

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



November 2020



My name is Heather Brooks, and I am the principal at Haynesville Elementary in Claiborne Parish. For the past eight months, I have had the opportunity to work with math professionals from across the state to design a model syllabus for a Math Methods course that will be taught in many Louisiana universities. The Believe and Prepare Math Collaborative project, led by the Charles A. Dana Center, is an innovative endeavor that brought K-12 educators and university staff together to collaborate to co-create model syllabi for both [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) math methods courses. The goal of the collaborative was to ensure that teachers completing teacher preparation programs are well prepared to effectively implement standards-aligned instruction using high-quality curriculum materials.

This partnership between higher education professionals and K-12 educators allowed for important conversations and meaningful work to bridge the gap between college methods courses and the first year of teaching. Throughout this project, a team of K-12 educators worked, in partnership, with university faculty to build common understanding and goals for the syllabi. As a former instructional coach and now a principal, I see first-hand the urgent need of university methods courses aligning with what schools expect from newly certified math teachers. Ultimately, school systems across the state of Louisiana will see that teachers entering the workforce are better prepared to teach the Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics, and teachers will have more confidence as they walk into their new classrooms with a stronger foundation. I truly believe that the work we were able to do during the Math Collaboration will benefit our students by giving them teachers who are better prepared to teach math in Louisiana. When educators come together with improving student achievement as the priority, great things happen!

The Department will soon be launching similar work with ELA educators. We are seeking strong K-12 educators who help support ELA (e.g., ELA curriculum coaches, current ELA content leaders, district ELA supervisors).

The application to participate in the ELA collaborative is [available](#) now through **November 6**.

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ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020): Updates

The ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) [Curriculum Guide](#) has been updated on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) to include new Section Diagnostic Data Collection Tools. Both a digital and paper-based version of these tools are available.

The new Section Diagnostic Data Collection Tools

- allow teachers to collect data from student work in order to make instructional decisions grounded in observation and experience;
- provide a snapshot vision of how students are performing to determine high-level trends; and
- support teachers as they engage in step two of the lesson study protocol.

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Overview](#) document has been updated to include the most recent information about the 9-12 units on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#).

The Department is also soliciting teacher feedback through [Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Feedback Form](#) for the units being implemented this year. Please encourage bookmark this link for use throughout the 2020-2021 school year and share with others.

Additionally, the grade 10 [Life of Pi](#) unit has been released and updates have been made to the grade 9 [A Lesson Before Dying](#) unit based on educator feedback. Please be sure to download the updated version of the [teaching guide](#) to support instruction.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Parent Resource: CommonLit Parent Access

The Department has partnered with [CommonLit](#) to create [Knowledge Packs](#) for teachers and to provide opportunities for parents to utilize their free, online library to support students in grades 3-12. Teachers should encourage parents to set up a free account so that they can create online classes, assign lessons, and review their child's progress at home.

To support parents, CommonLit has created a [video](#) tutorial that includes step-by-step instructions for creating an account and utilizing accessibility features, such as text read aloud and translations, to support the unique needs of each child.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards

The Department, building on resources provided by the Achievement Network, has released the [Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards](#) guidance for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

This new document identifies critical prerequisite math standards from previous grade levels needed to anticipate potential unfinished learning and suggestions for prioritizing content to save instructional time. It also includes aligned lessons for the most widely used Tier 1 curricula.

To find this document and all other math planning resources, visit the [K-12 Math Planning](#) page.

Please contact STEM@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.

[Social studies distance learning packets](#) for grades 3-8 and US History have been updated to include topics within units one, two, and three and 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.

Packets will be updated with unit 4 topics in January. A 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. A second webinar specifically focused on how to adapt the distance learning packets for in-person use in the classroom will be released in November.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Updates to Louisiana Student Standards for Science Learning Progressions (Appendix A)

To support teachers and school systems in addressing unfinished learning in science, the Department has updated Appendix A - Learning Progressions of the [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Science Folder](#). Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) are now designated by specific grade within the K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade bands.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

OpenSciEd Pilot Monthly Call (NEW)

OpenSciEd is a [middle school pilot](#) for freely available high-quality science instructional materials. Field test units are revised based on the feedback and data, and the Department provides monthly updates to participating school or district science leads via conference call on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

These updates include information about

- changes to field test and public unit materials;
- release schedules for field tests, public units, and distance learning guidance;
- materials and purchasing; and
- professional development opportunities.

Leaders of schools and systems piloting OpenSciEd who are interested in joining the monthly call should complete this [google form](#) to request a calendar invitation.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher And Principal Of The Year Application Process Opens

The [Teacher and Principal of the Year application process](#) for the 2020-2021 school year is now open. All applications, materials, and timelines are now available in the [library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high), as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications are due by **February 4, 2021** and must be submitted via an online application portal which will open later this year. Teacher Leaders and others interested in being considered for the process should talk with their school system.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2021 - Save the Date

The 2021 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 25-27 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Both the Department and the Convention Center are taking measures to promote the health and safety of all participants and will have a reduced overall capacity. Due to social distancing parameters, school systems will receive a specific allotment of seats. The Department will notify each school system of their total number of allocated seats in early December.

[Registration](#) for the Summit will occur in three phases:

- Early bird registration (January 8 through March 1)
- Regular registration (March 2 through May 10)
- On-site registration for those who do not register by May 10

To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the Department will charge a registration fee for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit.

Description	1-Day Ticket	3-Day Ticket
Early Bird Registration (January 10-March 1)	\$55	\$108
Regular Registration (March 2-May 11)	\$71	\$140
Onsite Registration* (May 25-May 27)	\$87	N/A

*only if open seats remain unused from allocations after May 11

This fee will cover:

- Admission to conference
- Conference sessions
- Lunch May 25 and May 26

Educators can receive a discount by registering early and registering for all three days at once. Educators can choose to not eat the lunch provided, but may not opt-out of the registration fee.

Prior to registration opening, the Department will provide more information on:

- Education tracks being offered
- Ed Talk speakers and topics
- Virtual learning opportunities

Hotel room block information will be released in December in an overview document posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders

The Louisiana Department of Education is partnering with NIET to help equip teachers and school leaders to plan for and strengthen virtual instruction. Starting this month, Louisiana educators will receive free access to three, 90-minute professional learning sessions that model effective virtual teaching and provide educators with tips, templates, and strategies to use immediately in their virtual classrooms. These sessions will be taught live (synchronously) and offered several times a week over the course of 2020-21. Asynchronous trainings will be available later this year.

Educators will leave these sessions with an understanding of what effective teaching practices look like in an online classroom; ideas for how to plan, transform, and strengthen virtual lessons; and strategies to improve student engagement and increase student growth in a virtual learning environment. There will also be different options for teachers and principals to receive more tailored support based on their role. Sessions for principals and administrators will focus on remote observation and coaching practices while teacher sessions will provide more content teachers can directly use in their virtual instruction.

Registration is now open, but seats are limited for each district or school system. Please connect with your immediate supervisor to see if seats are available for you to attend. More details and registration information are [available](#).

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

Quality Science and Math Grant Applications are Open

Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grants are now 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.

Apply to Lead a Session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021

Louisiana teachers and leaders are invited to share their expertise with educators statewide by applying to facilitate a session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021.

- Applications open: Monday, November 16, 2020
- Applications are due: Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Look out for more information and the application link in the [Teacher Leader Library](#) and upcoming Teacher Leader newsletters. Teacher Leader Summit will take place from Tuesday, May 25 - Thursday, May 27, 2021 in New Orleans, and registration opens on **January 8, 2021**.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers-Applications for Spring 2021 Open Now!

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 are open now through **November 20**. Program details, as well as a link to the application, 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.

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