TEACHER LEADERS NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Hello, my name is Jaquita Brown, and I'm a Math Instructional Coach at Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy in Baton Rouge. I am currently in my third year as a Louisiana Teacher Leader Advisor.

This year, I am supporting teachers at my school in implementing Accelerate: Louisiana's Pre-K through 12 Tutoring Strategy, which focuses on acceleration, which is building the knowledge and skills required to be successful in core instruction by *connecting unfinished learning* to *new learning*. **Acceleration differs from traditional remediation methods where student needs are addressed reactively, often with math work that is disconnected from the core instruction and better suited for earlier grades.** The newly released Acceleration in Math: Self-Paced Learning Modules were designed to support math educators in leveraging acceleration during core instruction and tutoring time. I'm also working with the Department as a Teacher Leader to develop the Accelerate Math materials, which allow teachers to host small groups of students to provide proactive support before an upcoming lesson.

The feedback I'm getting from teachers, students and parents is motivating! Teachers report that students who engage in tutoring sessions are building confidence and participating in class more often. Caregivers report that their children are feeling more comfortable working independently and making observable improvements academically.

It has been an honor to have dialogue with other leaders across our state as we continuously work to enrich learning environments and experiences for students and to witness the success of the Accelerate model firsthand. I feel so privileged to serve our educators and students in this capacity. I encourage all educators to review the Accelerate: Louisiana's Pre-K through 12 Tutoring Strategy to learn more about the resources that are available to support teachers and students in addressing unfinished learning.

In This Issue

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Save the Date

Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 31 - June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Please contact LDOEevents@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Best Practices in the Classroom

The Literacy Library is full of ready-to-use resources for teachers and leaders to support and maximize literacy instruction. One resource is the Literacy Classroom Practices guidance which outlines evidence-based best practices for literacy learning including examples and non-examples of how to implement those practices into your daily classroom instruction. Teachers can use the guidance to effectively implement literacy through their curriculum.

Take some time to explore the resources in the Literacy Library, and please reach out to the Department's Literacy Division with any feedback, suggestions, or requests for other resources. The library is frequently updated with resources and tools for teachers and leaders of all grade levels to support literacy implementation.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Pilot Updates

The Department is excited to announce we have partnered with The Writing Revolution to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks. The following updated ELA Guidebook units for grades 3-5 have been added to the Louisiana Curriculum Hub: Because of Winn-Dixie (3rd grade), The Whipping Boy (4th grade), and The Birchbark House (5th grade).

These units include core and optional activities to support diverse learners and progressive writing strategies to strengthen students' writing skills. The Department will be soliciting teacher feedback on the updated units and the feedback form will be shared in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Updates

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 Photojournalism unit for grade 9 will be available on Louisiana Curriculum Hub by January 1. Three new ELA Guidebooks 9-12 units will be released by April: Bioethics (10th grade), Film In America (11th grade), and In the Time of the Butterflies (12th grade).

The Department is also soliciting teacher feedback through Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9-12 Feedback Form for the units being implemented this year. Please encourage educators to bookmark this link for use throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

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

Additional Resources
- LASL Town Hall
- Free 5 Minute Webinar from LASL

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Public Comment on a revised set of K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies gathered from stakeholders throughout the months of October and November will be presented to BESE in December.

A 2021 Draft Louisiana Social Studies Standards Crosswalk and materials from steering committee meetings, including videos of past meetings and content expert workgroup guidance, can be found in the Standards Review Committee Library.

Please contact classroomsuppporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Acceleration in Math: Self-Paced Professional Learning Modules

The Department is partnering with the Charles A. Dana Center to publish a series of five asynchronous video-based learning modules for teachers and math leaders to support best practices for using acceleration to address unfinished math learning. The first two Acceleration in Math: Self-Paced Professional Learning Modules are available now, Classroom Strategies to Scaffold Math Learning and Formative Assessment Processes for Acceleration in Math. Each module includes a recorded presentation and accompanying handouts. These resources are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed asynchronously any time for an "at your own pace" style of PD. The materials are designed so that learning can happen collaboratively, such as during common planning, or individually. The final three modules are focused on the topics listed below.
- Critical Mindsets for Math Educators (coming in December)
- Planning to Address Unfinished Learning, Part 1 (coming in January)
- Planning to Address Unfinished Learning, Part 2 (coming in January)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

ASSISTments info Session

ASSISTments is a free formative assessment platform for math. ASSISTments contains a library of content that supports implementation of our most widely implemented open source tier 1 curricula for systems using Google Suites or Canvas. The Department's partnership with ASSISTments provides an opportunity for teachers to administer Acceleration tools and tutoring exit tickets to students electronically and quickly access data to support acceleration. Content is available and directly connected to Accelerate Math materials for grades 1-8, Algebra I, and Geometry.

[ASSISTments](#) will be hosting an information session for educators who are interested in finding out more about how ASSISTments supports best practices in acceleration in math for both tutoring and core instruction time. The session will be held on January 19 at 4:30 pm. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

New Self-Paced Science Professional Learning Modules Available Now

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with implementation of [high-quality science curricula](#), the Department has released three [self-paced learning modules](#). These resources are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed individually for an "at your own pace" style of PD or delivered by Content Leaders or other science leaders to drive professional learning and facilitate collaborative conversations. Learning modules are focused on the topics below and are available now.

- Science Instructional Model and Planning Guide
- Productive Science Talk and Planning for Discussion
- Leveraging Student Resources in Science

Each module includes a brief description, video, slide deck, and associated handouts.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STEM Resources from the US Department of Education

The US Department of Education has recently shared two resources that may be useful supporting STEM learning.
- [Data.gov](#) is a database with over 335,221 real-world datasets from a variety of sources updated weekly and connected to free resources to help show how data shapes our lives.
- [STEM Rising](#) from the US Department of Energy features a monthly newsletter, social media connections, virtual learning resources, college workshops, and online career resources.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science Education Week

[National Computer Science Education Week](#), which occurs December 6-12, is an annual call to inspire K-12 students to engage with computer science in many ways across various course disciplines.

The goal of this week is to spark interest, to celebrate the contributions of many different individuals to the field of computer science, and to help students see the ways to interact with computing.

Registration is free and includes events for teachers and school leaders and access to activities and resources for engaging and inspiring students.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New and Updated Resources for OpenSciEd Middle School Pilot

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with piloting OpenSciEd for middle school, the Department has updated existing resources and released new pacing documents.

These resources include
- Grade 6 and Grade 7 pilot guides updated with pacing guidance for the first three units in each grade;
- Grade 7 and Grade 8 pilot guides updated with links to newly released public units;
- OpenSciEd Distance Learning guidance updated to include Grade 8 Natural Selection; and
- OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Development updated kit purchasing information for revised units.

Additionally, ten units are now available in the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NiMAC) Inventory with more coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 17 Released

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 to listen to the latest episode and submit pictures of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

In Episode 17, Effective Tutoring Practices with Dr. Carly Robinson, Dr. Carly Robinson, a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Annenberg Institute at Brown University, shares the research and best practices school systems should use in their tutoring strategy this year to address unfinished learning from COVID-19. Haughton Elementary School in Bossier Parish is spotlighted during the What's Making Me Smile segment for their fun and engaging instruction.

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

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

The Department is accepting applications from schools and school systems seeking nomination for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (EDGRS) awards, which aims to inspire schools and school systems to strive for 21st century excellence by highlighting promising school sustainability practices and resources that all can employ. Successful applicants will provide a narrative that demonstrates the three EDGRS pillars:
- Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs,
- Improved Health and Wellness, and
- Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Applications should be submitted in Word or PDF format by **January 18**.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions or to submit an application.

STEM Teacher Micro-Credentialing Opportunity for High School Educators

The Department is seeking Louisiana high school teachers who are currently teaching or planning to teach coursework within the Pre-Engineering or Digital Design and Emergent Media high school STEM Pathways to participate in a study aimed at developing a new mechanism for professional support and a credentialing system for STEM teachers.

In addition to receiving a stipend for participation, teachers selected will receive support for facilitating project-based STEM learning; reflect on practices, evaluate lessons, and use data driven instruction; and engage with collaborative online cohorts with experienced STEM educators.

Interested educators should visit the research project information page for additional information and complete this brief survey.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

PAEMST 2022 Awards: Nominations Now Open for Elementary K-6 Teachers

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching.

Anyone — principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public — may nominate exceptional STEM teachers who are currently teaching grades K-6 for the 2022 award year. Teachers may also apply directly.

The nomination deadline is **January 7**, and the application deadline is **February 6**.

Please contact jam05@bellsouth.net with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Louisiana Coastal Fellowship Announced

The Louisiana Department of Education is pleased to announce the 2021-2022 Louisiana Coastal Fellows. Fellows will engage in rich professional learning with colleagues from schools and systems across the state who are committed to championing environmental literacy for Louisiana's students. Fellows will also contribute to the development of educational resources featuring environmental phenomena and collaboratively design student outdoor learning experiences. Resources will be shared on our website beginning next spring.

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating the Louisiana Coastal Fellows!

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams	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
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 and World Languages	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