

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



January 2018



My name is Mandy Boaz and I am a Teacher Leader and social studies teacher at Belle Chasse Middle School in Plaquemines Parish. As I pack away the holiday decorations and set my sights on the year ahead, I get a rush of adrenaline thinking about the opportunities I have to learn, grow and tackle new challenges. I also have the privilege of working with a remarkable group of diverse learners, and I have spent a lot of time over the past few weeks pushing myself to find new ways to ensure that every day, every student in my classroom also has the opportunity to learn, grow, and tackle worthwhile challenges.

Like me, you're probably already reworking lesson plans and brainstorming ways to hit the ground running as well as searching for ways to support struggling learners. As you do, I wanted to share two resources to help you meet the diverse learning needs of the students in your classroom: [Strategies for Success: A Guidebook for Supporting Students with Disabilities](#), released in November, and the English Learner Guidebook, which will be released later this winter.

The Guidebook for Supporting Students with Disabilities focuses on early and accurate identification, high quality instruction, specialized supports and related services, and effective transitions. The English Learner Guidebook addresses the need for high quality, on level core instruction, academic supports, monitoring progress with formative and summative assessments, and ongoing professional development for English Learners.

Whether you're a general educator, a special educator, or an ESL teacher, you'll find these resources valuable in helping all students in your classroom achieve at higher levels. Let's make 2018 a great year for *all* of our students.

In This Issue

- [Instructional Support](#)
- [Assessment](#)
- [Professional Development](#)

Instructional Support

Math: Explore Our Approach to Helping Students Who Struggle

Are you in need of supports to help struggling students in math, particularly those in Algebra I? The Department and The College Board have partnered to pilot Springboard Intensive Algebra I, a course specifically designed for struggling students that's based on SpringBoard's high-quality Algebra I curriculum. The basic approach centers around the Tier 1 curriculum and adds additional time (minimum of 90 minutes of instructional time daily) and appropriate supports (e.g., initial and ongoing professional development, ongoing assessment resources, and supplemental resources targeting the foundational mathematics).

While this pilot centers on the SpringBoard Algebra I curriculum, we recommend the same fundamental approach be used with any strong curriculum. Eureka users are encouraged to use the Eureka Remediation Tools, located on the [K-12 Math Planning page](#). These tools provide the diagnostic assessments to help determine gaps in skills and understandings and links to support work to help students access on-grade level work.

As we look forward to the remainder of this year, we'd like to challenge you to reflect upon how you approach gaps in students' math skills and understandings and look upon these gaps as opportunities to finish previous learnings by utilizing the resources available!

Complete [this survey](#) if you are interested in accessing quality training around one of these programs. The Department will use the responses in planning for 2018-2019.

Contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions or ideas for future tools and trainings.

ELA: Check Out the Writing Revolution Language Links

The Department and The Writing Revolution, Inc., a national non-profit organization, have partnered to develop new resources for ELA teachers in [Grade 6](#), [Grade 7](#), and [Grade 8](#). The Language Links are aligned to the ELA Guidebooks 2.0 units, and are located on the [K-12 ELA Planning Resources](#) page. The sentence level writing activities in these Language Links, provide the foundation students need to write with clarity and fluency. Additional Language Links for Grades 6, 7, and 8 have been added to the zipped folder on the [K-12 ELA Planning Resources page](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Social Studies: Check Out Our Planning Resources

The scope and sequence documents for grades 3-8 and U.S. History have been updated to provide:

- Instructional tasks which build content knowledge and skill with **sources**
- A coherent year-long frame which **makes connections** among content ideas
- Assessments which measure how well students **express informed opinions** with evidence and outside knowledge.

Grade Level	Resource	Link
Grade 3	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final Word or PDF Document Answer Key Document
Grade 4	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final Word or PDF Document Answer Key Document
Grade 5	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final Word or PDF Document Answer Key Document
Grade 6	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final Word or PDF Document Answer Key Document
Grade 7	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final Word or PDF Document Answer Key Document
Grade 8	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final Word or PDF Document Answer Key Document
Civics	Scope and Sequence	Final Word or PDF Document
US History	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final Word or PDF Document Answer Key Document

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Assessment

Download the LEAP 360 Interim Assessment Reports

LEAP 360 Interim assessment 1 summary reports are now available. Remember that you can review LEAP 360 Interim assessment items using the login information found in the [Interim Assessment Quick Start Guide](#). Interim assessment Form 2 Math (3-8) teacher access is currently available in eDIRECT, and student testing will be available in mid-January. Interim assessment Form 2 ELA (3-8) is available in eDIRECT in PDF form, and student testing will be available in mid-February. Also, new social studies items have been added to EAGLE, and in the coming months, additional social studies and math items will continue to be added.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Explore LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Resources

LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Guides are available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library. These guides provide information about the shifts in science instruction and assessment, field test design, sample items and sets, and resources.

The Department will host a series of webinars for teachers in January concerning the new Science Field Tests. Participants will learn information about the new science assessment vision, field test design, and item types.

Each webinar will be held from 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 9, 2018: LEAP 2025 Grades **3-5** Science Field Test Webinar for Teachers
- Wednesday, January 10, 2018: LEAP 2025 Grades **6-8** Science Field Test Webinar for Teachers
- Thursday, January 11, 2018: **Biology** Field Test Development for LEAP 2025 Webinar for Teachers

To join the webinars:

- Login to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/leap/>
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575; PIN 89147656

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Professional Development

2018 Teacher Leader Summit: Save the Date

The 2018 Teacher Leader Summit will be held at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Wednesday, May 30 through Friday, June 1 and will offer educators a wide variety of sessions led by LDOE staff members, partner organizations, and fellow educators from across Louisiana. Supervisors, Principals and Teacher Leaders are encouraged to attend all 3 days!

The Department will release additional information about the Summit, including the specific sessions that will be offered and how to register, in mid-April.

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Gear Up For LSSS with Green STEM

[Register](#) for the 2018 Environmental Education State Symposium at the Baton Rouge Marriott on February 23 and 24, 2018. This year's theme is "Green STEM." The conference will focus on environmental science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and the emerging career opportunities available to your students. Join other formal and non-formal environmental educators to learn environmental teaching practices and research. Choose from multiple short courses, sessions, and round-table discussions to fit your interest and grade level.

Find the event brochure [here](#). For more information or to register, visit the [symposium's webpage](#).