

# Language Arts Newsletter: September 2018



## Welcome!

### Agency Update

Congratulations! You made it through the first two weeks of school. The hardest part is behind you and now the fun begins. This summer, I have learned about the many opportunities schools and districts have across our state to improve the lives of our students through school redesign, literacy initiatives, and the incorporation of formative assessment to drive instruction. While I am in no way an expert on these programs, I have worked to learn about each program so as to better support you and your peers as you work toward continuous improvement. Please reach out to me when you have concerns or are in need of guidance related to English Language Arts.

With school back in session, I will be traveling to various parts of the state to work with schools who are engaging in redesign, working to improve literacy instruction, and/or striving to grow their educational practice to improve student learning.

Additionally, I am excited to begin our online learning this month, and I hope that you all will join me on this journey as we attempt to collaborate and examine various topics related to the improvement of ELA instruction. If you have suggestions for future areas of study, please let me know, so I can work to deliver valuable professional learning opportunities.

I am excited to work with you all this year, and I would encourage you to form collaborative teams in your own school/district to help facilitate learning and professional growth that will directly influence what happens in your classrooms. Again, I view my job as that of support, so however I can best support you and your peers to better the lives of students across our state is what I will always strive to do.

-Sarah Perryman

### Professional Learning Opportunities

#### Online Learning: **September: Text Complexity**

(url to create account: <https://learning.ksde.org/login/signup.php>)

(url for course: <https://learning.ksde.org/course/view.php?id=136>) (key: SEPT2018)

Online Collaborative Discussions (choose 1): September 13 or 27 3:30-4:45 pm

#### Online Learning: **October: The Standards-Driven Classroom**

(url for course: <https://learning.ksde.org/course/view.php?id=142>) (key: OCT2018)

You can sign up **beginning** September 24

Online Collaborative Discussions (choose 1): October 11 or 24 3:30-4:45 pm

**September 15, 2018:** Workshop on Culturally Responsive Teaching from 9:00-4:00 at KU's Alderson Auditorium. This is a **free** event. Learn more [here](#) and Register [here](#).

**October 5-8, 2018:** NCME Conference on Assessments at KU

Register at <https://aai.ku.edu/ncme-2018-special-conference>

**October 15-17, 2018:** KSDE Annual Conference in Wichita

Register at <https://events.ksde.org/default.aspx?tabid=771>

**October 26-27, 2018:** KATE Annual Conference in Wichita

Register at [https://www.kansasenglish.org/store/c3/Annual\\_Conference.html](https://www.kansasenglish.org/store/c3/Annual_Conference.html)

**January 30-31, 2019:** Learning Forward Kansas Conference in Wichita, KS

Learn more at <https://learningforwardkansas.org/conference-2018/>

**January 30-February 2, 2019:** National ESEA Conference in Kansas City, MO

Register at [www.eSeanetwork.org/conference](http://www.eSeanetwork.org/conference)

## Standards and Assessment News

In August, the Math department published their document regarding the evaluation of instructional materials for district-wide adoption. This resource took many months for the math team to develop; it included references to various research and literature and links to sites that offer evaluation tools. I reworked the document they created to have an ELA foundation and to host ELA-specific links. You can find this resource on our ELA KSDE page under Standards → Curriculum and Instruction → Instructional Alignment. You can also access it [here](#).

Additionally, this summer, I reconfigured our state plan for literacy to make it easier for teachers to read. This guide has a tremendous amount of information regarding literacy instruction,

considerations, and best practice. I would encourage you to review this guide which can be found [here](#).

We are still in the process of publishing our ELA Standards Information Guides for Parents, but we hope to have them on the site soon.

**TESTING:** If you are interested in helping write and review materials for the Kansas State ELA exam, please review this [flyer](#) to learn about your next steps for participating in the Item Writer Workshop in November. Additionally, on <https://ksassessments.org>, you will find a revised Target and Standard Performance Level Descriptor document for your grade level. In November, the testing ELA consultant and I will partner to deliver professional learning regarding assessments through my online learning platform.

## Good Things

September 2-8 is designated as Literacy Week here in Kansas. As we work to celebrate the importance of literacy, I would love to hear about what you are doing in your schools and classrooms to emphasize the significance and relevance of this week. Please share stories and images with me that could possibly be used on our ELA KSDE page.

**The Writing Conference-** On October 2, Washburn University in Topeka, KS will be hosting a one-day Literature Festival. Teachers and students are invited to attend as Melanie Crowder discusses her novels and the importance of writing. Learn more about the conference [here](#). What a cool experience students will have to meet and interact with a published author!

**The Kansas Masonic Foundation –** They offer scholarships to many Kansas Students wishing to attend two year or four year universities. While some scholarships are based on need, other scholarships require the students to write an essay. Learn more about this opportunity for your Juniors and Seniors by going [here](#). They also sponsor a book club that offers incentives and recognition for students to improve their reading. You can learn more, and get involved, by clicking [here](#).

For more information, contact:



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