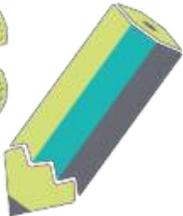


# TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



**December 2017**



As winter break approaches and visions of sugarplums dance in your students' heads, you may be struggling to keep them focused on your science lessons. You are not alone. My name is Heather Howle and I am a STEM teacher at West Feliciana Middle School in St. Francisville. After 18 years in the science classroom, I have learned to recognize and treat the symptoms of the inevitable Holi-daze.

Tap into the excitement and wonder that the season brings by selecting seasonally themed phenomenon to drive your unit. The classic Borax crystal growth experiment can be used as the anchor phenomenon for a [Matter and Its Interactions unit \(PS1\)](#). Elementary students will be amazed as they watch solid crystals grow from the Borax solution. With teacher assistance, students can create differently shaped and sized crystals depending on saturation and cooling rate. For middle school students, turn the unit into an investigative

design competition to develop a solution to predict which process will support the largest crystalline structure. Why not challenge high school students to grow the clearest Borax crystals and construct an explanation based on the chemical properties.

The [Louisiana Student Science Standards](#) were developed to foster student engagement through children's natural curiosity about the world around them. As the Holi-daze sets in, get in the spirit and seek out magical phenomenon to anchor your students, yourself and your science unit!

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/bring-science-home-crystals/>

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# Instructional Support

## **Science: Explore Our Science Resources**

The Department has released a set of tools to help educators transition to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#). The standards call for students to **apply content knowledge, connect ideas across disciplines, and investigate, evaluate, and reason scientifically**. These tools exemplify these shifts.

The [LEAP 2025 Field Test Overview and Guides](#) include sample item sets that are connected to phenomenon and aligned to the standards.

The [Sample Scope and Sequence Documents are](#) designed to support teachers as they plan instruction.

These include:

- One example of how the standards for a grade level or course could be bundled
- Sample complex phenomena that can only be understood or explained by students if they explore or investigate them using the science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts and disciplinary core ideas
- Examples of questions that students or teachers may pose to guide day-to-day instruction

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

## **ELA: Check Out the New Writing Progression Resource**

The [Writing Guide](#) explains the ELA Guidebook approach to writing instruction. A new resource, [Writing Progressions](#), has been added to the Writing Guide. The Writing Progressions document identifies the writing skills students should demonstrate proficiency with in each grade level. Each grade builds on the previous grade.

Teachers should reinforce the skills from the earlier grades while focusing their teaching on the skills new to the grade level. Each Guidebook unit focuses on two instructional goals for developing students' ability to write.

1. Students must have knowledge and understanding to write something meaningful.
2. Students must have skills to express their understanding clearly and coherently.

The resources and approaches should inform the types of support given to students to ensure they are clearly and coherently expressing their understanding of complex, grade-level texts. All support during writing tasks should be based on students' unique needs. Focus on one aspect of writing quality at a time; for example, if the focus of a lesson is on writing a thesis, give feedback on that aspect, not the students' lack of sentence variety or poor spelling.

Resources for Building Knowledge and Understanding	Resources for Developing Skills
Additional Supports for Diverse Learners (under the Additional Materials for each lesson)	<a href="#">Grammar Guide</a>
	<a href="#">Writing Progressions</a>
<a href="#">Reading Guide</a>	<a href="#">Mentor Sentences</a>
	<a href="#">Language Tasks</a>
	<a href="#">Organizational Frames</a>
	<a href="#">Supports Flow Chart</a>

The Writing Guide also provides guidance for teachers on "How to Use a Writing Rubric." Descriptions of the construct measured on the writing rubric are provided while creating a clear visual of the expectation of grade level writing.

Another valuable resource aligned to the guidebooks is the LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide for grades 3-8, English I and English II. The assessment guides provide information on the design, item types, sample test items, and resources to understand the LEAP 2025 English Language Arts.

Grade Level	Grade Level
<a href="#">Grade 3 LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>	<a href="#">Grade 7 LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>
<a href="#">Grade 4 LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>	<a href="#">Grade 8 LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>
<a href="#">Grade 5 LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>	<a href="#">English I LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>
<a href="#">Grade 6 LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>	<a href="#">English II LEAP 2025 Assessment Guide</a>

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

### **Social Studies: Preview the Updates for the Social Studies Scope and Sequence Document and LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key Documents**

The Department has completed updates of the Social Studies Scope and Sequence documents for the 2017-2018 school year. These updated documents provide instructional tasks which build content knowledge and skill with **sources**, a coherent year-long frame which **makes connections** among content ideas, and assessments which measure how well students **express informed opinions** with evidence and outside knowledge.

In addition to the scope and sequence documents, the LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key document has been updated. This document provides guidance on how teachers might better use the LEAP 2025 practice tests for grades 3-8 social studies and US History to support their instructional goals. For the extended response item for grades 3-8 and US History, scored responses have been annotated and added to the document.

\*New: The updated scope and sequence for US History will be available by the end of December 2017.

Grade Level	Resource	Link
Grade 3	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document <a href="#">Answer Key</a> Document
Grade 4	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document <a href="#">Answer Key</a> Document
Grade 5	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document <a href="#">Answer Key</a> Document
Grade 6	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document <a href="#">Answer Key</a> Document
Grade 7	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document <a href="#">Answer Key</a> Document
Grade 8	Scope and Sequence LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document <a href="#">Answer Key</a> Document
Civics	Scope and Sequence	Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document
<b>*US History</b>	<b>Scope and Sequence</b> LEAP 2025 Practice Answer Key	<b>Final <a href="#">Word</a> or <a href="#">PDF</a> Document</b> <b><a href="#">Answer Key</a> Document</b>

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

## **Math: Check Out the New Eureka Remediation tools to Help Struggling Students**

The new Eureka-specific remediation tools are designed to help teachers identify which students are ready to engage with the new learning of selected Eureka topics. Each tool has identified the foundational standards that are most important for the new learning of the target topic and created a short diagnostic assessment for the identified foundational standards.

Each tool also provides teachers with guidance as to why the foundational work is important for the new learning, guidance for item analysis, and links to previous grade level lessons within the Eureka curriculum that can be utilized for remediation. Remember, the single most important factor in helping struggling students is the amount of time spent engaged with on-grade-level content.

You can find these tools, along with many others, on our [K-12 Math Planning Resources](#) page. Additionally, please review the series of recorded [webinars](#) designed to help teachers successfully implement these tools.

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

## **Professional Development**

### **Participate in the Science Field Test Webinars**

The Department will host a series of webinars for teachers in January concerning the new Science Field Tests. Participants will learn information about the new science assessment vision, field test design, and item types.

- Access: leap seminar at <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/leap/>;
- Dial In: 1-855-240-2575; PIN 89147656 from
- Time: 3:00-4:00pm
- When:
  - Tuesday, January 9, 2018: LEAP 2025 **Grades 3-5** Science Field Test Webinar for Teachers
  - Wednesday, January 10, 2018: LEAP 2025 **Grades 6-8** Science Field Test Webinar for Teachers
  - Thursday, January 11, 2018: **Biology** Field Test Development for LEAP 2025 Webinar for Teachers

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

### **Participate in the ELPT and LEAP Connect Assessment Webinars**

The Department will host two webinars on the new English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) and LEAP Connect assessments in this month for English learner and special education teachers and specialists. The webinars will include a summary of presentations from the September and November collaborations, and information on assessment guides and test administration.

- **ELPT Webinar:** December 14 from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **LEAP Connect Webinar:** December 19 from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 pm

To join the webinars:

- Go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Enter participant pin code: 89147656

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

# Assessment

## **Download the Interim Assessment Guide**

Teachers can access Interim assessments using login information found in the [Interim Assessment Quick Start Guide](#), and Answer Keys for each Interim assessment are available in [eDirect](#). Studying the items, alignment information, and scoring information provides insight into the expectations of the standards. The Scoring Guide for the Diagnostic assessments includes a Practice Scoring activity that can serve as a model when preparing to score Interim assessments; the Scoring Guides for the Diagnostic assessments are available in [eDirect](#). Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with any questions.

## **Access the LEAP Connect Online Tools Training**

Teachers and students can access the LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (OTT) in INSIGHT or using the [link](#) in Google Chrome. Directions for test administrators for the OTT are posted in [eDIRECT](#).

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