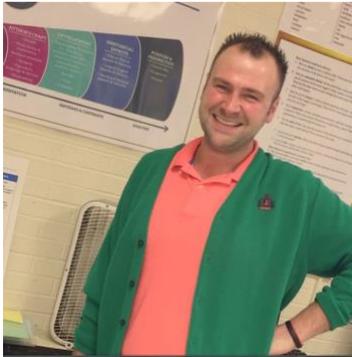


# TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



October 2018



Happy autumn, “co-hearts”! As pumpkins start decking front steps, a brisk front of knowledge cascades across Louisiana as educators establish goals to bolster achievement for all students.

My name is Justin Overacker, ELA teacher, Teacher Leader, and Content Leader at Wossman High School in the Monroe City School District. As a proud Wildcat, I have been able to witness the renaissance in achievement Wossman High has experienced over the last two years. In 2017-2018, Wossman was named a Top Gains School and rated the number one public high school in the state for growth. Then, in 2018-2019, Wossman Wildcats achieved the most progress growth in ELA for the entire state. Consequently, Dr. Eric Davis, our fierce leader, won the Louisiana Principal of the Year award. When stakeholders ask what we do at Wossman High School, we humbly answer: **extensive, everyday close reading and expressing understanding of complex text.**

As we push students to examine the craft, structure, and purpose of complex texts, the Reader’s Circles, embedded within the [ELA Guidebooks](#), provide the perfect framework to guide students on the path toward true comprehension. Much like the beloved Ms. Frizzle from *The Magic School Bus*, the Reader’s Circles allow us to take our students on a magical journey that explicitly exposes analytical thinking processes along the way. You, too, can help your students understand how to move from observing literal details to engaging in more abstract reasoning. With the help of the Reader’s Circles, your budding learners will express masterful understanding through discussion and written expression. Moreover, your students will begin noticing nuances of meaning and offering sagacious interpretations that will make you feel more gratified than Ms. Frizzle!

Happy close reading on your magic school bus!

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## ELA RESOURCES

### **Instructional Support**

The Reader's Circles are a framework for supporting students in understanding the meaning of complex text. This is the foundation for effective, text-based instruction, and it is a core design principle of the [ELA Guidebooks](#). During close reading, each "layer" of the Reader's Circles provides a different "lens" through which students evaluate a complex text. Using the Reader's Circles helps break down the steps in the reading process and makes the thinking process explicit for students, so they can transfer this process to texts they read on their own.

There are three versions of Reader's Circles that are provided to capture the unique process that happens when you read different types of texts: [literary texts](#), [literary nonfiction](#), and [informational texts](#). For an example of the Reader's Circles being used in an ELA Guidebook lesson, refer to the [Reading Guide](#) on the Get Started [page](#) for each unit.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@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](#). There are currently 1,363 ELA items in EAGLE.
- Practice Tests Teacher Access: Grades 3-8 ELA, English I, and English II practice tests are available in teacher access. View in teacher access by opening this [link](#) in a google Chrome browser and entering the username and password for the specific grade/course. Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- Practice Tests Student Access: English I and English II practice tests are available for student access in DRC INSIGHT; grades 3-8 ELA will be available in student access in January. For more information about accessing INSIGHT and test set-up, contact your school test coordinator.
- 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

### 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](#). There are currently 2,328 Math items in EAGLE. Now included in EAGLE are Constructed Response (CR) tasks for Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Algebra I and Geometry. These CR tasks are aligned to the LEAP.II and LEAP.III Evidence Statements found in the Summative Assessment Guidance posted in the [K-12 Math Planning library](#). As new content is added to EAGLE throughout the school year, it will be announced through the Teacher Leader newsletter and added to the Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360 Appendix.
- Practice Tests Teacher Access: Grades 3-10 math practice tests are available in teacher access. View in teacher access by opening this [link](#) in a google Chrome browser and entering the username and password for the specific grade/course. Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- Practice Tests Student Access: Algebra I and Geometry practice tests are available for student access in DRC INSIGHT; grades 3-8 math will be available in student access in January. For more information about accessing INSIGHT and test set-up, contact you school test coordinator.
- 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

Two new U.S. History source-based assessment sets have been added to EAGLE.

- Passage 133883, "Westward Expansion," is aligned to content from Unit 1 and includes an ER item.
- Passage 133884, "The New Deal," is aligned to content from Unit 3 and includes a CR item.

These new item sets have been added to the EAGLE Social Studies Passage and Item Information section of the appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#). As new content is added to EAGLE throughout the school year, it will be announced through the Teacher Leader newsletter and added to the Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360 Appendix.

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

## Practice Tests

- Practice Tests Teacher Access: Grades 3-8 social studies and US History practice tests are available in teacher access. View in teacher access by opening this [link](#) in a google Chrome browser and entering the username and password for the specific grade/course. Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- Practice Tests Student Access: The US History practice test is available for student access in DRC INSIGHT; grades 3-8 social studies will be available in student access in January. For more information about accessing INSIGHT and test set-up, contact you school test coordinator.
- 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 and answer keys 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 Test Reduction Pilot

After analyzing the past two years of assessment data and holding many conversations with stakeholders, the Department is shortening the LEAP 2025 grades 3 and 4 social studies summative assessments to reduce testing time by approximately twenty-five percent.

- The new design of the **grades 3 and 4** social studies assessments reduces the number of sessions from three sessions to two by eliminating the task set and one of the item sets.
- The **grades 5 to 8** social studies assessments will be shortened by removing an item set and the field-test portion of the tests. The grades 5 to 8 field tests will only be required for a sample of students, rather than all students statewide.

**More specific test design information is detailed in the updated [social studies assessment guides](#), and provided on the [LEAP 2025 practice test webinars](#).**

Although the 2018-2019 practice tests for social studies do not reflect the new social studies test designs, the [LEAP 2025 Social Studies Practice Test Guidance](#) will be updated to include recommendations on how to address the design changes, especially in grades 3 and 4.

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

## SCIENCE RESOURCES

### Science Pilot and Professional Development Opportunities

The Department is helping educators transition to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) (LSSS) in the 2018-2019 school year by offering a series of pilots and professional development opportunities.

### Great Minds: Grades 3-5

Great Minds is the first science curriculum to be rated Tier 1 in the Louisiana IMR process. While only grade 4 has been completed and reviewed, grade 3 and grade 5 units will be released throughout the school year. Great Minds is hosting several one-day trainings for grade 3-5 educators in October and November. Educators can register for the sessions using the links below. School systems can also review the [PD vendor Guide](#) for additional professional development information. Registration is now open.

Date	Location	Registration Information
October 18	Kenner, LA	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
October 19	Kenner, LA	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>

### OpenSciEd: Middle School

Middle school science teachers 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. Middle school educators can register for the pilot and four-day professional development using the links below. Registration is now open.

Date	Vendor	Location	Registration Information
October 6-7 and 13-14	Louisiana Tech	Ruston, LA	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
October 12-13 and 26-27	LSU Cain Center	Baton Rouge, LA	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
November 3-4 and 10-11	Louisiana Tech	Ruston, LA	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>

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

### EAGLE and Practice Tests

- New science items are being continuously added to EAGLE. Information about new items will be located in the Appendix of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#). There are currently 39 Science items in EAGLE. As new content is added to EAGLE throughout the school year, it will be announced through the Teacher Leader newsletter and added to the Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360 Appendix.
- Practice Tests Teacher Access: Grades 3-8 science and Biology practice tests are available in teacher access. View in teacher access by opening this [link](#) in a google Chrome browser and entering the username and password for the specific grade/course. Refer to the [Practice Test Quickstart Guide](#) for information on how to get into teacher access and student access.
- Practice Tests Student Access: Biology practice test is available for student access in DRC INSIGHT; grades 3-8 science will be available in student access in January. For more information about accessing INSIGHT and test set-up, contact your school test coordinator.
- A NEW [Practice Test Guidance for Science](#) is now available. It includes important information about **best uses** and **misuses to avoid**.
- All practice test resources and answer keys 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

### **Register for the Webinar: “Eligibility and LEAP Connect Assessment Overview for Students with Significant Disabilities”**

LDOE will host a webinar for teachers who support students with significant disabilities. The purpose of the webinar will be to overview eligibility determination guidelines for the LEAP Connect and review updates related to the LEAP Connect for ELA, Math and Science. The webinar will take place on Thursday evening, October 25, from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m.

Please email [Kelly.McClure@la.gov](mailto:Kelly.McClure@la.gov) to register.

## EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

### **Searching for Louisiana’s Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year**

**Please forward to principals and teachers.**

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state’s most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes [recommendations](#) from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members.

If you or someone you know meets the criteria below, please submit a nomination. Multiple nominations and self-nominations are accepted.

- Demonstrates excellence in the field, guiding students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve academic and life-long success.
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the school building walls and engages with various stakeholders in ways which help students and teachers be successful.
- Expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way and is involved in work that adds value to the profession.

**The nominations portal deadline has been extended to include the nominations of Teacher Leaders. Please submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#) by Wednesday, October 10, 2018.**

The portal may also be accessed by visiting the by visiting the [Department’s website](#). *Nominations will be*

sent to the local school districts for consideration as they select their top candidates to participate in the state-level process.

For questions, contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov).

### **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).