



Louisiana CONNECTORS

FOR STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES PARENT GUIDE

This guide provides you, as a parent, with a quick overview of the Louisiana Connectors, why they are important for students and teachers alike, and the resources available to further support your child's learning at home. This guide is a supplement to the Louisiana Student Standards Parent Guide.

Who ARE THE LOUISIANA CONNECTORS FOR?

The Louisiana Connectors are intended for students who, due to a significant cognitive impairment, are determined by their Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to be eligible to participate in the LEAP Connect assessments.

What ARE THE LOUISIANA CONNECTORS?

The Louisiana Connectors are the academic content and skills students are expected to learn in each grade, Kindergarten through grade 12. They are aligned to, and make up the "big ideas" found in, the Louisiana Student Standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science. The Connectors are designed to provide pathways for students with significant cognitive disabilities to achieve grade-level expectations.

When WERE THE CONNECTORS DEVELOPED?

Louisiana adopted new student standards in ELA, math, and science in Spring 2016 and 2017. In the months that followed, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved aligned Louisiana Connectors in Bulletin 127. These standards replaced what were previously known as the Extended Standards.

Where ARE THE CONNECTORS USED?

- ✔ Individualized Education Plans (IEP) to establish academic goals and monitor student progress
- ✔ Lesson planning
- ✔ Group and individual instruction
- ✔ General education and self-contained classrooms
- ✔ Parent-Teacher conferences to discuss student progress
- ✔ LEAP Connect assessments

Why ARE THE CONNECTORS IMPORTANT?

- ✔ Grade-level expectations are the **highest expectations** we have for all students.
 - ✔ Students with significant cognitive disabilities must have **opportunities** to work toward and achieve grade-level expectations.
 - ✔ **Alignment** between the Louisiana Student Standards and the Louisiana Connectors clarifies the pathways for academic success.
 - ✔ The alignment also facilitates greater **collaboration** between teachers and specialists, providing more opportunities for the **inclusion** of students with significant cognitive disabilities in the general education classroom.
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How ARE THE CONNECTORS USED?

Each Louisiana Connector is aligned to a Louisiana Student Standard that breaks the standard down into key concepts and skills. In the following example, the steps towards achieving the standard are outlined.

LOUISIANA STUDENT STANDARD

- ✓ 3.NBT.A.2 Fluently add and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.

LOUISIANA CONNECTORS

- ✓ LC.3.NBT.A.2a Use the relationships between addition and subtraction to solve problems.
- ✓ LC.3.NBT.A.2b Solve multi-step addition and subtraction problems up to 100.
- ✓ LC.3.NBT.A.2c Solve multi-digit addition and subtraction problems up to 1000.

HOW DO THE CONNECTORS *support my child's learning?*

The Louisiana Connectors are the aligned standards for assisting educators in planning and implementing successful school experiences for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. While most students with disabilities in Louisiana pursue a traditional pathway to a high school diploma, certain students with the most significant cognitive disabilities have alternative pathways available to them. Please see the [Graduation Pathways](#) section of the Louisiana Believes website for further details.

WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES YOU CAN ACCESS *to support learning at home?*

LOUISIANA CONNECTORS

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/k-12-louisiana-connectors-for-students-with-significant-disabilities.pdf>

CASE STUDY INTRODUCTION AND CASES

https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/students-with-disabilities/case-study_introduction.pdf?sfvrsn=6

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academics>

WHOM DO I NEED TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Department at louisianastandards@la.gov with questions about the Louisiana Connectors standards and how you can support your child's learning at home.