

Welcome!

Agency Update

Happy New Year! 2018 was a great year, and I can not wait to see what great things 2019 has in store for us. In order to better meet the needs of teachers, I am going to restructure how I conduct my monthly online learning. Instead of two collaborative conversations, I will instead host one online learning webinar that will be recorded live and posted on the website. I hope that this change will allow more of you to participate in the professional learning opportunities available.

As we move into third quarter, testing schedules will appear and 'data' will become the hottest word in town. Remember, authentic learning experiences do more to prepare students for success than rote practice. Continue developing students' passion for learning even through testing season when doing so can sometimes come second to test prep.

Beginning this month, our state handwriting standards will be up for review and comment. Please see the "ELA News" section for a link to the survey. If you are interested in reviewing the

comments and possibly revising our standards, please let me know.

This year I have had the opportunity to work with schools undergoing redesign. As they start this new semester, they are tasked with testing strategies for improving how they 'do school'. In order to do this, teachers must research, collaborate, and reflect. I would like to encourage all of you to continue your own learning and growth. What can you try this semester to increase student success? Maybe, you could start by trying our "Structure of the Month". Whatever you choose to do, remember, progress never occurs when you are standing still. Invest in the cycle of continuous growth and improvement, and you will not be disappointed.

As always, if there is anything I can do to better serve you, please let me know!

-Sarah Perryman

Professional Learning Opportunities

Online Learning: **December/January: Literacy Across the Curriculum**

(url for course: <https://learning.ksde.org/course/view.php?id=144>) (key: DEC2018)

Online Webinar: January 24 3:30-4:15 pm

December and January: Phonics (Pre-K-3rd Grade) Professional Development- learn more [here](#)

January 25, 2019: Current Approaches to Learning Disabilities and Reading Interventions including Dyslexia

Training in Topeka, KS from 9-2; Learn more [here](#)

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

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

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

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

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

In order to better support teachers, I would like to use this section to highlight not only new resources on the KSDE ELA page, but also, to highlight a teaching structure every month that could be beneficial to ELA practitioners across the state working with all grade levels.

Structure of the Month: [Concept Mapping](#) (Effect Size .60)

A concept map is a 'visual organizer that can enrich students' understanding of a new concept' (Reading Rockets, 2018). These should be used while a student is interacting with content and can be completed independently, with small groups, and as a whole class. This strategy can be used for helping students read complex texts; they can use concept maps to brainstorm ideas for a writing assignment; and they can even use this strategy for interacting with new vocabulary. Additionally, concept maps are not just useful in the ELA classroom, but they can be used by students in any course to increase their interaction with the content.

ELA News:

As an agency, we are tasked with reviewing our standards every seven years. Our handwriting standards are due for review, and so I would like to start this process of review by sharing a Google Form. While we are obligated to review the standards, we are not required to make changes. Thus, our first goal is simply to collect comments from you all and any other stakeholder. Please take some time to review our standards and comment as you see necessary. Once comments have been collected, I will assemble a team to review the comments and determine the extent of work needed to address the comments. You can access the form [here](#). The form will close at the end of March and comment review will take place by the summer. If you have any suggestions regarding future ELA resources/projects, please let me know so I can work to meet your needs.

Agency News:

Our Library, Media, and Information Consultant, Jackie McMahon, recently retired. A BIG congratulations to her! If you are a library media specialist, please note your new KSDE contact: Kyle Lord (klord@ksde.org). If you have questions and/or are in need of resources, please reach out to Kyle, and he will be happy to assist you.

Assessment News:

As we move into third quarter, make sure you set aside time to complete the third interim assessment. The third assessment can be given **between February 4th and February 15th**. Remember, once students have taken all three interims, their final predictive score should accurately forecast their KAP performance. Also, 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](#).

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](#).

For more information, contact:



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