

# Louisiana Believes

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**Louisiana Connectors for English Language Learners and  
Students with Significant Disabilities  
January 2017**

# AGENDA

- Overview of LA Connectors
- Preview of LA Connectors in Practice
- Next Steps

# Louisiana Connectors

- Louisiana state law requires BESE to align standards for students with significant disabilities and English language learners.
- Based on the Louisiana Student Standards for English language arts and math, Louisiana proposed the Louisiana Connectors to ensure the standards are accessible to students with significant disabilities and English language learners.
- In December, BESE approved Louisiana's unique Connectors, created with local and national expertise and fully align to the [Louisiana Student Standards](#).

# Louisiana Connectors

The newly-aligned connectors for students with significant disabilities ([ELA](#)) and ([Math](#)) and English language learners ([ELL](#)):

- Are fully aligned to the Louisiana Student Standards for English language arts and mathematics;
- Provide developmentally appropriate content for all grades or courses while maintaining high expectations; and
- Provide teachers and specialists with more clarity about aligned expectations for students by making the standards correspond directly with those used in general education classrooms.

# Standards Alignment Process: Timeline

Time (2016)	Key Engagement
July	Initial stakeholder discussions (process, timelines, guiding principles)
August - September	Alignment proposal (LDOE worked with stakeholders and experts to determine alignment approach and develop drafts)
October 18 – November 18	Public comment
November 1 and 3	Alignment overview webinars (over 120 participants)
November 16	Special Education Advisory Panel (endorsement of Bulletin 127 revision for the Louisiana Connectors for students with significant disabilities)
November	Finalize proposals (review public feedback and finalize proposals)
December 6	BESE approved policy revisions





# The Louisiana Connectors for English Language Learners

# English Language Learners

- The Louisiana Connectors for English language learners are the pathways for English Language Learners to meet the Louisiana Student Standards.
- The ten ELL Connectors are designed for use by English as a second language (ESL) and content area teachers with the explicit recognition that language acquisition takes place across the content areas.

	Former	Proposed
<b>Standards</b>	English Language Development Standards	Louisiana Connectors for English Language Learners
<b>Assessment</b>	English Language Development Assessment (ELDA)	LEAP Connect: English Language Learners

# Let's Take a Look at a Sample

Look at the handout in front of you and with a partner be prepared to explain how this sample models a commitment to the following principles:

- **Content-area teachers** must understand and leverage the language and literacy practices found in core content to English language learners.
- **ESL/ELD teachers** must cultivate a deeper knowledge of the disciplinary language that ELL students need, and help their students use it to carry out disciplinary practices.



# Preview of LA Connectors in Practice

- Let's look at a [3rd Grade Guidebook Lesson](#)
- Read the activity in this lesson and then refer to the standard again. Be prepared to present your response to the following questions:
  - What will your students need to access this lesson?
  - What is already in the lesson that will support your students?
  - How will you need to modify the lesson, given the standard, to support your students? Identify specific modifications you would make.
- Each table should break in to three groups and create different modifications:
  - Group 1: Level 1 and 2 ELLs
  - Group 2: Level 3 and 4 ELLs
  - Group 5: Level 5 ELLs



# The Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities

# Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities

- Read the short vignette “Tara” on your handout.
- With a colleague, discuss the things you would think about if you were a teacher planning this lesson.

# Background

The Louisiana Connectors are the pathways for students with significant disabilities to meet the Louisiana State Standards; they are not learning standards that stand separate and apart from the standard expectations we have for typical students.

The Louisiana Connectors capture the “big ideas” of each content area, while also maintaining alignment to the standard expectations. Each individual Louisiana Connector names the benchmark to be met on the pathway to achieving of the Louisiana Student Standard.

	Former	Proposed
Standards	Extended Standards	Louisiana Connectors
Assessment	LAA 1	LEAP Connect: Students with Significant Disabilities



# Example Louisiana Connectors

Please examine the two examples of Louisiana Connectors for students with significant found on your handout.

- What do you notice?
- What similarities do the connectors have with the Louisiana Student Standards?
- What are the differences?

# Purpose of Louisiana Connectors

- SWSD can learn much more academic content than once thought possible
- GLEs are the highest expectation we have for any student
- SWSDs will have the same opportunity to reach grade-level achievement
- Connectors provide developmentally appropriate content for all grades and maintain high expectations for all students

# Tara's Vignette

- Please examine the LSS and LC found in your handout once more.
- What does the standard require?
- Discuss with your colleague how you might help Tara to be successful in achieving the standard.
  - What are the teacher moves?
  - What would we like to see Tara do to demonstrate understanding?
- Share your thinking with the group.

# Tara's Vignette

- Please read through the rest of Tara's vignette on your handout. As you read, think about what the teacher does and what Tara produces to demonstrate her learning.
- What were the most important things the teacher did?
- How did Tara demonstrate understanding?
- What resources did the teacher employ to create a successful lesson?
- As the Supervisor, what are some of the things you think about in best supporting those who teach Tara?



# Curriculum and Instruction Resources for Louisiana Connectors

In order for the Louisiana Connectors to be used successfully during the 2017-2018 school year, educators and the Department will work together to implement the following academic support plan.

- **Assessments** – preview of assessment design and structure (summer 2017), new assessment administered (spring 2018)
- **Teacher training and professional development** – trainings on new standards (spring and summit 2017 and on-going) and provide recommendations to districts for continuing support (ongoing)
- **Curriculum and resources** – New standards and parent communication tools (May 2017), Curricular supports (fall 2017)

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