

Louisiana Believes

The Role of High-Quality Curricula in Teacher Preparation

Session Description

Selecting and implementing high-quality curriculum is essential to improving student outcomes. In this session, preparation providers will learn about the Department's curricular resources that school systems use statewide, and consider how these resources might factor in to preparation experiences in Louisiana.

Session Goals:

- Understand the LDOE's focus on curriculum
- Understand the tier I curricular tools available that can help prepare teacher candidates to identify, access, and implement high-quality curriculum post-graduation

Agenda

- Introduction and Background (5 min)
- Curricular Supports for School Systems (20 min)
 - Instructional Materials Review Process
 - ELA Guidebooks 2.0
 - Eureka Math
- Independent Review of Tier I Curricula (15 min)
- Small Group Discussions (5 min)
- Share Out and Next Steps (5 min)

Vision for Students

Every day, students in Louisiana should **build their knowledge of the world, read meaningful text, express their unique ideas through writing and speaking, and attempt complex problems.**



Theory of Change



- **Ensure Coherence and Quality:** Components are interconnected and of the highest quality.
- **Communications and Investment:** Build trust through ongoing support, collaboration, and communications structures for school systems, principals and teachers.
- **Facilitate Strategic Partnerships:** Facilitate partnerships between school systems and education partners to ensure teachers and students have access to instructional materials and professional development.

What we know...

“Curriculum reform is one of the best areas for productivity gains, since instructional materials can provide relatively high increases in student achievement relative to costs.”

- **Matthew Chingos and Russ Whitehurst**, Policy Researchers.

Why does curriculum matter?

Scale

- An equitable baseline of rigor presented to students (strong books, tasks, and questions in front of students regularly)
- Equitable access to high-quality instructional materials to support student learning

What curriculum is not

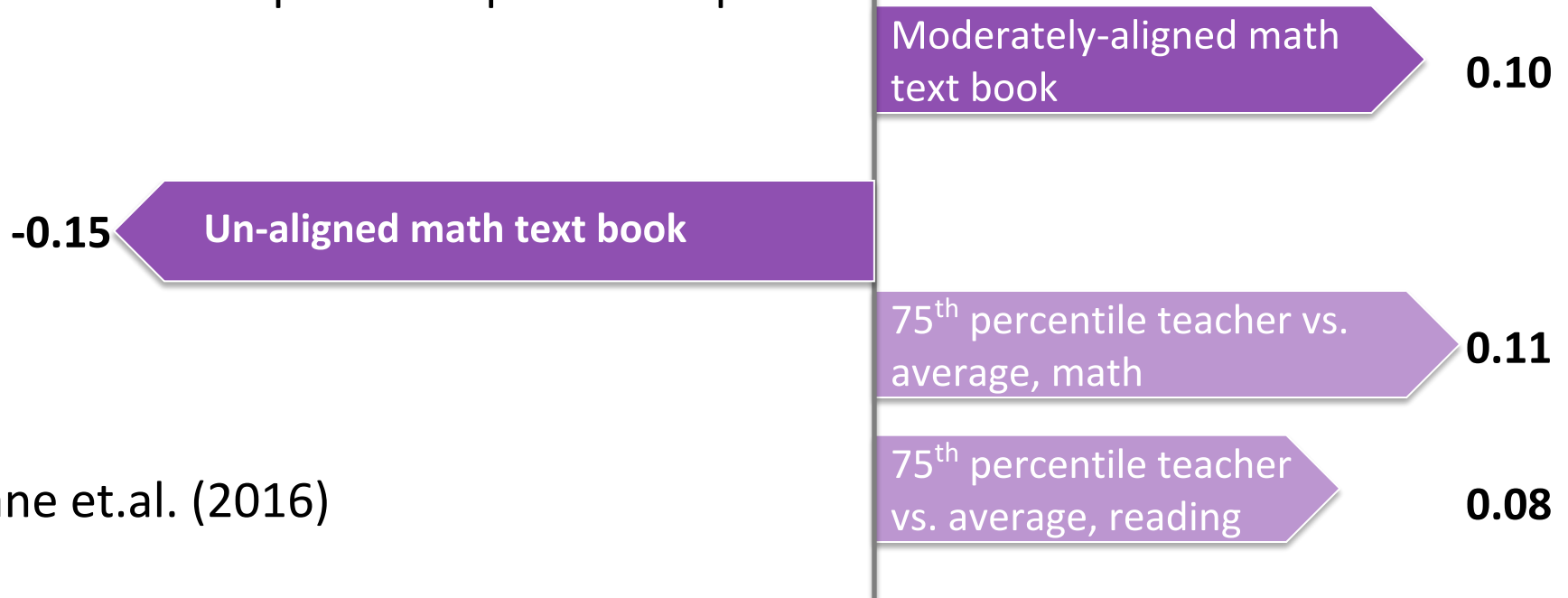
- An obsession with scripted, identically implemented lessons or learning tasks
- One required program for every school and every teacher
- Taking away from teachers' creativity and choice; in fact, strong programs promote teacher choice and adaptation, giving them guidance on how to maximize both

Excellent instructional materials that are aligned to standards give teachers the tools they need to be successful with students.

Curriculum Effects on Student Learning

The impact of a moderately-aligned math text book is almost as much as replacing an average teacher with a teacher in the 75th percentile.

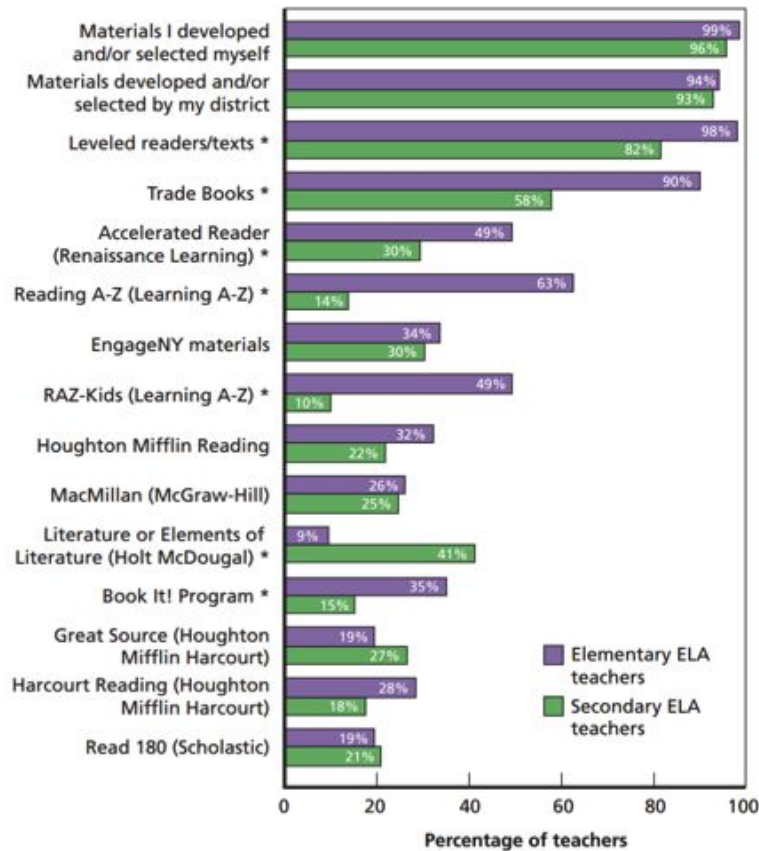
The “spread” between a moderate-aligned text book. 0.25 standard deviations is equal to 10 percentile points.



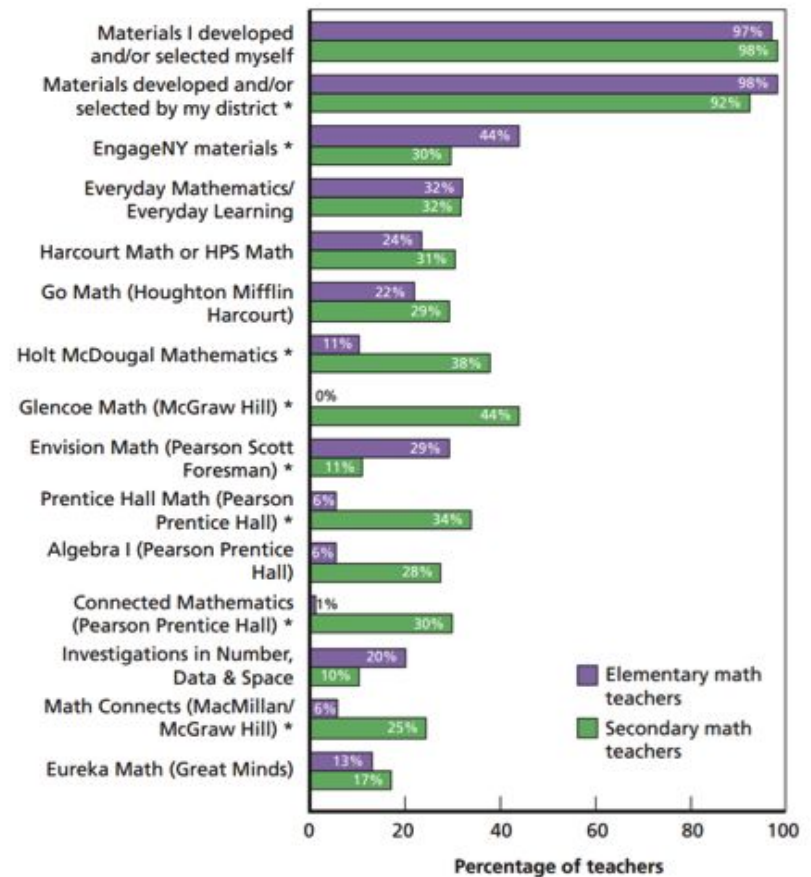
Kane et.al. (2016)

Almost all Teachers Develop or Choose their own Instructional Materials

Instructional materials for ELA



Instructional materials for math



Source: Opfer, Kaufman, and Thompson (2016).

Most Assignments do not Meet the Expectations of the Standards

4%

Tasks push student thinking to higher levels.

5%

Tasks are highly aligned to the standards.

16%

Tasks require citing evidence from text.

38%

Tasks are aligned to the appropriate grade-level standard.

Source: The Education Trust (2015).

Support for School Systems

The Department assists local school systems in selecting high-quality curriculum and aligning that curriculum with assessments and professional development by:

- **Reviewing curriculum for quality and supporting districts in accessing the best materials:**
 - [Instructional Materials Review process](#)

- **Providing ongoing training and instructional resources around high-quality curricula:**
 - [Professional Development Vendor Guide](#)
 - [Instructional Resources by Grade](#)
 - [Instructional Resource by Content](#)

- **Building high-quality tools to fill in the gaps where needed:**
 - [ELA Guidebooks 2.0](#)

Instructional Materials Review Process

To support local school systems in making their own local, high-quality decisions, the LDOE leads [online reviews of instructional materials](#). The [tiered reviews](#) describe the degree of alignment with state content standards. All school systems are able to purchase the reviewed instructional materials that are best for their local communities.

TIER 1 - EXEMPLIFIES QUALITY:

- Meets all non-negotiable criteria and scored the best possible on all indicators of superior quality.

TIER 2 - APPROACHING QUALITY:

- Meets all non-negotiable criteria and some indicators of superior quality.

TIER 3 - NOT REPRESENTING QUALITY:

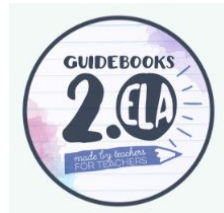
- Does not meet non-negotiable criteria.

The Department also offers school systems [textbooks policy guidance](#) which outline the choices school systems have when adopting textbooks and other instructional materials.

ELA Guidebooks 2.0

[ELA Guidebooks 2.0](#) is an English language arts curriculum for whole-class instruction. Made by teachers for teachers, the guidebook units ensure all students can read, understand, and express their understanding of complex, grade-level texts.

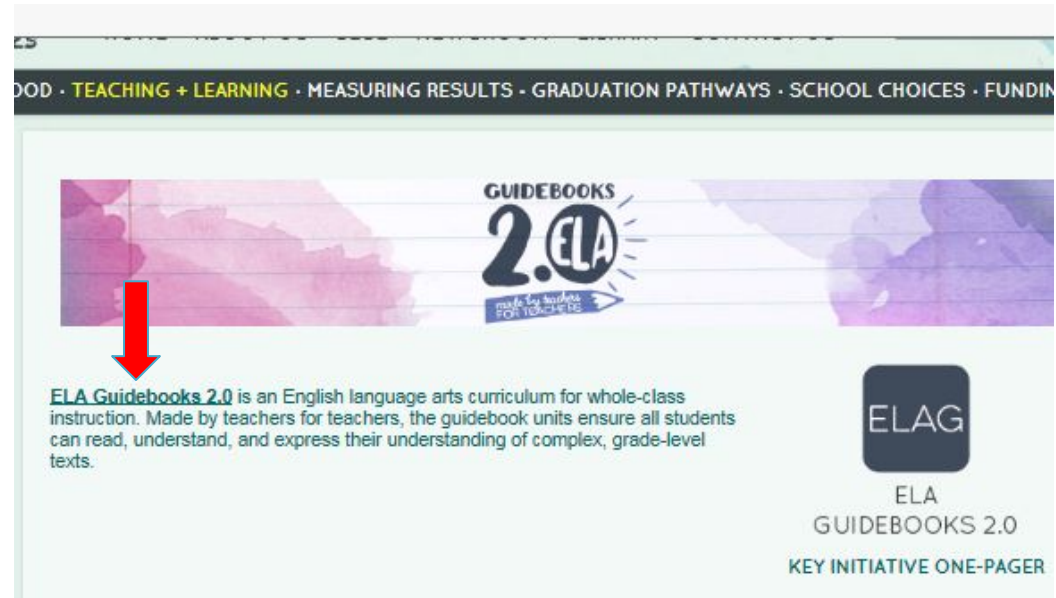
In Louisiana, **75% of school systems have adopted the ELA Guidebooks curriculum.**



Instructional Support: Accessing Free ELA Guidebooks on Louisiana Believes

You can now access the free Guidebooks through [Louisiana Believes](#). To navigate there through the home page, click on Teaching + Learning on the black bar at the top. Then click on ELA Guidebooks on the left menu bar.

Or you can get to them directly by saving this URL:
<https://learnzillion.com/resources/81666-english-language-arts-guidebook-units>.



Eureka Math

[Eureka Math™](#) is a complete, PreK through 12 curriculum that carefully sequences the mathematical progressions into expertly crafted modules. Eureka Math provides educators with a comprehensive curriculum, in-depth professional development, books, and support materials.

In Louisiana, **90% of school systems have adopted** Eureka Math™.

“

I see students not afraid of math as I once was. Eureka has been amazing in my classroom.

”

CARRIE CULPEPPER

TEACHER AT BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOLS (BENTON, LA)

Instructional Support: Math

New curriculum implementation resources are available on [Math Planning Tools Page](#) in Louisiana Believes.

- Guides to Implementing **Springboard Curriculum**
 - Intensive Algebra I
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry
- Guide to **Implementing Illustrative**

Mathematics Curriculum (grades 6-8)

- Guide to Implementing **Eureka Curriculum: Geometry**

IMPLEMENT TIER 1 CURRICULA

File	Download
Algebra I Louisiana Guide to Implementing SpringBoard	Download
Geometry Louisiana Guide to Implementing SpringBoard	Download
Intensive Algebra I Louisiana Guide to Implementing SpringBoard	Download
Grades 6-8 Louisiana Guide to Implementing Illustrative Mathematics	Download

Instructional Support: Science

This summer, over 600 science educators received training on the following high quality science curricula.

- 3rd-5th grade teachers: Great Minds *PhD Science*
- 6th-8th grade teachers: OpenSciEd
- Biology teachers: Inquiry Hub

Professional development options for the Great Minds training can be found in the [PD Vendor Guide](#), which identifies vendors who specialize in helping school systems and schools with each stage of designing and implementing a cohesive academic system.

The teachers that participated in the summer training on OpenSciEd will share data on the implementation of the units, which will be used to revise the units.

Inquiry Hub released several high quality biology units, which are linked in the [Biology Sample Scope and Sequence document](#).

Instructional Support: English Learner Resources

- [ELPT Assessment Guide](#): a guide for teachers to understand the test design, structure, and sample items
- [ELPS Test Administrator Overview and Training Webinar](#): provides an overview of the test design and administration procedures
- [ELPS Administration Modules](#): provide detailed directions for key administration procedures
- [ELPS Summit Presentation](#): provides an overview of the EL screener administration
- [ELPS Guidance](#): provides an overview of the EL screener
- [LA EL Portal](#): how to access all EL assessments (including ELPS), reports and manuals
- [LDOE English Learner Library](#): link to the Department's English Learner web page to access materials and forms to support ELs
- [English Learner Guidebook](#): provides guidance to school systems and school-site leaders in implementing high-quality instruction for ELs
- [LA Connectors for ELs](#): a list of the English Learner Connectors for use collaboratively with EL and content teachers
- [EL Accommodation Form](#): the form used to document an EL's classroom and assessment accommodations. Also available in [Arabic](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#)

Key Back-to-School Resources

Instruction

- [STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS: A Guidebook for Supporting Students With Disabilities](#)
- [English Learner Guidebook: Changing Educational Outcomes for English Learners](#)
- [ELA Guidebooks](#)
- [Louisiana Guides to Implementing Tier I Math Curriculum](#)
- [Science](#) and [Social Studies](#) Scope and Sequence Documents
- [Teacher Support Toolbox](#)

Professional Development

- [PD Vendor Guide](#)
- [Supervisor, Principal and Teacher Leader Collaborations](#)

Additional resources can be found in the [Educator Resource Guide](#).

Deep Dive

Please choose **one** of the resources below to review in depth. As you review consider the following questions:

- How is tier 1 curriculum different from the typical math, ELA, science, or social studies textbook?
- How can you help teacher candidates be better prepared to implement tier 1 curriculum?

4th grade math companion document:

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/grade-4-math---teachers-companion-document-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=12>

Approach guides to ELA guidebooks:

<https://learnzillion.com/resources/90960-cajun-folktales-get-started/>

[Science](#) and [Social Studies](#) Scope and Sequence Documents

Discussion

- To what extent does your program treat the role of curriculum in PK-12 classrooms?
- What are the benefits and complications associated with teaching candidates about curriculum?
- Does your program teach candidates to develop their own curriculum or examine, adapt, and use existing curriculum? How does that line up with expectations for Louisiana teachers?
- What questions do you have about the LDOE's curricular supports?

Questions

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov, classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov, or stem@la.gov for questions.

Thank you for your time.

Appendix

PD Vendor Guide: A Closer Look

VENDORS BY SUBJECT

English Language Arts

Vendor	Aligned Tier 1 Product(s)	Introductory district-wide curriculum/assessment training	School-based curriculum training	On-going curriculum-focused coaching
American Reading Company	Guidebooks 2.0	✓	✓	
Instruction Partners	Guidebooks 2.0, CLKA	✓	✓	✓
LearnZillion	Guidebooks 2.0		✓	
School Kit	Guidebooks 2.0	✓	✓	✓
Teaching Lab	Guidebooks 2.0, EL Education	✓	✓	✓
The Writing Revolution	Guidebooks 2.0	✓	✓	✓
Generation Ready	Guidebooks 2.0		✓	✓
American Reading Company	IRLA: Foundational Skills Toolkit*	✓	✓	
Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)	Core Knowledge Skills Strand*	✓	✓	
EL Education	EL Education ELA Grades K-2*	✓	✓	
Great Minds	Wit & Wisdom*	✓	✓	
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Collections*	✓	✓	
iSTEEP	Advanced Literacy Assessment*	✓	✓	
Pearson	myPerspectives*	✓	✓	✓
Achievement Network (ANet)	ANet ELA Interim Assessments Grades 3-8*, Guidebooks 2.0	✓		✓

* Vendor is the original author of the [Tier 1 product](#).

Curriculum Implementation

Curriculum Implementation Scale

- **Level 0:** Teachers are using lower quality curricula
- **Level 1:** Teachers have access to high-quality curricula
- **Level 2:** Teachers have basic training that equips them with the knowledge and skill to use the curriculum “as written”
- **Level 3:** Instructional staff facilitates and supports the process of teachers modifying the curriculum to better meet students’ needs.
- **Level 4:** Teachers take full ownership for using information about student needs and performance to drive modifications to the curriculum and instruction.

Is it a linear progression? Yes.

2018-2019 School System Planning

Like in previous years, the 2018-2019 school system planning process helps school systems create strong academic plans for the upcoming school year.

New in 2018-2019, ESSA requires school systems to create plans for their struggling schools and submit those plans to the state.

The school system planning process allows school systems to plan for their struggling schools by taking the following steps:



Improving Struggling Schools

School systems can best improve outcomes for students in struggling schools by ensuring that:

1. 100% of teachers are implementing a high-quality curriculum.
2. 100% of principals are using a curriculum-specific rubric to give feedback to all teachers.
3. Every classroom is led by a fully prepared, appropriately certified teacher.

The school system planning process requires school systems to include plans for these things in their school redesign applications.

Three Phases of Implementation

School systems should support schools in three phases during the year to make sure that they are effectively using high-quality materials.

Phase	Purpose
Pre-Implementation	Ensure that all materials, professional development calendars, and teacher preparation MOUs are in place for the start of the new school year. Remove low-quality materials from classrooms.
Early Support	Observe classrooms to determine what additional support and professional development teachers need to help them use their curriculum effectively, and to determine if preparation provider MOUs are in effect.
Deep Support	Provide for concentrated and comprehensive support for schools that need additional help with implementation.

Pre-Implementation Checklist

The goal of pre-implementation is to ensure that every teacher in School Redesign and SRCL schools are prepared to implement curriculum on the first day of school.

The [pre-implementation checklist](#) includes critical milestones that school systems will need to achieve in order to ensure that every teacher has what she needs to implement curriculum at the start of school.



Milestone 1: School system develops list of staff responsible for each component of curriculum, professional development, assessment, and teacher pipeline partnership pre-implementation.

Milestone 2: School system uploads approved budget into eGMS.

Milestone 3: School system purchases curriculum, necessary supporting materials (e.g. technology), and assessments.

Pre-Implementation Checklist

Milestone 4: School system creates calendar for curriculum training by professional development vendors for all teachers.

Milestone 5: School system signs MOUs with preparation providers to meet workforce needs in redesign schools.

Milestone 6: School systems distributes curriculum and necessary supporting materials to classrooms and removes old materials.



Early Support

The goal of early support is to identify school systems that are struggling to implement high-quality curriculum and provide them early support.

We will get in to 20-40% of schools in every school system that received funds and track implementation progress across the state.

The LDOE will use the following content specific tools to review classrooms:

- [ELA](#)
- [Math](#)
- [Early Childhood](#)