities for students to **analyze data, construct explanations, and support arguments as they investigate impacts and interactions within relevant and engaging real-world phenomena**. By investigating issues that connect to their lives, students understand the importance of what they are learning and are more motivated to learn science content.

Ongoing, direct support for OpenSciEd implementation is provided in the form of monthly office hours for school and system curriculum leaders. To be included in these calls, email STEM@la.gov. I hope to see you on the next call and would be happy to share my experiences with you.

Regardless of the content area, students engaging in learning from high-quality instructional materials is critical. Whether you teach science or any other content area, I encourage you to seek out opportunities to continue learning and prepare you to best support your students.

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ACADEMICS

Computer Science Week Resources - Coming Soon

Computer Science Education Week (CSEd Week) is December 4-10. [CSEd Week](#) will be an opportunity for students in grades K-12 to experience a variety of learning activities with their teachers or community partners that focus on introducing students to computer science, showing that anyone can learn the basics of coding, and increasing awareness of career opportunities in the computing industry. On November 6 the LDOE will release a bank of free resources on the [STEM web page](#) to support schools and systems in identifying possible activities to implement during CSEd Week.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Professional Growth Videos Available in the Literacy Library

New professional growth videos for teachers and leaders have been added to the [professional growth section](#) of the Literacy Library. Utilize these free resources to learn more about the science of reading, using data to inform literacy instruction, and implementing high-quality instructional materials effectively.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Materials Review

The LDOE is releasing new ELA Guidebook units for grades 6-8 in the spring of 2024. One unit per grade level is currently available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). The ELA content team is seeking teachers and teacher leaders of grades 6-8 ELA to conduct a review of the released units and materials in order to receive feedback prior to the official release of all units in the spring.

Teachers and instructional leaders interested in participating in this feedback cycle should complete the [interest form](#) by **December 1**.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks Open Access Version on Imagine Learning

Beginning June 2024, Imagine Learning (formerly LearnZillion) will no longer host the open access version of ELA Guidebooks 2.0 and 3.0 for grades 3-12. ELA Guidebooks 3.0 for grades 3-8 and the most current version of ELA Guidebooks for grades 3-12 remains openly available on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Zearn Mid-Year Checkpoint

As the end of the first semester approaches, take time to check on key indicators of success for Zearn Implementation. During reflection, consider the following:

- Are students engaging with three grade-level lessons per week in Zearn?
- Is the engagement productive?
- Are K-5 students gaining the appropriate fluencies for the grade at this time of year?
- Are parents aware of students' Zearn engagement and fluency attainment?

Please contact stem@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Save the date: High School Science Professional Learning

The LDOE is supplying resources aimed at supporting learning loss recovery in high school biology, chemistry, and physics to all public high schools. To support the implementation of these materials, teachers of any of the three courses will have access to regional, in-person training at no cost to systems.

Training opportunities will take place on one or more of the following dates:

- January 4 - 5
- January 9 - 10
- January 11 - 12

The LDOE will provide additional communications regarding registration and access to learning recovery resources to system-level science or curriculum supervisors.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Kami for All

Welcome to the "Kam-i-ly"!

Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, every K-12 school system teacher and student will enjoy free access to Kami's premium version, offering over 40 valuable tools and features. Kami supports teachers across all grade levels and curricula, enabling students to annotate, comment, and collaborate on various document types. This will also allow teachers to assign and collect work from students with just one click to any learning management system (LMS).

Teachers and teacher leaders can prepare by:

- **Attending the LACUE Conference in November:** LACUE annual conference participants can ask questions to Kami directly.
- **Attending Kick-off Sessions at Teacher Leader Summit 2024:** Get a head start on this initiative by attending the kick-off sessions.
- **Creating a Professional Learning Plan:** Teacher leaders can create a tailored professional learning plan for their school or school system.
- **Participating in summer professional learning:** Take advantage of open summer professional learning opportunities.

School system technology leaders will be contacted for license distribution. The onboarding process will run from November to May.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Jamboard

[Google](#) has announced that its whiteboarding app [Jamboard](#) will wind down toward the end of 2024. The app will go into read-only mode on October 1, 2024, and will no longer be available after December 31, 2024.

Google released information about alternatives, [Figma](#) and [Miro](#). Figma is a design and collaboration tool that allows users to create and edit design files collaboratively in real-time. Miro, on the other hand, is a digital whiteboarding platform that facilitates collaboration, brainstorming, and visual thinking. [Kami](#) and [Canva](#) are also tools with whiteboarding and collaborative capabilities.

The LDOE will provide guidance and information in future communications regarding alternative collaboration tools to ensure educators have the necessary resources for seamless instruction as Jamboard phases out.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Assessment Committee Applications

The Division of Assessment Content is preparing to convene educator committees in January for the following assessments:

- LEAP 2025 Science Grades 4-7 and Biology Stimuli Reviews
- LEAP Connect Item Reviews
- ELA Innovative Assessment Program (IAP) Item Reviews: Grades 3 and 4

Interested educators can access the [Assessment Content Educator Review Committees document](#) for details and links to apply. The deadline to complete the applications is **November 5**.

Please contact michelle.mcadams@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE, in partnership with the Center for Assessment, will continue the Assessment Literacy Initiative. The [Effective Assessment Practices Webinar Series for Teachers and Leaders](#) is a series of monthly, one-hour webinars that provide opportunities for Louisiana educators to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms.

The next webinar will be Formative Assessment Strategies (Part II): What Do Teachers and Leaders Need to Know and Do and a 30-minute question and answer session will be held at 4:30 p.m., immediately following the webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 7 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89463788844>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 305-224-1968
- **Meeting ID#:** 894 6378 8844
- **Meeting Passcode:** 356706

Please refer to the Effective Assessment Practices Webinar Series for Teachers and Leaders [document](#) for more information regarding the full series of dates, topics, and Zoom links.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Green Ribbon Schools Application Now Open

The LDOE is excited to announce that the [application](#) to be recognized as a [Green Ribbon School](#) for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Eligibility requirements include that schools, systems, and early learning centers show progress in

- reducing environmental impacts and costs;
- improving health and wellness; and
- providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

Additional information is available on the [Environmental Education](#) web page.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - Opening Soon

Are you looking to expand your influence beyond the classroom and get paid in the process? Have you ever considered attaining a leadership role or engaging in work that reaches students and teachers across the state?

[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. TLAs serve an essential role in supporting key priorities 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 (TLAs) are paid for the work completed, and the experience allows educators to expand their positive impact beyond the classroom by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators. Learn more about [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) today! Applications for the 2024-2025 Teacher Leader Advisor cohort open **November 27**. Educators do not need to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Re-Release of Mentor and Principal Surveys

Last spring the LDOE released a Mentor and principal survey to gather feedback on the mentor and content leader programs. Response rates on these surveys were low due to the timing of the release, so the LDOE is re-releasing these surveys to ensure adequate feedback is received from the field.

The [2023 Believe and Prepare: Principal Survey](#) is to be completed by all principals that have had teachers complete Mentor or Content Leader training in the past six school years, have Mentors who served on their campus as a mentor to an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate resident last school year (2022-2023) or have Content Leaders who served in the role last school year (2022-2023).

The [2023 Believe and Prepare: Mentor Survey](#) is to be completed by all Mentors who have completed training in the past six school years or served as a mentor to an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate resident last school year (2022-2023).

All survey responses will be kept confidential and neither the survey takers name nor the school name will be identified. All surveys should be completed by **Friday, November 10**.

Please contact believeandprepare@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
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