



Hello, awesome Louisiana Teacher Leaders! My name is Laurel Halphen. I am a fifth grade English Language Arts teacher in Vernon Parish at Pickering Elementary School and a Teacher Leader Advisor. I truly love the work that I do as a classroom teacher and a Teacher Leader Advisor. I love watching my students grow into critical thinkers and analytic writers, and as a Teacher Leader Advisor, I have had the opportunity to work with great people on a variety of projects including creating [Virtual Book Club Modules](#).

At this time in the year, we are all laser-focused on making sure that our students are prepared for the end of year exams. Fortunately we do not need to go it alone because the LDOE and PARCC have developed some resources and tools to help us prepare our students for the upcoming PARCC test:

- The **end of unit assessments in the [ELA guidebooks](#)** can be an amazing scaffold for preparing students for the PBA tasks. The cold read assessments and culminating writing have given my students a way to demonstrate understanding of the skills they will need on the PBA tasks.
- I was super excited to hear that PARCC released paper-based [PBA practice tests for ELA](#) and [EOY practice tests for math](#)! Now educators can see what those questions look like in paper format and use them with their students.
- I am also ecstatic to learn that the Department has released [Practice Test Guidance documents](#), which will help teachers understand how to use, score, and learn from the results of the practice tests. This guidance goes beyond what the Department has released for previous state exams to ensure that educators have full clarity on the details of this year's PARCC assessments.

Check out the additional resources below!

Prepare for the End of Year Assessments

The tools I mentioned above join a series of tools that the Department has released this past year to support educators including:

Weekly PARCC Office Hours

- When: Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (*NEW time at 4 p.m.)
- Access: Join the PARCC Office Hours [here](#).

Content preparation resources:

- [ELA](#) and [math](#) curriculum guides include standards and assessment aligned practice tasks
- Science and social studies practice tasks
- [Eagle](#) assessment tool includes all guidebook tasks along with additional practice tasks for students

- [ELA Instructional strategies](#) for whole group, small group, and independent instruction
- [Sample assessment items](#) and [practice tests](#)
- [Grade specific resource libraries](#)

Test administrative resources:

- District [Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) **New**
- District and School [Parent Support](#) Guidance **New**
- [Assessment Guides](#)
- [2014-15 Louisiana Assessment Calendar](#)
- [PARCC Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#)
- [Quick Guide to Accessibility and Accommodations](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)

Save the Date: 2015 Teacher Leader Summit

We are pleased to announce that we will be expanding this year's Teacher Leader Summit so that over 5,000 educators from across Louisiana can attend.

When: 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 4 through 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5

Where: Morial Convention Center in New Orleans

Who: Teacher Leaders, administrators, district leaders

Make sure you've saved these dates in your calendar. We will release more information about the sessions for this events and how to register in early March. In the meantime, districts are encouraged to book hotel rooms in New Orleans. Please note that districts will be responsible for the cost of hotel rooms for their attendees.

March Teacher Leader Collaboration Event Canceled

Based on feedback from districts and schools, we will be canceling the Teacher Leader Collaboration Event that was originally scheduled for the week of March 2. We want to honor schools' and districts' requests that teachers remain in their classrooms during these important weeks leading up to testing. Our next Teacher Leader training event will be the Teacher Leader Summit (June 4-5 in New Orleans).

EAGLE Update: New Print Options Available for Teachers

[EAGLE](#) is an online bank of items that you can use to 1) assess whether your students are on track to mastering key skills that will be assessed on the EOC and PARCC exams, and 2) help your students prepare for these exams.

To support teachers and students with limited access to technology, the Department released a system enhancement that provides teachers with a printer friendly version of EAGLE tests. All teachers now have the option to print answer keys and student response sheets from the usual print option. If you

have any suggestions or feedback about this feature, please email [the Department](#). For questions about accessing the print option, feel free to contact the EAGLE Help Desk (1-866-552-5583) for technical support.

January Teacher Leader Collaboration Event Session Materials

At January's Teacher Leader Collaboration Event, Teacher Leaders had the opportunity to attend sessions focused on ELA and math instructional strategies, the [PARCC practice tests](#), the recently released [science practice tasks](#) and [social studies practice tasks](#), and strategies to support and maximize the impact of Teacher Leaders. Session materials from this event will be posted in the [Teacher Leader library](#) by **Friday, February 6**.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). This prestigious award, administered by the National Science Foundation for the White House, identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers in grades K-12. Mathematics and science teachers in grades 7-12 may apply in 2015. Awardees will receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

District and school administrators are encouraged to nominate one or more outstanding math, science or computer teachers in grades 7-12 with at least five years of experience for this prestigious national teaching award. Nominations must be made [online](#) by April 1, 2015. Teachers will be notified electronically of their nomination after their eligibility has been verified. Application packets must be submitted by May 1, 2015.

Share Your Success Story with Fellow Teacher Leaders

We encourage you to share your success with other Teacher Leaders in future Teacher Leader newsletters so we can learn from each other! **If you have a success story related to developing these [key skills in math and ELA](#) or would like to nominate a fellow teacher, please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov.**

TEACHER LEADERS
STAY CONNECTED. 

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE ON TWITTER: [#TeacherLeader](#) 

EMAIL US YOUR COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, & FEEDBACK: LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov

COLLABORATE & SHARE RESOURCES: www.edmodo.com; Group Join Code: LKEAQ4

SEE CURRENT COMMUNICATION & UPCOMING TRAINING:

[www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/classroom-support-toolbox/
teacher-support-toolbox/collaboration-teacher-leadership](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/classroom-support-toolbox/teacher-support-toolbox/collaboration-teacher-leadership)