

Louisiana Department of Education

Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council - October 2023

Math Refresh

The Department is excited to begin the Math Refresh Regional Tour. School leaders, system leaders, and teachers will learn about math initiatives and resources available, including Zearn math, implementing math refresh resources and Foundational Lessons for Accelerating Math Education (FLAME) resources.

High Cost Services

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems and schools that serve Louisiana's students with the most significant needs by providing additional funding for high cost special education services. This grant provides additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities and is funded through the state's IDEA allocation and Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula. The 2023-2024 HCS application will open this month.

Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Workgroup

The Department is working alongside Louisiana Accessible Education Materials Center at Special School District to problem solve for processes, procedures and guidance that impact students with disabilities and especially students with significant cognitive disabilities. The first project is a significant update to assistive technology procedures and forms that will align to the national SETT (student, environment, task, tool) framework. The group meets bi-weekly and includes Department staff, AEM staff, and professionals across the state with expertise in AT and communication.

Updated ELA Guidebook Units Grades 3-5 for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The Department has updated the [ELA Modified Guidebook Guide 3-5](#) which addresses [Louisiana Connectors](#) for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The updates align with the newest units of study and include text modifications with an overall summary of the text with shortened story lengths, enlarged font size, graphics, and vocabulary support.

Special Education Playbook Tour

The Diverse Learner Division recently conducted regional sessions in five locations across the state supporting best inclusive instructional practices for students with disabilities. Superintendents, Academic Officers, Special Education Directors, Pupil Appraisal, Instructional Coaches, Literacy Coaches, School Leaders and others were among attendees engaging in learning aimed to support students with disabilities to access high quality general education instruction to the maximum extent possible, extra time for intervention, and instructors with content expertise.

Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission - Dyslexia Subcommittee

The dyslexia subcommittee of the Literacy Advisory Commission has begun meeting. Topics discussed at the initial meeting included a review of literacy commission recommendations,

dyslexia practitioner training for teachers, and the Request for Information (RFI) for the dyslexia screener.

AEMing for Success Conference

The Louisiana Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Center is hosting its annual conference focused on providing professional development anchored in evidence-based practices, enabling student access to grade-level content by implementing Universal Design for Learning, and utilizing the accessibility features of assistive technology. This year's conference will be held October 23-24 at the Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge.

SEAP Update

SEAP met in September and welcomed its newest members. The panel discussed the K-3 alternate literacy screener and received feedback, Act 422 and its implications for students with disabilities, and it discussed the local SEAC report. The next SEAP meeting will be held November 29.