

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



February 2019



Hi! My name is Heather Lawson, and I am an Assistant Principal at Belle Chasse High School in Plaquemines Parish. As a classroom teacher last year, I participated in the Intensive Algebra I pilot to help set students up for success and address the idea that all students, including those who persistently struggle, can achieve grade-level standards. This pilot focused on engaging students in an on-grade-level, high quality curriculum with appropriate resources (targeted diagnostics and coherent supports) and extended time. Additionally, the intervention work supplemented instruction and accelerated student progress by preparing them for new learning. My students' scores drastically improved. More importantly, they had a newfound confidence in themselves as mathematicians. The

additional time and flexible groupings gave them the opportunity to work with their peers, engage in rich discussions about the problems, and develop a "can do" attitude about the work. These students, who experienced many challenges in math in the past, now had a safe environment in which to learn, struggle, think, and grow.

Now, as an administrator, I ask the following questions when making instructional decisions for our students:

- What percentage of students in my school engage with on-grade-level Tier 1 curriculum every day?
- What percentage of students at my school have small group instruction in class?
- What percentage of students at my school are being pulled out for additional intervention?
- What are students doing in small groups? During intervention?
- Who at the school determines/influences the work persistently struggling students are doing?

I encourage you all to ask the same questions. The [2019 PD Vendor Guide](#) may assist you and your school leaders in identifying vendors who provide training on the curriculum that your schools uses, including the supports some of your students may need to access the on-grade-level work. To find out more about the Intensive Algebra I course I taught last year, [join this webinar](#).

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SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

English Learners: ELPT Testing Window February 4-March 15

All identified English learners will take their annual English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) February 4 through March 15. Students may use the [Online Tools Training](#) (OTT) to practice navigating the testing platform, which is unique to the ELPT. More information about test administration can be found in the [ELPT Portal](#) and in the [ELPT Assessment Guide](#).

Students with Significant Disabilities: LEAP Connect Testing Window February 4-March 15

All students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 who have met the participation criteria for the alternate assessment will take the LEAP Connect in ELA and mathematics February 4 through March 15. For more information about the LEAP Connect assessment, review the [LEAP Connect Assessment Guide](#). Students and test administrators should access the [LEAP Connect OTT](#) (use with Google Chrome) to practice navigating the testing platform and entering responses. OTT directions for test administration and reference materials should be downloaded from eDIRECT prior to using the LEAP Connect OTT. Sample ELA constructed response items are available for [grades 3-5](#) and [grades 6-8, 11](#). These items give test administrators and students an opportunity to practice the ELA constructed-response items before taking the assessment. The LEAP Connect ELA sample constructed response directions for test administration and writing stimuli are located in the [Assessment Library](#).

LAA 1 Science Tests

The LAA 1 science tests will be administered for students in grades 4, 8, and 11 who have met the participation criteria for the alternate assessment. It is administered February 4 through March 15. More information can be found in the [LAA 1 Assessment Guide](#).

ELA RESOURCES

Instructional Support

The [ELA Guidebook](#) units in grades 3-5 are being updated to include additional supports for diverse learners and are scheduled for release in April. The updates for grades 3-5 will be accessed via zip-drive from each unit's "Unit at a Glance" page by clicking on "2018-2019 Revisions."

MATH RESOURCES

Intensive Algebra 1 Pilot Webinar

There will be a webinar on **February 13 at 4:00 p.m.** to review the successes of the Intensive Algebra I pilot and to discuss why and how every high school should offer the Intensive Algebra I course to 9th graders who persistently struggle in math.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 13 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/923106436>
- **Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 923106436

EAGLE:

New items are available. To see a listing of the items with associated standards, see the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#). Many thanks to our seven Teacher Leader Advisors who have worked diligently since July 2018 to create these items.

- Kindergarten – 10 items
- Grade 1 – 19 items
- Grade 2 – 9 items
- Grade 3 – 12 items
- Grade 4 – 15 items
- Grade 5 – 15 items
- Grade 6 – 12 Items
- Grade 7 – 21 items
- Grade 8 – 29 items
- Algebra I – 22 items
- Geometry – 20 items

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

EAGLE:

New and revised items are available. To see a listing of the items, see the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#).

- New Sets:
 - Grade 5, Unit 4: Passage 135520, "Columbian Exchange," includes a CR item
 - Grade 6, Unit 4: Passage 135522, "West African Kingdoms," includes a CR item
 - Grade 7, Unit 1: Passage 135536, "Key Ideas Leading to Independence," includes a CR item
 - Grade 7, Unit 4: Passage 135535, "Women's Rights Movement," includes an ER item
 - Grade 8, Unit 5: Passage 135521, "Louisiana during World War II," includes a CR item
 - U.S. History, Unit 1: Passage 135519, "Political Machines and Progressives," includes a CR item

- Revisions:
 - ER item 1005149 for grade 3, Unit 3: Passage 134396, “Louisiana’s Early Explorers – de Soto,” has been replaced with item 1017338.
 - ER item 1004359 for grade 4, Unit 4: Passage 134216, “Waterways & Settlements,” has been replaced with item 1017339.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

EAGLE:

New items are available. To see a listing of the items with associated standards, see the Appendix of [A Teacher’s Guide to LEAP 360](#).

- Grade 3 – 9 items
- Grade 5 – 9 items
- Grade 6 – 10 items
- Grade 7 – 9 items
- Grade 8 – 9 items
- Biology – 9 items

Inquiry Hub “Ecosystems” Training for Biology Teachers

[Registration](#) is still open for the Alexandria location offering of the next training for Biology teachers in the [Inquiry Hub \(iHub\) Biology](#) curriculum series. This training will focus on the *Ecosystems* unit and will be held on February 25-26 at the Gladys Higdon Instructional Resources Center in Alexandria from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please note, this training costs \$100 per teacher and space is limited to a maximum of 100 participants. Contact stem@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

2019 Teacher Leader Summit: Registration

Early bird registration is now open for the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit, June 26-28, at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. This annual event will bring together roughly 6,500 educators and content experts who are focused on creating meaningful growth for every student, every day. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2019-2020 school year.

Registration for the Summit will occur in three phases on a first come, first served basis: **early bird registration** (January 9 - March 31), regular registration (April 1 - June 14), and on-site registration (upon arrival, June 26-28). Review the [Summit overview](#) for more details, including the link to register.

2019 Teacher Leader Summit: Apply to Lead a Session

Share your knowledge and best practices with others around the state by designing and facilitating sessions at the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit. This is a great way to expand your impact and showcase the

great work you are doing in your classrooms, schools, and school systems.

All types of Louisiana educators – classroom teachers, school/childcare center administrators, LEA/lead agency administrators – are welcome to apply to lead sessions at the Summit. **Applications are due online on or before April 1.** Review the [application](#) for more details.

2019 Teacher Leader Summit: Design the 2019 T-Shirt

The Department is seeking inspiration for 2019 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design and is excited to announce its [design contest](#). Teacher Leaders with an artistic flair are encouraged to **submit their design for consideration by February 15** to ldoecommunications@la.gov. The winning design will be announced in the March 7 edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter.

Contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Teacher & Content Leader Spotlight



Misty Hackler teaches upper elementary math in Cameron Parish. She participated in the 2017-2018 Secondary Math Mentor Teacher training, and in 2018-2019, she is attending the Secondary Math Content Leader training. Misty is also currently working on her distinction assessments to gain her ancillary Mentor Teacher certificate.

When asked to describe how the trainings and assessments have helped her, Misty said, “Completing the trainings and distinction assessments has been a positive experience for me - both professionally and personally. I feel a strong sense of accomplishment performing these roles and I appreciate the impact they have had on my practice. In addition, the assessment process has allowed me to analyze and evaluate the daily work I do with my students and co-workers. The activities are both engaging and valuable, and the feedback I have received has allowed me to reflect on and enhance my own practice. In turn, this has positively impacted the mentees with whom I worked and, most importantly, our students!”

2019-2020 Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Nominations (Upcoming)

Beginning in early March, the Department will launch the nomination process for Mentor Teacher and Content Leader trainings. Similar to last year’s process, the nomination template will be available to schools and school systems in both the [Mentor Teacher](#) and [Content Leader](#) libraries. The deadline to submit the nomination template will be **April 18**. In addition, the Department will hold a webinar on **March 15** to provide additional guidance for school system leaders on nominating mentor teachers and content leaders.

All nominations must be submitted by school systems or charter schools, so interested teachers are encouraged to contact their school principal and/or school system contact to let them know about their interest in this training.

2019 Counselor Collaborations

Please share this information with middle and high school counselors.

Save the dates for the Spring Counselor Collaborations. Topics to be discussed include Jump Start 2.0, Super Summer Institute, Quest for Success, financial aid planning, and Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Registration in [Eventbrite](#) is open.

- February 19 at Monroe City School Board, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- February 20 at Bossier Instructional Center, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- February 21 at Avoyelles Parish Media Center, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- February 25 at Acadia Parish Educational Center, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- February 26 at St. Charles Professional Learning Center, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- February 27 at University View Academy, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Please email Leslie.Gilliland@la.gov with questions about these events.

College Level Examination Exams (CLEP) Webinar Series

Please share with professional school counselors, test coordinators and administrators.

The College Board has released a [series of spring College Level Examination Program \(CLEP\) webinars](#). The series will focus on themes and topics related to academic advising, military related students and best practices for implementing CLEP programs in high schools.

For more information, please contact Raphael Curtis at Raphael.Curtis@la.gov.

AP Summer Institute Scholarships

The College Board has released its [2019 AP Fellow Scholarship applications](#). The AP Fellows Program awards teachers, serving minority or low income students, \$1,000 grants at schools without funding for professional development. These grants are paid directly to endorsed AP Summer Institutes to cover the cost of tuition, and the remaining funds will be sent to teachers directly to be applied to travel costs. Although these grants are competitive, they are typically awarded on a first come, first served basis. Please contact APScholarships@Collegeboard.org with questions.

Louisiana Environmental Education Commission Regional Short Courses

This year, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) is bringing continuing education to teachers by staging workshops and/or tours in each of the major regions around Louisiana, focusing on environmental efforts on **February 16**. [Registration](#) is now open.

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Teacher Leaders are invited to nominate outstanding mathematics, science, computer and engineering

teachers in grades 7-12. **Nominations must be made [online](#) by March 1.** For more information contact Jean May-Brett at jam05@bellsouth.net.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Department Launches New Educator Recognition Program

The Department is excited to announce the [launch of *Classroom Chronicles*](#), a monthly blog series that highlights the inspiring everyday work of Louisiana educators. Each month, the blog will spotlight an educator who is taking that extra step to make an impact on the lives of their students, school and community. *Classroom Chronicles* will be promoted on the [Department's website](#), in its newsletters and through social media.

The [January edition](#) of *Classroom Chronicles*, "Caught Being Kind," features Kathryn Ferguson, the 2019 Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year from Caddo parish. In the post, Kathryn tells the story of how she is helping to promote kindness in her school through the "Spartan Kindness Check" initiative.

Do you know educator who is making an impact in your community? Then nominate them for an upcoming edition of *Classroom Chronicles* by completing this quick [form](#). If the educator you have nominated is selected, a member of the Department's communication team will be in touch.

Please email ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

National Youth Science Camp: Application Open

Applications are being accepted for the 2019 National Youth Science Camp (NYSCamp). The application deadline is **February 28**. This program is for graduating high school seniors in the United States (two from each state and Washington, D.C.) and students 16-18 years of age in selected other countries. NYSC 2019 dates are planned for June 27 - July 20. Students must be able to attend the entire program without exception. [Applications](#) are available for students. For more information about the program, please visit the NYSCamp's [website](#). Please contact the state's selection coordinator nathancotten@tpsd.org with any questions.

PRINCIPALS' CORNER

2017-2018 Compass results will be posted in the [Compass Library](#) by **February 15**.

Louisiana Principal Fellowship/NISL Nomination Forms Available

The Louisiana Principal Fellowship Program partners with the National Institute for School Leaders (NISL) to offer a yearlong executive development program for school and school system leaders in all stages of their careers.

The [enrollment portal](#) for Cohort 5 (2019-2020) of the Louisiana Principal Fellowship is now open and available on the [Louisiana Principal Fellowship website](#). This newly developed website will contain important information about the Principal Fellowship including unit overviews, agendas, sign-in sheets, newsletters, and payment information.

Nominations are available on a first come, first served basis and should be completed no later than **March 15** to ensure a spot.

Please contact teri.roberts@la.gov with questions.

Toolkit for Mentoring in Alternate Preparation Programs

In Louisiana, there are [two pathways to teaching](#) - undergraduate and post-baccalaureate. Roughly half of all teachers in Louisiana are prepared through post-baccalaureate or “alternate certification” training programs that require fewer pre-service practice experiences as compared to undergraduate residents.

As part of its [research](#) and [support of](#) alternate certification programs in Louisiana, the Department released a [toolkit](#) on January 28, to help schools provide these teaching candidates with significantly more time to practice with an expert mentor.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

- For questions about instructional support and resources including LEAP 360 and EAGLE, contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov.
- For questions related to the Teacher Leader Summit, Content Leaders, Mentor Teachers, and Teacher Leader Advisors, contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov.
- For questions about assessments and related supports, contact assessment@la.gov.
- For questions about the Educational Leader licensure policy update, contact believeandprepare@la.gov.
- For questions about the Collaborations, contact districtsupport@la.gov.
- For questions about the PD Vendor Guide, contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov.
- For questions about the Behavior Intervention Summit, contact behaviorintervention@la.gov.
- For questions about Jump Start, contact jumpstart@la.gov.
- For questions about Compass, contact compass@la.gov.