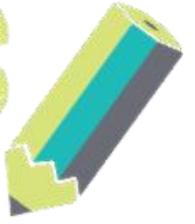


TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



October 2017



Hello, Teacher Leaders!

My name is Otylia Benson, and this is my second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor. I currently teach 8th grade in Orleans Parish at Lafayette Academy Charter School.

Last year I had the pleasure of creating some of the [Mentor Sentence](#) Language Tasks that are now available to all ELA teachers across the state within the [K-12 ELA Planning Resources](#). After a year of grueling work to create these resources, I highly encourage their everyday use in your classrooms. Like many of my colleagues, I have taught grammar and language skills in isolation in the past—not anymore! The light bulb truly went off when I realized how teaching language using mentor sentences selected from complex texts made the grammar skills much more transferable for my students. The tasks were created by teachers like you and me to develop students' language sense through repeated exploration of key "mentor" sentences found within the ELA Guidebooks 2.0 texts.

This approach reinforces students' knowledge of language structures and how those structures produce meaning, giving students the skills and the confidence required to read and understand complex texts. Each task contains 20 links that can be used as bell ringer activities with the whole class or during targeted small group or individual instruction. In my experience, using the Language Tasks with my students this year has opened their eyes to the stylistic choices authors make when crafting the complex sentences found within texts. Their own craft and style choices in their writing have already improved! I look forward to seeing them challenge themselves to construct meaningful sentences that mirror the structures found within the mentor sentences and how their written expression will continue to grow.

In This Issue

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

Instructional Support

ELA: Check out The Writing Revolution Language Links

The Department in partnership with The Writing Revolution, Inc., a national nonprofit organization, has developed new resources for ELA teachers in [Grade 6](#), [Grade 7](#), and [Grade 8](#). The Language Links are aligned to the ELA Guidebooks 2.0 units, and are located on the [K-12 ELA Planning Resources](#) page. The sentence-level writing activities in these Language Links provide the foundation students need to write with clarity and fluency.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Professional Development

Math: Register for Upcoming Eureka Teacher Institutes

The Eureka Teacher Institute allows teachers to dive deeply into things that matter most in today's math classroom. Learning spotlights the shifts in the mathematics standards, strategic lesson planning, yearlong planning, and leveraging the Eureka curriculum for remediation.

	Date	City	Registration Link
Eureka Teacher Institute	October 25	Bossier	Register here
	October 27	Ruston	
	November 1	Baton Rouge	

Register for the Annual LATM Conference

[The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics](#) is holding its annual conference on November 6–8 in Baton Rouge. Participants will have access to about 100 sessions offering ideas, tools, and strategies you can immediately apply to help your students grow and succeed in the math classroom. Whether you're a classroom teacher, coach, administrator, teacher-in-training, or math specialist, the LATM Conference has something for you.

For more information, visit the [LATM website](#) or refer to the [conference newsletter](#).

Register for the Webinar: “Instructional Implications of the LEAP Connect for Students with Significant Disabilities”

The Special Education Content Team will host a webinar for teachers who support students with significant disabilities. The purpose of the webinar will be to support teachers' understanding of the components of the [LEAP Connect for Students with Significant Disabilities](#) (which replaces the LAA1 in 2017-18) and the instructional implications for the new assessment.

This training will be a continuation of the [work](#) we began with the full-day cohort at the Teacher Leader Summit in June. Previous attendance in the cohort training is not a requirement for participation. The webinar will take place on Thursday evening, October 26, from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Please email kelly.mcclure@la.gov to register.

Register for the New Orleans Area Conference of the National Science Teachers Association

This year the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) is pleased to partner with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to hold their [science conference](#). “Celebrate Science: Inspire, Integrate, Innovate,” in New Orleans, November 30–December 2, 2017.

With the approval and implementation of the new [Louisiana Student Standards for Science \(LSSS\)](#), the fall conference is well timed to provide Louisiana teachers of science with sessions to improve their understanding of the content of the revised science standards and support instructional strategies that make connections between literacy and science concepts.

Please visit the [NSTA conference site](#) and to [register](#).

Assessment

Prepare to Administer LEAP 360 Interims

As you prepare to use the LEAP 360 interim assessments, [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) provides information on the design of the Interim assessments, including assessable standards, test structure, item types, and reporting categories. The LEAP 360 Interim assessments will help you identify students' misconceptions and learning patterns to adjust instruction and target support (grades 3-8 ELA and math, English I, English II, Algebra I, and Geometry).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

New: Join the LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinars

The Department is hosting a webinar on October 6 to discuss the LEAP 2025 high school practice tests. During this webinar teachers will learn about access, design and best practices.

- **October 6, 2017**
 - Teachers: 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - Supervisors: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

To join the LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinar

1. Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
2. Dial access number 1-855-240-2575
3. Provide meeting room number 89147656

Please email assessment@la.gov for more information.

New: Complete the Louisiana Assessment Commission Survey for Teachers

Share your thoughts on the assessments in your school and school system. The state Assessment Commission, formed as a result of [HR 166](#), hopes to learn about the assessments used in your system. Please complete the survey by clicking the link below.

By completing the survey, school leaders and teachers will provide crucial data in assisting the newly formed Commission on Assessment Review and Use in Public Schools to best understand the current state of assessments. Your voice is *critical* to the Assessment Commission's recommendation, which will be presented to the legislature this year.

Please complete the [Louisiana Assessment Commission Survey for School Leaders and Educators](#) by October 10, 2017.

Background: The legislature, through HR 166 of the 2017 Regular Session, has requested the Commission on Assessment Review and Use in Public Schools to study the current use and administration of assessments and make recommendations relative to student assessments. HR 166 requires the Commission to collect data on assessments via an online survey. The survey timeline is dictated by the resolution. The results will be posted on the [Louisiana Department of Education](#) website by October 15, 2017.

Please email assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Other Opportunities

New: CTE Leadership Academy for Current and Aspiring CTE Leaders

Are you interested in becoming a career and technical education (CTE) leader in your district? Then register to attend an upcoming informational session on the new [Louisiana CTE Leadership Academy](#). A team of experienced CTE supervisors has collaborated with the Department to launch this new academy and will host nine regional meetings on November 6, 7, and 8 to provide more information to educators interested in becoming a CTE leader or expanding Jump Start in their school. The meetings will include information on

- CTE Leadership Training: elite nine-day program for current and aspiring CTE leaders to earn full leadership certification
- CTE Leadership Academy Badges system: CTE leaders earn mastery badges on critical Jump Start implementation topics

Please visit the [Louisiana CTE Leadership Academy](#) website to learn more and to [register](#) for the November regional leadership meeting near you.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with any questions.