

Welcome!

Agency Update

As we kick off the month of March, we are greeted by 'Read Across America' Day! March 1, 2019 celebrates NEA's 'Read Across America' program which focuses on the importance of stories and their impact on our students. Learn more [here](#). The 2018-2019 theme is "Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers". We know that literature serves as mirrors and windows for our students; what better way to honor our students than to bring who they are into the framework of our ELA coursework.

Currently, the State Board of Education is reviewing recommendations made by the Legislative Dyslexia Task Force. The Task Force has worked to create legislation advocating for the needs of students with dyslexia and those at risk for dyslexia. As of right now, the recommendations would impact every single teacher under the ELA umbrella (PreK-12). While we will not know the final outcome for a few months, it is important that we start building our capacity now. Meaning, we must start engaging in professional learning around reading, and we must

build a foundation for strong reading intervention focused at both the word and text level. You can read the Legislative Task Force report [here](#).

Our elementary consultant, Cindy Hadicke, has presented on the science of reading for PreK-3 teachers to over 1,000 teachers across our state. I am hoping to take my 'Reading for the Secondary Teacher' to teachers across our state in the coming months with my 'kickoff' March 1st in Girard. If you are interested in either presentation, please reach out to us!

Make sure you access our KSDE: ELA page regularly! I am always trying to add new resources and supports for teachers. If you have ideas for resources that can improve the work you do in your classrooms, never hesitate to reach out to me. As always, I am here to help you!

-Sarah Perryman

Professional Learning Opportunities

Online Learning: **March: Increasing Rigor through Depth of Knowledge**

(url for course: <https://learning.ksde.org/course/view.php?id=146>) (key: MAR2019)

Online Webinar: March 27 3:30-4:30 pm (zoom link [here](#))

Now-March 2019: Apply for the Flint Hills Writing Project

Learn more at <http://fhwp.org/> Apply [here](#)

March 1, 2019: Reading Instruction for the Secondary Teacher

Presentation given at Greenbush South; Learn more and register by going [here](#) (see LiNK → KSDE: 6-12)

March 4-5, 2019: Kansans Can and Do! Symposium in Manhattan, KS

Learn more and register by going [here](#)

April 4, 2019: KSDE Civic Engagement Conference

Learn more and register by going [here](#)

****Have you ever wondered how your schools' resources measure up to the rest? Visit <http://www.edreports.org> to review their evaluations of the many instructional resources schools have available to them today.**

****Have you ever wondered what curricular resources were being used across the state? Greenbush recently surveyed curriculum leaders to find out the answer to that popular question. You can access [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) results.**

Standards and Assessment News

Structure of the Month: [Semantic Feature Analysis](#)

This strategy asks students to examine a term or object and then evaluate it for specific features. This can be used before, during, and/or after reading, and students to do this independently, in a group, or with the whole class. You can use this activity to discuss and categorize terminology, or you can use this structure to focus on comparing and contrasting. Students can then use this to shape their writing over similarities and differences.

ELA News:

Right now, the Kansas Book Festival is accepting student essays for their Youth Writing Contest. Entries will be accepted until April 30, 2019. The theme for this year's contest is "To the Stars". Students in grades 3-12 are eligible to participate, and winners can earn cash prizes! What a great class assignment and opportunity for our kids! Learn more [here](#). Also, this month I plan on assembling our team to review feedback and revise the Kansas Handwriting Standards. I have some individuals already committed, but many live within 90 miles of Topeka. If you live further than that, please consider joining the team so more of our state is represented. You will be compensated for your work on this team. Please email me ASAP if you are interested.

Agency News:

We are currently planning our two summer institutes; one to be held in June and another to be held in July. Dates and locations are now established (June 27-28 at Washburn University in Topeka; July 17-18 at Pratt Community College in Pratt, KS), and we are beginning the process of soliciting presentations. The theme for this year is: Kansans Can Ignite! If you have an ELA topic you would like to present, please let me know. We also have the Civic Engagement Conference on April 4. We are looking for student and teacher presenters. Please email Don Gifford at dgifford@ksde.org if you are interested in participating. Lastly, we are currently accepting applications for schools wishing to join the redesign initiative as Apollo schools. Learn more [here](#).

Assessment News:

This month, please take time to work through the technology practice with your students to help them utilize the built-in features of KITE. You can access the technology practice by clicking [here](#). The state assessment window will open March 11 and run through April 26. The state makeup day for ACT testing is April 2. Please review our 'Assessment' page for additional support regarding the ACT exam. Remember, www.ksassessments.org is also a great resource for all things KAP!

Good Things

The Kansas Masonic Foundation – They offer scholarships to many Kansas Students wishing to attend two year or four year universities. 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](#).

Kansas Poetry Out Loud is hosting its state competition March 2, 2019 at Salina South High School at 1 pm.

For more information, contact:



Sarah D. Perryman, Education Program Consultant-ELA
sperryman@ksde.org
785-296-1074

CSAS- Career, Standards, and Assessment Services
Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 653

www.ksde.org

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3204