

# TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



**March 2018**



Hi! My name is Jacquelyn Martin and I am an English learner (EL) teacher at Morris Jeff Community School in New Orleans.

In 2017, Morris Jeff adopted the Content-based Language Instruction model which is an inclusion model where EL teachers work with classroom content teachers to scaffold on-level instruction for EL students. This model is highly effective, as it is designed to provide direct support for EL students in their classroom, as opposed to pulling students out of class for EL instruction. An added bonus is that many other struggling students can benefit from this support as well.

The model requires planning and co-teaching with classroom teachers.

One of the most important resources that I use when planning and co-teaching with classroom teachers is the [Louisiana Connectors for ELs](#). The Connectors are written in a continuum of levels (1-5 or Beginning to Advanced) representing the predictable language acquisition stages in each of the four language domains: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. This level of specificity helps me identify the language supports my students need to engage with content, such as identifying the academic vocabulary, key skills, and grammar they will use in specific content learning. Collaborating with content teachers allows me to share instructional practices that are essential for EL's success. I have also turned to the Connectors for ELs to help me plan a series of teacher-led professional development at my school focused on building teachers' knowledge of second language acquisition.

**This month, the Department will release another useful resource, the “English Learner Guidebook: Changing Educational Outcomes for English Learners.”** The Guidebook will assist school leaders and educators to implement an instructional model where language acquisition takes place all day, everyday. The Guidebook identifies three simple strategies that align with the new standards and assessment; the Connectors for English learners and the English Language Proficiency Test.

These resources combined with continuous communication with classroom teachers have been and will continue to be the essence of our EL department's approach for success. I truly believe that we have developed a strong team approach toward meeting the needs of all of our students. I encourage you to attend the [Teacher Leader Summit](#) to learn more!

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# Instructional Support

## ELA:

The Department is currently updating all Guidebook units for grades 3-8 to include Diverse Learner Supports. Diverse learners are defined as students who learn in a different way or at a different pace than their peers. This includes students with disabilities, English learners, or regular education students who have trouble grasping a particular concept.

The Diverse Learner Supports are comprised of two layers of support:

- **Layer One: Possible Supports During the Lesson** which provide teachers with “in the moment” supports that include questions to prompt student thinking as well as suggestions for teachers to implement reading support and partnering considerations
- **Layer Two: Additional Supports for Diverse Learners** which contain additional lessons for teachers to use focused around the areas of complexity in a text. This can include additional text suggestions, audio suggestions, fluency, vocabulary, and additional graphic organizers and text-dependent questions

The updated units with supports for grades 6-8 are currently being piloted and will be released in June 2018. The updated units with supports for grades 3-5 will be piloted in the fall of 2018 and will be released in February 2019.

Please attend the [2018 Teacher Leader Summit](#) to find out more information about these supports and how to use them.

## Math:

The **Great Minds Professional Development Institute** schedule is now available on the Great Minds [website](#). The New Orleans Institute is scheduled for **June 26-29**.

The *Eureka Math* team crafted a multiyear sequence of professional development. Sessions include foundational topics for year one, including critical coursework for teachers implementing *Eureka Math* for the first time. Seasoned practitioners who have completed foundational courses can register for advanced coursework to strengthen implementation.

Contact Jaime Courtright at [Jaime.Courtright@GreatMinds.org](mailto:Jaime.Courtright@GreatMinds.org) with questions or guidance to register a group of educators.

## Science:

**Free membership to LSTA:** To support teachers of science this year during the implementation of Louisiana Student Standards for Science, Louisiana Science Teachers Association is extending a complimentary membership to all Louisiana teachers of science, administrators, and informal educators until October 24, 2018.

To accept a Louisiana Science Teachers Association membership, download and submit a membership form [here](#).

**Nominate outstanding Earth Science teachers:** Outstanding Earth Science Teacher awards are given for “exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the Earth Science at the pre-college level.” Any teacher or other K-12 educator who covers a significant amount of Earth science content with their students is eligible. The deadline for submitting nominees for Louisiana is April 20, 2018.

Submit nominations [here](#) and follow up with an email to Wendy DeMers, the state representative for the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. Email [2ydnew2@gmail.com](mailto:2ydnew2@gmail.com) with any questions about the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher awards.

## **Social Studies:**

**2018 Teacher Leader Summit Vendors:** A variety of vendors will be presenting at the Teacher Leader Summit. These sessions will focus on the connection between high quality materials and high quality professional development for social studies. Teachers will receive guidance on creating instructional opportunities that delve deeply into content and guide students in developing and supporting claims about social studies concepts.

Vendor	Curricula/ Materials	PD Description
Social Studies Weekly, Inc.	Grades K-2, 4-5 Full program	Teacher-created lesson plans include rigorous and relevant assessment, word study, writing prompts, reading (modeled, shared, guided, and independent).
The DBQ Project	Grades 4-7, 9-12 Supplemental program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engaging inquiry-based units that inspire clear, evidence-based arguments</li> <li>● PD supports teachers in implementing these units or mini-tasks in their classroom</li> </ul>
The Choices Program	Grades 6-12 Supplemental program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide overview of the Choices approach and philosophy</li> <li>● Provide strategies for successfully implementing Choices resources in the classroom</li> </ul>
The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	U.S. History Teaching with documents Supplemental program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teaching Literacy through History (TLTH)</li> <li>● K-12 PD focused on integrated literacy skills using primary sources</li> </ul>
WWII Museum	Local primary sources, artifacts; Lessons for teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Louisiana in WWII</li> <li>● WWII in Europe</li> </ul>
Historic Collection New Orleans	Local primary sources/artifacts; Lessons for teachers	General session focusing on new exhibitions

Contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with any questions.

# Assessment

## **LEAP 360**

LEAP 360 is a tool that can be used to support EL assessment and instruction. LEAP 360 provides teachers with connected assessments designed to give meaningful information about student performance throughout the year. These assessments provide teachers and students with results in detailed reports that allow for immediate curricular and instructional adjustments as needed. More information about LEAP 360 can be found in the [LEAP 360 Teacher's Guide](#).

LEAP 360 math assessments are available in Spanish. School test coordinators will ensure EL accommodations, such as the Spanish version of the math tests, are set up in the testing system.

Contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) for more information.

## **LEAP 2025 Parent Resources:**

The Department released a set of parent guides to help parents better understand what students are expected to know and do on the LEAP tests. These resources are available in the [Family Support Toolbox](#), and translated versions in Arabic, Spanish and Vietnamese will be available next week.

- [Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Tests](#): guidance for parents on what tests their child will take, when and how they can support their preparation at home
- [Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Practice Tests](#): guidance for parents on how to access both online and paper practice tests

## **ELPT Assessment Resources**

This year a new English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) is being used to measure the performance of English learners (ELs) as they progress through their K-12 education and achieve college and career readiness. The test items are designed to gather evidence that demonstrates how students are progressing toward full language proficiency and meeting the new LA Connectors for ELs. ELPT reports on students' English language proficiency overall, as well as in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and comprehension.

Resources include:

- [ELPT Assessment Guide](#): assists educators in understanding the English Language Proficiency Test design and includes information about participation criteria, reporting categories, administration, sample items, and rubrics
- [ELPT Teacher Training Webinar](#): assists educators in understanding the elements of ELPT and how they measure language progress, the administration portal and test administrator interface, and how the results from ELPT help schools make better instructional decisions
- [ELPT Achievement Level Descriptors](#): describe what an EL's language use looks like at each achievement level as he or she progresses toward independent participation in grade-appropriate activities
- [ELPT Online Tools Training](#): provides students and teachers opportunities to become familiar with tools available in the online testing platform
- [ELPT Portal](#): access to manuals and supporting materials for the ELPT
- [Parent Guide to ELPT](#): a guide to the assessment for parents; also available in [Arabic](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#)

Contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with any assessment related questions.

## **LEAP 2025 Assessment Committees**

**The Department will begin recruiting for LEAP 2025 Assessment Committees March 13.** The Department will send out interest survey links to school system content, special education, and English learner supervisors.

These surveys will gather information to help assessment content leads build committees to meet the necessary specifications, and will include full information regarding logistics. **An interested supervisor or teacher should complete the interest survey themselves, and may complete surveys for multiple committees.** The committees will convene from May through July.

Participants will review test items or provide guidance on scoring student responses. Participants can see the built-in mechanisms which ensure the development of high quality assessments and ensure that tests are aligned to the standards, appropriate for the grade or course, and appropriate for Louisiana students. Additionally, the educators that do this work learn how to better use assessments in their classrooms or school systems.

**Supervisors are encouraged to attend the LEAP 2025: Assessment Development and the Role of Committees session at the March collaborations for more detailed information.** Interested teachers should contact their school system supervisors. Additionally, teachers may contact any of the following LDOE assessment coordinators.

- ELA: Kathy Judy [kathleen.judy@la.gov](mailto:kathleen.judy@la.gov) or Kelly Parker [kelly.parker2@la.gov](mailto:kelly.parker2@la.gov)
- Math: Danielle Ricks [danielle.ricks@la.gov](mailto:danielle.ricks@la.gov)
- Science: Danna Clinton [danna.clinton@la.gov](mailto:danna.clinton@la.gov) or Leah Boulton [leah.boulton@la.gov](mailto:leah.boulton@la.gov)
- Social Studies: Beth Carney [elizabeth.carney@la.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carney@la.gov) or Kelly Parker [kelly.parker2@la.gov](mailto:kelly.parker2@la.gov)
- General Information: Michelle McAdams [michelle.mcadams@la.gov](mailto:michelle.mcadams@la.gov)

## **Professional Development**

### **Apply to Lead a Session at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit**

The Department is looking for knowledgeable educators to share resources and best practices with others around the state by designing and facilitating sessions at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit. This is a great way to expand your impact and showcase the work you are doing in your classrooms, schools, and school systems.

All types of Louisiana educators – classroom teachers, school/childcare center administrators, school system/lead agency administrators – are welcome to apply to lead sessions at the Summit.

**Interested parties must submit their [applications](#) online on or before April 2.**

The 2018 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 30-June 1 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. This inspiring event, held annually, will bring together 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 2018-2019 school year. Reference the [Summit overview](#) for additional information about the event.

## Other Opportunities

### **Statewide Teacher Recruitment Campaign Launches**

On February 21, the Department [launched](#) a statewide teacher recruitment campaign, [Be A Teacher LA](#), designed to elevate the teaching profession and increase the number of high school graduates and college students who enroll in undergraduate teacher preparation programs.

The campaign, targeted towards high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen and sophomores, will be promoted across the state through:

- radio, television and social media advertisements,
- outdoor billboards, news releases,
- news stories, and
- public support through campaign champions like Governor John Bel Edwards, Louisiana Teacher of the Year Kim Eckert and many other educators and education advocates.

The Department encourages Teacher Leaders to join in on the campaign and help elevate the teaching profession by sharing inspirational stories and messages on social media using the hashtag #BeATeacherLA.

Campaign materials such as videos, social graphics, website button and banners are available in the Department's [newsroom](#).

Contact [excellenteductors@la.gov](mailto:excellenteductors@la.gov) with questions.