

# INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT PILOT

## WHAT IS THE LOUISIANA INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT PILOT?

Research shows that students need to possess deep knowledge of a subject in order to effectively read, comprehend and write about complex texts. However, reading tests traditionally use passages that include experiences and vocabulary that students may have never encountered, placing those who have fewer life experience at a disadvantage.

To solve for this disconnect and better assess students' knowledge of complex texts, **Louisiana has partnered with school systems to pilot an innovative, joint English language arts (ELA) and social studies assessment that ensures all students have an equal opportunity to succeed on the test.** During the 2018-2019 school year, pilot school systems include Ouachita, Lincoln, Assumption, and St. John the Baptist parishes, and Celerity Louisiana.

## PILOT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Integration:** Several brief assessments including both ELA and social studies content are administered throughout the year, rather than one end-of-year ELA and social studies exam, to measure students' deep knowledge of books or passages that they have studied in class.
- **Focus:** Teachers can focus instruction on background knowledge and making meaning of full texts.
- **Equity:** All students have the opportunity to develop background knowledge together so that no student is at a disadvantage due to a lack of life experiences.
- **Preservation of local control:** School systems continue to decide which books are used during instruction and which assessments students take.



## WHAT SUCCESS HAS THE PILOT HAD IN LOUISIANA AND NATIONALLY?

- This year, 25 schools, 44 teachers and approximately 2,500 students tested questions for the new assessments. The pilot will expand to 7,400 students by 2020-2021.
- “This is a more authentic and effective way to assess students’ knowledge of texts and topics. When students can take information from texts apart and put it back together in a way that deeply expresses their understanding of the world around them, we know that real learning is happening.” - *Emily Howell, Teacher, Lincoln Parish*

### In the News

- [Louisiana ESSA Innovative Assessment Pilot First to Receive Federal Approval](#) (*Louisiana Believes*)
- [States Don’t Measure What Kids Actually Know-That Needs to Change](#) (*The Hill*)
- [Overhauling Student Assessments: A View From the Pilot Seat](#) (*Education Week*)

**WHO TO CONTACT?**  
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