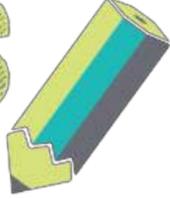


TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



February 2018



Hello everyone! My name is Kim Eckert, and I am an English I teacher at Brusly High School in West Baton Rouge Parish and the 2018 Louisiana Teacher of the Year.

Serving as our state's Teacher of the Year has afforded me the opportunity to meet with so many phenomenal teachers across the state, and I am constantly reminded of the unique opportunity we all have to shape the future of Louisiana.

Therefore, it is with much excitement that I announce the launch of Louisiana's statewide teacher recruitment campaign the week of February 19 to recruit the next generation of teachers in our state. The campaign, which will feature a collection of TV and radio ads, billboards, digital and social media ads, will recruit dynamic high school and college students into our profession and share with them the incredible opportunity they have to join the prestigious field of teaching!

During my classroom visits, I am reminded of how important it is that every student has access to exceptional educators, just like you, every day. However, many areas across the state still struggle to recruit and retain high quality teachers. We certainly have no shortage of young people with tremendous potential and talent to become extraordinary educators; but time and again, they are persuaded to enter different fields outside of education. The time has come for us to change their minds, and recruit them to teach Louisiana's most precious asset: OUR STUDENTS!

I call on each of you to join me in promoting this campaign in every way you can. Follow the Department on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and share our videos and social media posts each week with your friends, family, colleagues, and most of all students! I also encourage you to help elevate our profession during this time by sharing your own powerful and passionate stories of teaching and encourage others to do the same using the hashtag [#BeATeacherLA](#).

In This Issue

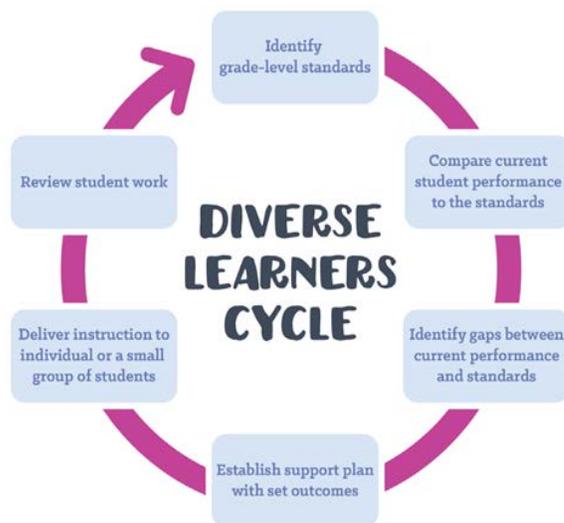
- [Instructional Support](#)
- [Assessment](#)
- [Professional Development](#)
- [Other Opportunities](#)

Instructional Support

ELA: How are you supporting your most struggling students?

The [Diverse Learners Guide](#) describes the guidebook approach to supporting diverse learners during both whole-class and small-group instruction. The guidebook units include resources to support teachers in providing aligned small-group instruction.

- **Additional Supports for Diverse Learners:** These documents for each section of a guidebook unit focus on specific supports for reading and understanding each text. *These supports are being piloted right now in grades 6-8 and will be released in June 2018.*
- **Supports Flow Chart:** This [document](#) provides links to information, guidance, and supports that are general and help students read, understand, and express their understanding of complex texts.



To support diverse learners, teachers must know **who, why, what, when,** and **how**:

Who needs support?	Why do they need that support	What supports do they need?	When will they need that support	How will they get that support?
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The diagram above describes a decision-making process to answer these questions. For example, selecting the best supports (step four) depends on an understanding of the grade-level standards (step one) and students' current ability (steps two and three).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Science: Learn about Phenomenon-based Instruction!

One of the biggest **shifts** in the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) is the importance of applying content knowledge and science understanding to real-world phenomena. Check out [this webinar](#) to learn more about phenomenon-based instruction.

The Department has released tools to help educators connect phenomenon to science instruction and to see how these connections will better prepare students for the upcoming science assessments. These tools include the [Sample Scope and Sequence Documents](#) and [LEAP 2025 Field Test Overview and Guides](#).

The latest science collaboration session, [Connecting Standards, Instruction, and Assessment](#), “connects the dots” between the standards, instruction, and assessment.

Please contact Louisianastandards@la.gov with questions about the Louisiana Student Standards for Science and Assessment@la.gov with questions about science assessment.

Social Studies: New Items Sets Available in Eagle

The Department recently released thirteen new item sets for social studies in EAGLE. EAGLE 2.0 is an online assessment tool that supports formative assessment in the classroom and can be used to enhance student learning throughout the year.

To access the new item sets listed below log on to eDirect (link: <https://www.drcedirect.com/all/eca-portal-ui/welcome/LA>), then filter the item bank by grade and subject.

Grade Level	Topic
Grade 3	Geography and Resources
	Louisiana Culture
	Early Settlement of Louisiana
	Individuals Contribute to the Economy
	Becoming a State
Grade 6	Han Dynasty
	River Valley
	Hellenism
	The Crusades
Grade 7	Washington's Farewell Address
	Reconstruction
	Immigration
Grade 8	Colonial Louisiana

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Special Education: Using Universal Design for Learning Strategies to Increase Achievement of Students with Disabilities

The Department released [Strategies for Success: A Guidebook for Supporting Students With Disabilities](#) in November. *Strategy two*, which emphasizes the importance of general and special educators collaborating to design high quality instruction, is a critical component of the guidebooks.

When lessons are planned using the principles of [Universal Design for Learning](#) (UDL), individualized supports are embedded for students, so that they can remain in class with their peers, accessing the same content but in a way that supports their unique learning. If you are unfamiliar with the UDL approach to lesson planning, check out these [examples](#) and this [resource library](#).

If you are interested in learning more about how [assistive technology](#) can be leveraged to support universal design for learning, ask your SPED Director or AT Coordinator to connect you with your regional [LATI Center](#).

Assessment

LEAP 360 Interim Assessments

The LEAP 360 assessments are designed to give meaningful information about student performance throughout the year. These assessments are aligned to both the Louisiana Student Standards and to the assessment approach of LEAP 2025.

For Grades 3-8, two Interim assessments are available for ELA and math, and for high school, three Interim assessments are available for ELA and math.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New assessment tool: Desmos graphing calculator

New tool: As of January 22, 2018, all LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry tests and resources have a fully functional online graphing calculator available. This graphing calculator, permanently replaces the graphing tool that has been available. Desmos has a free online graphing calculator available at www.desmos.com that students can use with any internet capable device in order to practice using the new tool.

Please note: The online scientific calculator (a separate tool from the graphing calculator) will remain available for testers.

Remember, it is still recommended that students are provided handheld calculators during testing because students are more likely to be successful with tools with which they are familiar. Handheld calculators must meet the requirements of the calculator policy as described in the [Assessment Guides](#), which remain unchanged.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New resource for teachers: Science field test webinar recordings available

LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Guides are available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library. In early January the Department hosted science field test webinars for teachers. These guides and webinars include:

- the new science assessment vision,
- the shifts in science instruction necessary for mastery of the new science standards,
- administration of the science field tests, and
- science field test design.

Science field test webinars were recorded. The presentations and recordings are available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

Assessment Resources

LEAP 360 Interims

- [LEAP 360](#) Interim Assessments are available for students in grades 3–8 (ELA and math), English I, English II, Algebra I, and Geometry. As you begin preparing to administer the LEAP 360 Interim Assessments, please refer to [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) and the [LEAP 360 Interim Assessment Quick Start Guide](#) for helpful information and guidance.

Practice Tests

- [Practice Tests](#) are available for students in grades 3-8 (ELA, math, and social studies), English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, and U.S. History. For more information and support, refer to the [Practice Test Quick Start Guide](#) and [Practice Test Guidance](#) documents.

ELPT

- The [ELPT](#) testing window is February 5–March 16. Review the [ELPT Assessment Guide](#), [ELPT Assessment Teacher Training](#) and the [ELPT FAQ](#) for information about the test structure, test questions, and achievement level descriptors.
- The [Online Tools Training](#) (OTT) is available for students to access and practice with test features. Students should take the appropriate OTT for their grade prior to taking the ELPT

Summative Assessment, so they become familiar with the structure of the test and the item types. For more information on administering the Online Tools Training, see the [TA User Guide](#).

LEAP Connect

- The LEAP Connect testing window is February 5–March 16. Review the [LEAP Connect Assessment Guide](#) and the [LEAP Connect Teacher Webinar](#) for detailed information to support students taking LEAP Connect.
- The [Online Tools Training](#) (OTT) and Student Response Check (SRC) can be accessed through INSIGHT. The OTT provides students and teachers opportunities to become familiar with the tools available in the online testing platform. The SRC is used to clearly identify a student's preferred mode of response prior to taking LEAP Connect.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Professional Development

Important Announcement: English Learner Support Trainings Have Been Rescheduled

The English Learner Support/ELA Guidebook 2.0 trainings have been rescheduled for February 26 & 27. Please register through [WisdomWhere](#) to guarantee a reserved seat. Previously registered participants do not need to register again.

Hurry seats fill up fast! Please contact beverly.diaz@la.gov with questions.

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 offers 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.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Other Opportunities

Opportunity for Students: Green Schools Youth Summit

The Louisiana Green Schools Youth Summit invites students in **grades 5-12 across Louisiana** to share and learn about school-sustainability-related initiatives on **March 23, 2018** at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. This is a unique opportunity for students to develop leadership skills, as sessions will be led by students for students.

Student leaders can submit proposals [here](#) for presentations showcasing their schools' sustainability initiatives. Students can [register here](#) for the summit. Registration is free, but space is limited.

For more information, visit <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/youth-summit> or contact Brian Gautreau at bgautreau@wlf.la.gov.

Opportunity for Students: National Youth Science Camp

Applications are now open for the 2018 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC), held June 27-July 21, 2018. Two graduating seniors from Louisiana will be selected.

Student delegates attend a STEM and outdoor adventure program and spend several days in Washington, DC. Travel and participation costs are covered by the program. Applications close on February 28, 2018 at 6:00pm EST.

Additional information is available on the [NYSC website](#). Brian Gautreau at bgautreau@wlf.la.gov with questions.

Funding Opportunity: Environmental Education Grants

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced **up to \$3 million in funding for locally-focused environmental education grants** will be available under the 2018 EE Local Grant Program.

EPA will award three to four grants in Region 6, between \$50,000-\$100,000 each, for a total of 30-35 grants nationwide. **Proposals are due March 15, 2018.**

Educators may find background on the EE Grants Program and resources for applicants at <http://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>.