

## Teacher Leader Newsletter September 25, 2014

Hello, everyone! My name is Maribeth Holzer. I taught math for 15 years in Ouachita Parish and am now the middle and high school math coordinator for the parish. I served as a Teacher Leader Advisor last year, creating items for the [EAGLE question bank](#), and I am excited to be working with teacher leaders again this year to create questions that are more aligned to the summative assessments.

As we continue to raise our expectations for our students, assessments can be helpful in two ways: 1) they are one of best ways to get clear on what our students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of the year; 2) they help us figure out our students' progress and how to tweak our instruction.

Last month the Louisiana Department of Education reconfirmed that PARCC ELA and math questions will be the focus of this year's grade 3-8 tests. I encourage everyone to utilize the [Classroom Support Toolbox](#) for additional information on [standards](#), [end-of-year assessments](#), [math](#) and [ELA](#) curricular resources.

Now that we know where our students need to be by the end of the year, it is our job as educators to make sure we have a way to figure out where our students are excelling and where they need more support. As we take on this work, there is a lot out there to help us do that. Check out the [October calendar](#) of virtual and in-person trainings as well as the resources below!

### Register for a Regional Teacher Leader Collaboration Event Now!

Would you like some more support around assessments? Register today for one of the Regional Teacher Leader Collaboration events the week of October 20! These meetings will take place in Baton Rouge (10/20), Lake Charles (10/21), Alexandria (10/22) and Bossier (10/23). Each meeting has a limited number of spots, which will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

In these meetings you will learn about the content and format of the 14-15 Louisiana end-of-year assessments and practice using the new and improved EAGLE system to create interim assessments aligned to the end of year assessments. **For more information about these collaboration meetings including dates, locations, times and how to register, please [click here](#).**

### EAGLE Enhancements

[EAGLE](#) is an online bank of items and tasks aligned to our state end-of-year assessments. In Ouachita Parish, we have used items from EAGLE to build interim assessments that measure our students' progress towards where we need them to be by the end of the year.

A new and improved version of EAGLE will be released on September 29. [EAGLE 2.0](#) includes the following enhancements designed to make building a strong interim assessment much easier:

1. **New search functionality** – a quick and easy way to search for items
2. **Improved test builder** – a three step process to build classroom assessments
3. **Split screen feature** – optional screen arrangement for students
4. **Training and support tools** – printable resources and video highlights
5. **ELA/math Louisiana guidebook items** – K-12 items in printer-friendly format
6. **Science and social studies items** – Gr 3, 5, 6, 7 items from the [retired Louisiana PASS system](#)

## Virtual Book Clubs

Need help using the ELA guidebooks? Make sure to participate in the Virtual Book Clubs led by Louisiana educators! Each grade level module will guide you through using the guidebook assessments and lessons to ensure that students are making sense of complex texts to write and speak about them. You can use the Virtual Book Club recorded modules independently or during staff development. Learn more about how to access the modules [here](#).

## Teacher Leader Meetings with Superintendent John White

**Superintendent John White would like to invite you and your colleagues to join him for a Louisiana Believes tour event in your area.** During these meetings the Superintendent will share his thoughts on our state's academic goals and would like to hear your feedback on how the Department of Education can support you.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and contribute to the direction of education in our state. [Click here](#) for more information about the meeting closest to you. **No RSVP necessary. Bring a friend!**

## Teacher Preparation Focus Groups

The Department of Education is hosting focus groups in October and early November to gather ideas on how to strengthen teacher preparation experiences. These meetings will take place in Ruston, Monroe, Shreveport, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and the Greater New Orleans area. It is critical that we hear educators' ideas about how aspiring teachers can be better prepared for today's classrooms. **Please [SIGN UP](#) to participate in a focus group and share this information with the teachers in your school today!** Contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) for more information.

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COLLABORATE & SHARE RESOURCES: [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com); Group Join Code: [LKEAQ4](#)  
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[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)