

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



June 2018



Happy summer! I am Emily Howell, an English III teacher at Ruston High School (RHS) and the ELA Facilitator for Lincoln Parish. I am proud to teach at a non-magnet 5A school that consistently receives a “A” rating from the Louisiana Department of Education. **Many people frequently ask how Ruston High School continues to perform at a high level: the answer is a rigorous curriculum and a strong vertical team.**

For RHS, Advanced Placement and Pre-AP courses have been integral in building a culture of high achievement and scholarship. **Just weeks ago, we had the highest number of students to sit for a single AP exam in our school’s history: 106 students from a class of approximately 300 took the AP Language and Composition exam.** We were also thrilled to have a record number of minority students participating in the course. Once the exam ended, we celebrated with a pizza party with the mayor of Ruston.

Many students said that the test was one of the hardest things they’d ever done. But they were smiling. They were proud of themselves. The College Board has done extensive [research](#) about the benefits of taking challenging coursework; studies show that even if a student doesn’t earn a qualifying score on an AP exam, he or she will be more likely to be successful in college.

As you plan for the upcoming school year, dream a little about the possibilities of plunging into Advanced Placement. I think what your students can and will do will amaze you.

In This Issue

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

Professional Development

2018 Teacher Leader Summit Follow Up:

Thank you for attending the **2018 Teacher Leader Summit**.

Share Feedback

If you attended the Summit, please complete this brief [survey](#) by June 15 so the Department can improve future events.

Download Summit Materials

Educators can find materials from most sessions in the [Teacher Leader library](#).

Watch the Summit Video

In case you missed it, check out the [video](#) from the plenary highlighting the outstanding work that educators at Sallie Humble Elementary in Monroe City have done to ensure meaningful growth for every student, every day.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Instructional Support

Academic Content Subject Areas: Looking ahead to 2018-2019:

English Learners:

The [English Learner Guidebook](#), released this month, describes a set of strategies to improve educational outcomes for English learners as you plan for 2018-2019.

Reflection:

- How familiar are you with the [Connectors for ELs](#)?
- Did you receive your EL's [ELPT results](#); how will you use these?
- Language scaffolding/ Sheltered Instruction- how proficient are you?
- What supports do you need?

Tap into the subject specific resources the Department has developed to assist you in meeting the needs of this diverse learner population. Please contact beverly.diaz@la.gov with any questions.

ELA:

This year was very exciting as we rolled out the next phase of development in ELA Guidebooks with [supports for diverse learners](#) for grades 6 - 8. These revised guidebook units are available now for free on the [LearnZillion](#) platform. To access the revised units, click on the grade and unit page. LearnZillion will also continue to house the ELA Guidebooks 2.0 units. For more information about the newly released units, please contact holti.jessee@la.gov.

In the fall, the Department will be piloting supports for diverse learners for grades 3 - 5. Additional details about the 3 - 5 pilot process will be released in August via the Department's newsletters. To learn more about the 3 - 5 pilot, please contact angelle.laihengue@la.gov or emily.kaiser@la.gov.

Social Studies:

Are you looking for guidance on how to prioritize Social Studies content in the long term planning you may be doing this summer? The Social Studies [companion documents](#) can serve as a helpful guide. These documents prioritize content to teach through each standard, and are aligned with the LEAP 2025 Social Studies assessment. Grades 3 and 6 companion documents are currently posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resource Page](#); grades 4, 5, and 8 will be released over the summer, and grade 7 and U.S. History will be released in the fall.

Science:

Tier 1 Science Curriculum Identified for 4th Grade: Great Minds has just completed their new grade 4 science curriculum. It is the first science curriculum to be rated Tier 1 in the [Louisiana IMR process](#). While only grade 4 has been completed and reviewed, 3rd and 5th grade units will be released throughout next year. Grades 3-5 educators can [register](#) to attend a two-day training July 25-26 in Baton Rouge.

All educators who attend the training will receive access to the PDFs of the grade 4 curriculum and released grades 3 and 5 units next year. School systems can contact margaret.goodner@greatminds.org for information regarding adoption. Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

Math:

Many math teachers across Louisiana focused on using Tier 1 curriculum to support students who struggle in math during 2017-2018 school year. New tools were released, including the [LDE Eureka Remediation Tools](#) for grade 4 through Algebra I students and Springboard Intensive Algebra I. These tools allowed students to:

- engage in remedial math work connected to on-grade-level work and
- spend a majority of their time doing on-grade-level math.

As you reflect and look forward to the 2018-2019 school year, consider the tools and resources you could use to ensure that your students receive the support they need while spending a majority of their time on on-grade-level math. Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

Assessment

Academic Content Subject Areas: Looking ahead to 2018-2019:

LEAP 360:

Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, LEAP 360 has been useful when setting goals, monitoring progress, and verifying student learning. As you reflect upon the first year of LEAP 360 and begin to plan for 2018-2019, be sure to review the updated version of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#). This guide contains information about the new Grade 6 and Grade 7 Mathematics Interim Assessment forms, and a new section has been added in the Appendix that will list new EAGLE items to make it easier to identify content that has been added to the bank. Please contact assessment@la.gov with LEAP 360 questions.

LEAP 2025:

LEAP 2025 expanded to high school in 2017-2018, with new 5-level tests in Algebra I, Geometry, English I, English II, and U.S. History. Students answered field test questions aligned to the new Louisiana Student Standards for Science so that LEAP 2025 can continue its final phase of expansion to include all science tests. First ever practice tests for high school added preparatory support for students taking the new tests.

In response to concerns from teachers and parents, nearly half of the embedded field test questions on the grades 3-8 social studies were eliminated to reduce the overall number of questions. Additionally, the test designs for the grades 3-8 ELA tests were adjusted to reduce the amount of reading and to better scaffold sets.

For 2018-2019, students in grades 3-8 and high school biology will take new LEAP 2025 tests. Like the social studies tests in previous years, scores for these tests will not be available until after Standard Setting meetings have taken place in summer 2019. And like all other LEAP 2025 tests, students can prepare for testing with science practice tests. The list below provides information about 2018-2019 resources and their timeline for availability.

Available Summer

- Updated LEAP 2025 [Assessment Guides](#)
- New LEAP 2025 [Assessment Guides](#) for Science

Available Fall

- Updated US History Practice Test
- New Biology Practice Test
- New Science [Practice Test Guidance](#)

Available January 2019

- Updated Social Studies Practice Tests for grades 3-8
- New Science Practice Tests for grades 3-8

Other Opportunities

Apply to be a 2018-2019 Teacher Leader Advisor:

Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) are a group of exceptional educators from across Louisiana who play an influential role in raising expectations for students and supporting the success of teachers. The 2018–2019 TLAs will use their robust knowledge of teaching and learning to review and create the next wave of high-quality instructional materials and training tools that will be used by thousands of teachers across the state.

Becoming a TLA not only allows educators to expand their positive impact by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators, but it also provides an opportunity to deepen and refine their leadership skills, learn about key priorities and projects at the Louisiana Department of Education, and develop their understanding of curricula and teacher training.

Positions are limited. Applications will continue to be accepted until **June 30**.

Applications: [ELA \(intervention\)](#), [Mathematics](#), [Science](#) and [Social Studies](#). Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with any questions.