



Teacher Leader Newsletter



December 2024



My name is Joanna Nesbitt and I currently serve as the Instructional Coordinator at South Highlands Elementary Magnet in Caddo Parish. I also serve as a Teacher Leader Advisor for the LDOE ELA Content Team.

In my current role, I have the opportunity to guide and mentor teachers on their instructional practices to ensure students are learning each day. Although I miss having my own students and being a classroom teacher, I love getting to coach and support teachers, students, and families.

As a Teacher Leader Advisor, I had the opportunity to help develop the [Fluency Utilized to Engage Learners \(FUEL\)](#) materials that support ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022). These materials are an aligned resource for building students' fluency by providing fluency practice while keeping students engaged in texts from each [ELA Guidebooks unit](#) in grades 3-5. The FUEL supports include explicit teacher-facing directions for each activity with excerpts from the anchor and related texts to support diverse readers through targeted individualized support during small-group reading instruction.

One of my favorite things about FUEL resources is that they align perfectly with the curriculum and allow students multiple readings of complex grade-level passages while providing targeted fluency and phonics instruction. Another wonderful thing is that it is a one-stop shop for fluency practice; everything you need is included and designed to only take 10-12 minutes. In grades 3-5, students receive the final pieces of the foundational code and may need continued support in foundational areas, including phonics and fluency. FUEL supports not only meet these needs but they are also easy to use.

No matter what content you teach, all educators strive to provide students with a high-quality learning experience using the best materials. Using aligned resources is essential for providing our students with an instructionally cohesive learning experience. As Anita Archer says, "Teach the stuff and cut the fluff."

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SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

English Learner Institute

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner (EL) Institute for EL Directors, Coordinators, and Lead EL Teachers. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration is linked below.

Please make your calendars for the following days:

- [February 4, 2025](#)
- [May 14, 2025](#)

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

Developing Strong Literacy Skills in 4th-8th Grade

The LDOE and Public Consulting Group (PCG) is pleased to offer Professional Development Modules focused on teacher-friendly content that provides the knowledge and skills necessary for intermediate and middle school classroom instruction by applying age-appropriate science of reading strategies. Registered participants will have access to five online modules, opportunities for professional learning, and easily accessible tools and resources.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with any questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Update

All units for ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) are now available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). The updated units include an integrated writing progression that builds throughout the units and the school year. Unit texts are available through [American Reading Company](#) or your preferred text provider. The Unit Readers are available through [XanEdu](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

The LDOE has resources available to support school librarians. The [Guidelines for Library Programs in Louisiana Schools](#) outlines guidelines for school library programs in Louisiana by focusing on the role of the school librarian as an active partner in the teaching and learning process. Resources to support

librarians in the teaching and learning process are also available in the [Louisiana Literacy Library](#). Additionally, librarians can access the [Louisiana Educator Rubric: Other Personnel Guidance](#) to answer questions about the new educator rubric. Please join the [LASL mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on additional professional learning opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [X](#).

The [Louisiana Association of School Librarians](#) is hosting a professional learning opportunity for school librarians on February 1. A call for proposals and registration information will be available soon.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team is kicking off monthly office hours to support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#). Join us for our initial meeting from 3:15 p.m.-4 p.m. on January 8 to obtain information on the following topics:

- Using the Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks
- Using the LEAP assessment rubric with HQIM
- Using the Bayou Bridges alternative pacing guides
- Using the Bayou Bridges online resources

To participate, educators should use the Zoom link below to join during the scheduled time. See the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) for more information on dates and topics.

Initial Webinar Date and Time: January 8 at 3:15 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD7OGfK2nHap7GN7qV.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 928 0030 6323

Meeting Passcode: 644638

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks

The LDOE is developing instructional slide decks to support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) in grades 3-8. Teachers will find these instructional decks helpful for increasing engagement, assisting in lesson pacing, and completing formative checks. Instructional decks include:

- core lesson teacher notes
- student supports
- images
- questions.

Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks for **Units 1 and 3**, as well as **Unit 4** for grades 3 and 8, are now available. **Unit 4** instructional slide decks for the remaining grades will be available on December 19.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Assessment Rubric Webinar

The LDOE Divisions of Academic Content and Assessment have collaborated to produce a professional learning opportunity, *Understanding the LEAP Rubric Through the HQIM Lens*, to assist teachers in using the new Social Studies LEAP Assessment Rubric with their HQIM. Educators can utilize these materials in Teacher Collaboration by accessing the [presentation slides](#) and [note catcher](#). Another option is to utilize the pre-recorded version, which will soon be available on the LDOE [YouTube](#) channel.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Numeracy Community of Practice

The LDOE is thrilled to announce the inaugural group of [educators](#) selected to serve on the Numeracy Community of Practice. These individuals will support the implementation efforts of [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) Numeracy training in their systems and will be expected to:

- complete the grade-specific numeracy course in Canopy aligned with the statewide pacing guide;
- provide constructive feedback on the course content;
- participate in virtual collaboration sessions;
- participate in an invite-only session at the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit; and
- offer targeted planning and resources to support teachers, school leaders, and system leaders with effective numeracy instruction.

The collaboration of the Numeracy Community of Practice is set to begin in January 2025.

Please contact stem@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Energize Initiative Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Exam Preparation for 6-12 Teachers

The [Energize Initiative](#) offers 40 hours of no-cost preparation to teachers in grades 6-12 for the Praxis (5652) Computer Science content exam. The Praxis (5652) Exam allows certified 6-12 teachers to add the Computer Science endorsement to their teaching license. The initiative is offered virtually, hybrid, and in person. The exam training will occur from January through June 2025.

Refresher eight-hour exam sessions will be offered for teachers who participated in Energize in 2024 and want additional exam review before attempting the Praxis (5652) exam. Teachers may register for the [eight or 40-hour training](#) through the online form.

Please contact energize@southeastern.edu with questions.

Ignite Initiative Training for K-5 Teachers

The [Ignite Initiative](#) offers 24 hours of no-cost teacher training in computational thinking, block programming, and cyber safety to prepare K-5 teachers to integrate computer science education experiences into their content areas. Multiple cohorts are available in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats. [Registration](#) is now open and training cohorts will begin in January.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Quality STEM Implementation Guide - Now Available

The [K-12 Quality STEM Implementation Guide](#) is now available on the [STEM Initiative webpage](#). This resource is intended to provide K-12 educators, as well as school systems, with:

- an overview of STEM education;
- K-8 STEM resources that have been reviewed by Louisiana STEM Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs);
- an overview of 9-12 Louisiana STEM Renaissance Pathways; and
- available STEM awards, clubs, and competitions.

This resource can be used to support K-12 STEM implementation in STEM or content classrooms, after-school/summer programs, and school-wide STEM events. STEM resources will continue to be added to the Quality STEM Implementation Guide upon review by STEM TLAs.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Credential Clearance with a Criminal Background Check (CBC) for Certification

Effective January 1, Louisiana law ([R.S. 17:8.9](#)) requires criminal background checks (CBCs) for credentialing. This law is much more comprehensive than what has historically been in place where the CBC was requested and required for employment ([R.S. 17:15](#)).

A CBC will be required before a credential can be issued if LDOE does not have one on file less than five years old.

If a person has already been issued a credential before the implementation of this new law, and the LDOE does not have a cleared CBC for that person, the credentialed individual will be required to complete the CBC process at the time of applying for renewal, advancement, or modification.

Certification applications **submitted before January 1, 2025**, will be processed without sending the applicant to be fingerprinted.

For applications **submitted on and after January 1, 2025**, the applicant will check the [certification verification website](#) for a CBC on file with LDOE under five years old. If none exist in the applicant's LDOE file or if the applicant has no certification file, the applicant will be directed to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet, where the individual will schedule fingerprinting with IdentoGO BEFORE certification can be processed. Certification applications are being updated with a new Professional Conduct form, the link to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet, and other documents addressing certification clearance and how to determine if one exists or if the applicant will be subject to a new background check for certification.

Fingerprinting will be done at any one of the [IdentoGO locations](#). IdentoGO provides a wide range of identity-related services with the primary service being the secure capture and transmission of electronic fingerprints for employment, certification, licensing, and other verification purposes. They will fingerprint applicants for Louisiana certification.

IdentoGO has assigned LDOE a specific agency "service code," which will be released with a waiver agreement and all disclosures when an applicant is directed to the CBC process after submitting the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet.

Fingerprint results are returned to the LDOE through the Louisiana Applicant Processing System (LAPS) with the CBC being transmitted within a few hours if the fingerprints are clear.

This new law requires a shared responsibility between BESE, LDOE, preparation providers, employing school systems, and certified individuals.

- BESE - establishes policies for checks, including obtaining fingerprints and requesting information from state and federal bureaus.
- LDOE - reviews the contents of the CBC before processing certification, making public any certification denial, suspension, and revocation.
- PREPARATION PROVIDERS - assist teacher candidates in applying for the pre-service certificates informing them of the CBC requirement.
- EMPLOYING SCHOOL SYSTEMS - notify LDOE upon the termination, resignation, or resignation in lieu of termination of any certified employee within 10 days of separation of service when the action results from a conviction for any felony or any offenses listed in R.S. 15:587.1.
- CERTIFIED INDIVIDUALS - required to report criminal convictions to LDOE within two business days.

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	highschoolacademics@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
Educator Background Credentialing	educatorclearance@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
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progression Plan	ppp@la.gov

Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov