

# TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



December 6, 2016



Greetings from Ruston! I'm Cathi Cox-Bonid, ACHIEVE Coordinator for Lincoln Parish Schools, and I have the privilege and pleasure of serving as Chair for [Louisiana's Science Standards Review process](#). I'd like to use this opportunity to provide an update on our progress towards developing new Louisiana science standards and to encourage you to provide feedback on the first draft.

In a world where an increasing number of fulfilling career paths fall in the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), it is critical that our students engage in robust science learning throughout their K-12 education. The [Science Standards Review committee and workgroups](#) - a diverse and talented team of PreK-16 educators and leaders in business, industry and the broader science community - have been tasked by BESE with developing science standards that will serve as the foundation of science teaching and learning in Louisiana.

The committee and workgroups have been working diligently since August to develop a draft set of science standards. To arrive at this point, the team studied standards from multiple states, engaged in many hours of conversation about what expectations should be reflected in these new standards, and worked meticulously to customize them to fit Louisiana's unique context and needs.

Now we need your help. On behalf of Co-Chairs Heather Howle and Dr. Rhonda Matthews as well as everyone involved in our Committee and Workgroups, **I would like to invite you, your colleagues, your students, their families, and members of your community to provide feedback on this first draft of the standards using the online public portal.** To view the first draft and access the portal, please visit the [Louisiana Science Standards Review page](#).

Your input is critical to the ongoing development of our science standards, and we look forward to using your feedback to advance the important work being done on behalf of our students. I'm sure each of you will agree that this is what the work is all about.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions ([ccox@lincolnschools.org](mailto:ccox@lincolnschools.org); 318-255-1430, ext 203). We thank you for the work you do for students across our great state and look forward to your participation as we move forward with our draft science standards.

In This Issue:

[Teacher Leader Collaboration](#)

[Instructional Support](#)

[Assessment Resources](#)

[Educator Highlights](#)

# ATTEND A VIRTUAL TEACHER LEADER COLLABORATION

In response to feedback from Teacher Leaders, the December Teacher Leader Collaboration will be delivered in a webinar format to provide support to Teacher Leaders while minimizing time away from the classroom. The December virtual webinars will focus on the following topics:

- Math Tools (Monday, December 12)
- Science Standards Review and Public Portal (Tuesday, December 13)
- 2017-2018 Assessment Guides (Wednesday, December 14 and Friday, December 16)

Please refer to the [December Virtual Teacher Leader Collaboration Overview](#) for more information about each of these webinars, including when they will be offered and how to access them. Registration is not required.

Reach out to [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with questions related to the Teacher Leader Collaboration events.

---

## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

### PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT LOUISIANA SCIENCE STANDARDS

Eighty Louisiana science educators and leaders from business, industry and the broader science community have spent over 4,000 hours collectively to draft the Louisiana Student Standards for Science. Now is your turn to weigh in. The Louisiana Student Standards for Science were posted for public comment on **December 1, 2016 and will be available for review until January 6, 2017**. Your feedback will help to ensure the final standards lay the right foundation for quality science instruction for all students in Louisiana.

The link to the public review portal and other information regarding the standards review process are located on the [Louisiana Standards Review page](#). All comments will be shared with the science committee when they make final updates in January. The committee will present final standards for BESE approval in March of 2017.

Please email [louisianastandards@la.gov](mailto:louisianastandards@la.gov) with questions.

### NEW SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW NOW AVAILABLE

**Please share this information with principals and teachers of social studies.**

This spring, the Department will administer new social studies assessments that are fully aligned to the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies. These [assessments](#) were built and field tested with input from Louisiana educators, and they reflect the type of teaching strong social studies educators have been implementing in classrooms for years.

In response to questions from educators regarding the new assessments, the Department released a [2017 Social Studies Assessment Overview](#), which includes information such as test length, text reading levels, and forthcoming and currently available resources to support classroom instruction.

Additional information about the social studies assessments will be available at the December Supervisor and Principal Collaborations starting this week.

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

### NEW SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

The Library of Congress recently hosted its second annual online conference for K-12 social studies educators. The conference offered 15, [one-hour sessions](#) to support teachers in making key shifts around content and claims in their social studies classrooms. The sessions, now available online, include resources to help students

- use sources regularly to learn content;
- make connections among people, events, and ideas across time and place;
- express informed opinions supported by evidence from sources and outside knowledge.

For more information, email [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov).

### NEW K-2 FORMATIVE TASKS RELEASED

K-2 formative tasks are now available to district and school users through [eDIRECT](#), the administrative portal for

statewide assessments. These tasks are ELA and math instructional tools that can be downloaded, printed, and used by kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers.

The tasks

- focus on essential skills in ELA and math;
- offer teachers tools to observe and collect information about young students;
- allow for performance-based opportunities for learning;
- help teachers understand student performance through checklists and rubrics;
- inform next steps of instruction for each student.

The Department will provide guidance and training on how to use the tools this winter.

### How do teachers gain access?

On November 1, 2016, district test coordinators (DTCs) were given permissions to access the K-2 Formative tasks through [eDIRECT](#). District test coordinators will grant permissions to **all other district and school users**. Please refer to the [K-2 Formative Tasks Overview](#) for general information about the tasks and a guide to get started. If you have any questions about access, please contact your district or school test coordinator.

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

## ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

The following resources have been or will be released to support teachers in preparation for the 2016-2017 summative assessments.

Release Timeline	LEAP Grades 3-8	EOC Grades 9-12
Available Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Overview of the 2016-2017 Summative Assessments</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Social Studies and Science Assessment Guides</a></li> <li>• <b>Online Tools Training</b>: Can be accessed through INSIGHT or <a href="#">here</a> using the Chrome browser</li> <li>• <a href="#">Guides to the Online Equation Builders</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2016-2017 ELA and math Assessment Guides</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Assessment Guides</a>: for Algebra I, Geometry, English II &amp; III, U.S. History and Biology</li> <li>• <a href="#">Guides to the Online Equation Builders</a></li> <li>• <b>Online Tools Training</b>: Can be accessed through INSIGHT or <a href="#">here</a> using Chrome browser.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Sample Test Items</a>: English II &amp; III, Algebra I and Geometry EOC tests</li> </ul>
Winter 2016	<a href="#">ELA and math online and paper-based practice tests</a>	
Winter 2016-Spring 2017	<a href="#">Social Studies online and paper-based practice tests</a>	

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

## EDUCATOR HIGHLIGHTS

A special shout out to these educators who are making national headlines.

**Milken Educator Awards:** During the week of October 24, 2016, the Milken Family Foundation awarded two Louisiana educators with the coveted Milken Educator Award and a \$25,000 cash prize. Congratulations to Catherine Randall, teacher at Joseph J. Davies Elementary School in St. Bernard Parish and Devon Willis-Jones, principal of Jeanerette Elementary School in Iberia Parish.

- **Catherine Randall:** Click [here](#) to view her educator profile and video from awards ceremony.

- **Devon Willis-Jones:** Click [here](#) to view her educator profile and video from awards ceremony.

**Blogging in *Education Week*:** Two Louisiana educators were featured in the *Education Week* "Career Corner" blog, supporting yearlong residencies for aspiring teachers.

- **Jon Bogard, Mentor Teacher, Collegiate Academies:** [Professional Reflections of a Mentor Teacher](#)
  - **Serena White, Curriculum Supervisor, Monroe City Schools:** [Teacher Preparation is Evolving](#)
- 

Louisiana Department of Education  
1201 N. Third Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802  
1-877-453-2721  
[www.louisianabelieves.com](http://www.louisianabelieves.com)

