

# TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



**September 2018**



My name is Tana Luther, and I teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science at Galvez Middle School in Ascension Parish and serve as a Teacher Leader Advisor in Science for the Louisiana Department of Education. I feel profoundly blessed to be a Louisiana educator during this exciting time for Science Education in our state.

After two years as an Instructional Coach, the most exciting part about being back in my own classroom this year has been using student-created driving questions about phenomena to inform my instructional decisions. Implementation of three-dimensional learning and phenomenon-based instruction this year has reinforced my role as a facilitator in the classroom. I kicked off my first unit this year by using resources from the [LDOE Sample Scope and Sequence](#) to introduce the suggested anchor phenomenon to my students. Modeling my structure after [OpenSciEd](#) units, I used student-generated questions about the phenomenon to create a question board that will guide learning experiences for my students. As the unit develops, the initial excitement students experience when generating questions about their world transforms into self-efficacy as they explore anchor and investigative phenomena to find answers.

[Phenomenon-based instruction](#) is crucial to nurturing a desire for life-long learning in Louisiana students by channeling their innate curiosity to engage them in rigorous learning experiences. As the year progresses, I am particularly excited about integrating new units from [OpenSciEd](#) to build my capacity for integrating driving questions into three-dimensional learning opportunities for my students.

## In This Issue

- [Teacher Leader Collaborations](#)
- [ELA Resources](#)
- [Math Resources](#)
- [Social Studies Resources](#)
- [Science Resources](#)
- [Special Education Resources](#)
- [Other Opportunities](#)

## TEACHER LEADER COLLABORATIONS

### Today is the Last Day to Register for Teacher Leader Collaborations

These events provide classroom teachers with access to high-quality, content-specific tools, resources, and instructional strategies focused on supporting schools in 2018-2019. Please refer to the [Teacher Leader Collaboration Event Overview](#) for session descriptions, registration information, and attendee recommendations.

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
<del>Monday, September 17—Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge</del> <i>Canceled due to low registration numbers; space available at the September 10 session</i>	
Tuesday, September 18	Trinity Methodist Church, Ruston

Registration is through WisdomWhere. Please refer to the [Teacher Leader Collaboration Event Overview](#) for registration information.

Please email [DistrictSupport@la.gov](mailto:DistrictSupport@la.gov) for more information.

## 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](mailto:classroomsupport@la.gov) with questions.

### EAGLE and Practice Tests

- New ELA items have been added to EAGLE. Information about new items is located in the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#).
- Practice Tests for English I and English II have been available in teacher access since July and will be available for student access in September.
- Practice Tests for Grades 3-8 ELA will be available in teacher access in September and in student access in January.
- Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- The [Practice Test Guidance for ELA](#) has been updated for 2018-19 and includes important

information about **best uses** and **misuses to avoid**.

- All practice test resources, answer keys, paper-based test forms, and accommodated forms/materials are housed in the Practice Test Library.
- Practice Test Webinars will be given in October and January for those who may need a refresher or those who are new to this resource. Teachers and supervisors who attend this webinar will learn general information about resources and specific information about best uses and common misuses. A recording of the webinar will be added to the [Practice Test Library](#) at the end of October. Click [here](#) for information about the Practice Test Webinars.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## MATH RESOURCES

### Instructional Support

#### **Webinar: Open Up 6-8 Math authored by Illustrative Mathematics Tier 1 Curriculum and PD**

Open Up Resources 6-8 Math, authored by Illustrative Mathematics, has been named a Tier 1 curriculum and is being implemented in many Louisiana school districts. Join a representative from Open Up Resources to learn more about this curriculum, along with an instructional coach from BetterLesson, an Open Up Resources professional development partner, who is an expert in the curriculum and will provide a taste of what makes this curriculum so engaging, coherent, and rigorous for all students.

This webinar will be offered twice:

- [Register here](#) for Thursday, September 20, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- [Register here](#) for Friday, September 21, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

### EAGLE and Practice Tests

- New math items have been added to EAGLE. Information about new items is located in the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#).
- Practice Tests for Algebra I and Geometry have been available in teacher access since July and will be available for student access in September.
- Practice Tests for Grades 3-8 math will be available in teacher access in September and in student access in January.
- Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- The [Practice Test Guidance for Math](#) has been updated for 2018-19 and includes important information about **best uses** and **misuses to avoid**.
- All practice test resources, answer keys, paper-based test forms, and accommodated forms/materials are housed in the Practice Test Library.
- Practice Test Webinars will be given in October and January for those who may need a refresher or those who are new to this resource. Teachers and supervisors who attend this webinar will learn general information about resources and specific information about best uses and common misuses. A recording of the webinar will be added to the [Practice Test Library](#) at the end of October. Click [here](#) for information about the Practice Test Webinars.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

# SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

## Instructional Support

### **Grade 7:**

Units 1 and 2 of the [Grade 7 Companion Document](#) have been posted to the [K-12 Social Studies Resource Library](#) and the [Grades 6-8 Social Studies Teacher Library](#). The full document will be posted later 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.

### **Grade 8:**

The [Grade 8 Companion Document](#) has been posted to the [K-12 Social Studies Resource Library](#) and the [Grades 6-8 Social Studies Teacher Library](#). The social studies companion documents contain the prioritized content and concepts for each GLE organized by unit.

***A note about the Grade 8 Companion Document:*** Based on teacher feedback and in the interest of better aligning to the shifts in social studies, the department recommends a reorganization of content in the [Updated Scope and Sequence](#). This companion document suggests a method for integrating geography, civics, and economics GLEs into each unit (as opposed to only unit 6). See page 4 of the [Grade 8 Companion Document](#) for an updated sequence for teaching instructional tasks.

Please contact [classroomsupport@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## EAGLE and Practice Tests

- New Social Studies items have been added to EAGLE. Information about new items is located in the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#).
- The U.S. History Practice Test has been available in teacher access since July and will be available for student access in September.
- Practice Tests for Grades 3-8 social studies will be available in teacher access in September and in student access in January.
- Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- The [Practice Test Guidance for Social Studies](#) has been updated for 2018-19 and includes important information about **best uses** and **misuses to avoid**.
- All practice test resources, answer keys, paper-based test forms, and accommodated forms/materials are housed in the Practice Test Library.
- Practice Test Webinars will be given in October and January for those who may need a refresher or those who are new to this resource. Teachers and supervisors who attend this webinar will learn general information about resources, and specific information about best uses and common misuses. A recording of the webinar will be added to the [Practice Test Library](#) at the end of October. Click [here](#) for information about the Practice Test Webinars.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## SCIENCE RESOURCES

### OpenSciEd Pilot Application

Middle school science teachers will have the opportunity to receive training on and pilot high-quality units by [OpenSciEd](#), a project that is building out a full middle school curriculum. The units are aligned to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) and the science instructional shifts.

If you are interested in participating in the pilot, you or your district supervisor should attend the science session at the [September Collaborations](#) and complete the OpenSciEd pilot application. Contact [LouisianaClassroomSupport@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaClassroomSupport@la.gov) if you or your supervisor are unable to attend the collaboration and would like more information.

### EAGLE and Practice Tests

- New science items are being added to EAGLE and will be available by mid-September. Information about new items will be located in the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#).
- Practice Tests for English I and English II have been available in teacher access since July and will be available for student access in September.
- Practice Tests for Grades 3-8 ELA will be available in teacher access in September and in student access in January.
- Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- NEW Practice Test Guidance for Science is coming soon to the [Practice Test Library](#). It includes important information about **best uses** and **misuses to avoid**.
- All practice test resources, answer keys, paper-based test forms, and accommodated forms/materials are housed in the Practice Test Library.
- Practice Test Webinars will be given in October and January for those who may need a refresher or those who are new to this resource. Teachers and supervisors who attend this webinar will learn general information about resources, and specific information about best uses and common misuses. A recording of the webinar will be added to the [Practice Test Library](#) at the end of October. Click [here](#) for information about the Practice Test Webinars.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

### Louisiana Science Connectors

The Louisiana Department of Education has released the Louisiana Science Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities, as well as associated resources to support planning and instruction. Now available on the Louisiana Believes website are:

- [Louisiana Connectors for Science](#) – aligned to the Louisiana Student Standards, representing the major benchmarks along the pathway to achieving the standards
- [Case Studies](#) – models of how to modify objectives, assessments, activities, and materials using LDOE's available resources

- [Science Component Cards](#) – unwrap Performance Expectations- as well as Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts- into most essential understandings, content, and skills (all grades, kindergarten through high school)
- These resources are in addition to the existing resources currently available on the Louisiana Believes website, including [Louisiana Connectors](#) and [Essential Elements Cards](#) for ELA and Math, [Lesson Plan Adaptation](#) templates and exemplars, and an index of [Student Response Modes](#).

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto: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](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Assessment Development Educator Review Committees**

**Please share with colleagues.**

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

- 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 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.

**Survey closes September 7, 2018.** Interest Survey Link: [ELA grades 5-8, English I and English II](#)

Please contact [michelle.mcadams@la.gov](mailto:michelle.mcadams@la.gov) or [kathleen.judy@la.gov](mailto:kathleen.judy@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: QSM Grant Application Period Opens**

Please share with math and science supervisors, coaches, and teachers.

[The Quality Science & Mathematics Grant Program \(QSM\)](#) was established by R.S. 17:374 of the Louisiana Legislature in the summer of 1992 for the purpose of providing materials and equipment to mathematics and science public school teachers. The QSM program has funds to award approximately \$162,000 in grants to eligible classroom teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. Grants of up to \$1,000 for approved materials and equipment will be awarded on a competitive basis to individual classroom teachers. **The [application](#) deadline is September 28.**

Contact [jam05@bellsouth.net](mailto:jam05@bellsouth.net) with questions.

### **American College of Cardiology Young Scholars Program**

**Please share this information with students considering a career in medical science** (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, ultra-sonographer radiation technician, physician's assistant, medical engineer, researcher).

The American College of Cardiology's Young Scholars Program is a one-year program that will introduce budding scientists to the world of cardiology and research. Students will be paired with a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology for a dedicated year of mentorship and growth in science. Students will work directly with a mentor on a research project suited to their level of experience. The program will also include regularly scheduled webinars for students to learn more about current research in this extensive medical field.

This one-year program begins in March 2019 and will extend until March 2020. Young Scholars will join thousands of doctors, nurses, researchers, and other health care professionals at the opening ceremonies of the American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, Louisiana, and then work remotely with their FACC mentor over the ensuing year.

Please click [here](#) for more information, and [share this informational flyer with students](#).

### **Joint LATM LSTA Conference: Full STEAM Ahead**

The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) will hold their joint conference at the Shreveport Convention Center on October 22-24, 2018. Math and science teachers of all grade levels will engage in concurrent sessions focused on Mathematics, Science, STEM, STEAM, and/or General Classroom Practices. Dr. Debbie Silver, author of *Fall Down 7 Times, Get Up 8* and *Deliberate Optimism – Reclaiming the Joy in Education*, will offer insights into how leaders can help teachers realize their best professional selves.

Visit <https://lsta.info/annual-conference> for details and information registration. Direct questions to [www.lamath.org](http://www.lamath.org) or [www.lsta.info](http://www.lsta.info).