

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



August 2018



It's that time of year, teachers! I am Spencer Kiper, STEM enrichment educator at Elm Grove Middle School in Bossier Parish, and I am your 2019 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year. Back to School aisles at local stores are full of teachers like us, getting ready to stock their classrooms with supplies that will be used to take their students on some amazing adventures. Principals are getting in-service agendas prepared to ensure that teachers and staff are prepared to tackle the challenges that they will face this year in order to make a positive impact in the lives of their students.

This August, let's begin the year with focusing on the power of a single day. What can you be to your students and your school community in a single day? To your students, you are able to be a teacher, a parent, a coach, and a role model. To your school, you are able to be a faculty member, a data analyst, an educational leader, and a content expert. I am incredibly humbled and constantly awe-struck by the ability that teachers have to become whatever role that their students and schools need them to be. We're going to begin the year not only setting high expectations and goals for our students, but also ourselves. Let's support and challenge each other to use the power of each and every single day to elevate the efforts we make to turn learning into an adventure for all of us!

As you finish putting the finishing touches on your classroom to make it the perfect learning environment for your students, don't forget that our teachers and content experts have been working feverishly this summer to provide you with some pretty fantastic instructional resources to start the school year off on the best foot possible. The [Educator Resource Guide](#) is like a one-stop-shop that offers links and information to teachers of all levels. Some fantastic [new assessment resources](#) for both Science and Social Studies have also been added, and I can barely contain my excitement for the new [Louisiana STEM Initiative](#) that is sure to make an incredible impact in the lives of our students taking advantage of the many Jump Start opportunities. Be sure to plug in to your local [Content Leaders](#) to gain additional knowledge, skills, and support. Check out these and other great resources below!

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TEACHER LEADER COLLABORATIONS

Save the Date for Teacher Leader Collaborations

Teacher Leader Collaborations provide classroom teachers across Louisiana with access to high-quality tools, resources, and professional development designed to help them achieve their goals with their students.

The September Collaborations will take place from **12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m.** in the following locations.

Monday, September 10	Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
Thursday, September 13	Jefferson Parish School Board Office, Harvey
Monday, September 17	Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
Tuesday, September 18	Trinity Methodist Church, Ruston

The Department will release a list of sessions when registration opens. Look for a special edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter with that information.

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCES

The Department is committed to providing all educators—teachers, principals, and school system leaders—with the supports and resources they need to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana. Here are resources released by the Department to support the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

- [2018-2019 Educator Resource Guide](#): Highlights instructional priorities and resources to support educators with the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The guide is located in the [School System](#), [Principal](#) and [Teacher](#) Toolboxes and will be updated each month.
- [Updated 2018-2019 School System Support Calendar](#): Schedule of in-person trainings, virtual support, tools and resources, and communication streams designed to support educators
- [Back-to-School Night Presentation](#): Customizable presentation that school leaders and teachers can use to provide parents with information on 2018-2019 academic goals, standards, and assessments which help to meet ESSA parent engagement requirements
- [Parent Back-to-School Guides](#): Provide families with information and resources to support learning at home for the 2018-2019 school year.

- Guides are currently available for parents of 3-12 students, English learners, and students with disabilities and have been translated in Arabic, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Guide for parents of PK-2 students will be available next week.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

EL LEARNERS RESOURCES

Instructional Support:

Louisiana believes English learners (ELs), like all other students, can achieve academic success through a clear and concise alignment of quality standards, instructional programs and resources, professional development, and assessments. **High-quality instruction for ELs requires language acquisition to occur across all content-areas, all day, every day.** [The English Learner Guidebook: Changing Educational Outcomes for ELs](#) provides guidance to school systems and school-site leaders in implementing high-quality instruction for ELs. The [English Learners Library](#) contains a number of helpful trainings and resources providing guidance and support to educators who support English Learners, including links to the [Educating English Learners and Beyond](#), [English Learner Toolkit](#), [Newcomer Toolkit](#), and [ELA Connector for ELs Crosswalk](#).

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Resources Now Available:

- [Assessment Guide](#)
- [ELPT Assessment - Teacher Training](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit session: [English Learner Screener](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

Instructional Support:

You can now access the free ELA Guidebooks through [Louisiana Believes](#). To navigate from the home page, click on Teaching + Learning on the black bar at the top. Then click on ELA Guidebooks on the left menu bar. For quick and easy access, you can also bookmark the [direct link](#) to the units. (Updated units for grades 6-8 are now available via zip drive). Please contact classroomsupport@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Resources Now Available:

- [Assessment Guides](#)
- Practice tests, [paper tests \(grades 3-4 only\), answer keys, and all accommodated materials](#)
- [LEAP 2025 ELA Rubrics](#)
- EOC English III resources: [Sample Test Items](#), [Model Parenthetical Citation](#), [Writer's Checklist](#), [Writing Rubrics](#)
- [Practice Test Guidance](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit sessions: ELA Assessment Results Make Case, [grades 3-5](#) or [grades 6-10](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Instructional Support:

Teacher guidance for implementing Tier 1 curriculum has been published for Eureka, Springboard and Illustrative Mathematics. The Louisiana Guides include sample implementation calendars and lesson-by-lesson information showing alignment to the math standards. Guides can be found [here](#).

In addition, standards and curriculum-aligned tools to support students with gaps in mathematical understanding has been published for Springboard and Eureka. Remediation/support tools can be found on the [Math Planning Page](#).

Please contact classroomsupport@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Resources Now Available:

- [Assessment Guides](#)
- Practice tests, [answer keys, paper forms \(grades 3-4 only\), and all accommodated materials](#)
- [Equation Builder Guides and links to learn about Desmos](#) online graphing calculator
- [Practice Test Guidance](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit sessions: Math Assessment Make the Case, [grades 3-5](#), [grades 6-8](#), or [Algebra I and Geometry](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Instructional Support:

The Social Studies Companion Documents, which prioritize content for each standard and are aligned to the LEAP 2025 assessments, can be found on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page. The Companion Documents should be used in conjunction with the [Updated Scope and Sequence documents](#) to inform instruction. Grades 3-6 have already been released. Grade 8 will be released in September, and Grade 7 and US History will be released in the fall.

Please join us for the September [Teacher Leader Collaborations](#) where we will explore the Social Studies Companion Documents and provide additional guidance on their use.

Please contact classroomsupport@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Resources Now Available:

- [Assessment Guides](#)
- [Social Studies Sample Item Sets and Task Sets](#)
- [Teacher access](#) for the restructured LEAP 2025 US History practice test and [answer key](#)
- Student access in INSIGHT for the 17-18 LEAP 2025 social studies practice tests for grades 3-8, [answer keys, paper forms \(grades 3-4 only\), and all accommodated materials](#)
- [Practice Test Guidance](#) and [Annotated Social Studies Practice Test Items](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit sessions: Social Studies Assessment Results Make the Case, [grades 3-5](#), and [grades 6-8 and US History](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Instructional Support:

The Department is helping educators transition to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) (LSSS) in the 2018-2019 school year by continuing to offer a series of professional development opportunities, release tools to support science instruction, and review curricular resources.

Professional Development

The Department has released a series of webinars to introduce all science educators to the new standards. The recordings below can be found [here](#).

- Part 1: Overview of the Louisiana Student Standards for Science
- Part 2: LSSS Instructional Shifts
- Part 3: Three-Dimensional Learning
- Part 4: K-12 Learning Progressions
- Part 5: Phenomenon-Based Learning Instructional
- Part 5: Phenomenon-based Instruction
- Part 6: LSSS Scope and Sequence

Tools

The Department also released and updated a number of documents regarding the Louisiana Student Standards for Science.

- [Shifts in Science](#)
- [Appendix A: Progressions of Learning](#)
- [Appendix B: Connections to ELA and Math Standards](#)
- [Middle School Sample Transition Plan](#) (Updated)
- [Sample Scope and Sequence Documents](#) (Updated)
- Eagle Assessment Items (Coming Fall 2018)

Tier 1 Curriculum: Great Minds, Grade 4

Great Minds recently 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. School systems can contact margaret.goodner@greatminds.org for information regarding adoption and review the [PD vendor Guide](#) for professional development information.

Please contact classroomsupport@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Resources Now Available:

- [Assessment Guides](#)
- [Teacher access](#) for the New LEAP 2025 Biology practice test and [answer key](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit session: [New LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8 Science Biology Assessment Overview](#)

Assessment Resources Coming Soon:

September 2018

- Student access in INSIGHT for the New LEAP 2025 Biology practice test
- Teacher access for the New LEAP 2025 science practice tests for grades 3-8 and answer keys
- Teacher Leader collaboration sessions devoted to the New LEAP 2025 science and Biology assessments and practice tests
- Practice Test Guidance for the New LEAP 2025 science and Biology practice tests

January 2019

- Student access in INSIGHT for the New LEAP 2025 science practice tests, paper forms (grades 3-4 only) and all accommodated material

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 360

LEAP 360 Resources now available:

- LEAP 360 Diagnostic Teacher Study Guides can be found in [eDIRECT](#) by clicking on General Information under Documents; select the Diagnostic/Interim 18-19 administration and the Teacher Study Guides document type. The new Diagnostic Teacher Study Guides include answer keys, scoring guides, and copies of the assessments; this document will replace Answer Keys, Scoring Guides, and the Teacher Access PDF.
- A [Parent Guide to LEAP 360](#) is available now.
- A [Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) has been updated. 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.
- For more information about LEAP 360 improvements, districts should review the [Teacher Leader Summit sessions](#).
- To kick-off the second year of LEAP 360, two webinars are being offered. The webinars will focus on LEAP 360 enhancements and updates for 2018-2019.
 - Monday, August 13, 3:30-4:30; <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/144986320>
 - Wednesday, August 15, 3:30-4:30; <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/144986320>

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Instructional Resources and Supports Now Available:

- [Strategies for Success: A Guidebook for Supporting Students With Disabilities](#) emphasizes creating a culture of achievement to benefit all learners, specifically by increasing collaboration between general and special educators to design high-quality instruction for every student.
- In support of improved collaboration between early childhood general and special educators, Teaching Strategies GOLD has replaced AEPS as the assessment of students with disabilities age 3-5, as required for OSEP reporting. Each district now has a certified trainer to support implementation of TS GOLD for students with disabilities. For more information about the transition from AEPS to GOLD, review the [2018-2019 GOLD Guidance](#) and the [TS GOLD OSEP FAQ](#) document.
- If you are interested in learning more about how [assistive technology](#) can be leveraged to support universal design for learning and how it can increase students' access to the curriculum and their community, ask your SPED Director or AT Coordinator to connect you with your regional [LATI Center](#).
- The Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities offer pathways to the standards while increasing access opportunities and academic outcomes. Check out the aligned [Connectors for English language arts, mathematics and science](#); corresponding [Essential Elements Cards](#) for ELA and math and [Science Component Cards](#); [Case Studies](#); and Adapted Lesson Planning templates in [ELA](#) and [Math](#) for resources that assist in improving collaboration between general and special education teachers.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Resources Now Available:

- [Assessment Guide](#)
- [LEAP Connect Webinar - Teacher](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit session: [LEAP Connect High School Overview](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Teacher Leader Advisors:

Congratulations to [this year's Teacher Leader Advisors](#) for being selected through a very competitive process! Teacher Leader Advisors 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 Teacher Leader Advisors 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.

2019 Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year Announced

On Friday, July 27, the Department celebrated the 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees and Milken Educator Award winners at the [12th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala](#), cosponsored by [Dream Teachers](#). On this evening, the Teacher and Principal of the Year grade-level and statewide winners were also named.

Click [here](#) to view the 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners. Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

Please share with colleagues.

The Department is now recruiting for [ELA Item Content and Bias Review Committees](#).

- Committees for ELA grades 3 and 4 will convene the week of September 22
- Committees for ELA grades 5-8 and English I and II will convene the week of October 22
- Selected participants will review newly developed ELA test items.

Committee participants have the opportunity to develop understanding of state 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.

To apply to be a participant, any interested educator needs to complete an interest survey themselves, and may complete surveys for more than one committee. Everyone who completes the interest survey is considered for selection but is not guaranteed a seat on the committee. **Surveys close August 10, 2018.**

Interest Survey Links:

- [ELA grades 3 and 4](#)
- [ELA grades 5-8, English I and English II](#)

Please contact michelle.mcadams@la.gov or kathleen.judy@la.gov with questions.