



Welcome!

Agency Update

Well, September was quite a busy month. We kicked off the month with Literacy Week, began our journey into online learning, and settled into our routines and procedures with students. This month I have worked with schools under the LiNK Grant, worked with schools in the Smoky Hill area undergoing redesign, worked with KU to promote Culturally Responsive Teaching, attended trainings over state testing, and was able to correspond with many teachers regarding our standards, resources, and practices to support students.

October is shaping up to be an incredibly busy month as well with many opportunities for professional learning. I will be attending testing workshops for administrators and educators; I will attend KSDE's annual conference; I will be in Wichita for the KATE Conference; I will continue my online learning courses and collaborative conversations; and I will also make time to present

to teachers at district-level Professional Development. All of this is in addition to my work with LiNK schools/districts and redesign schools/district.

While my schedule has filled up with many activities, I am always available to support you and your school in whatever capacity you need. Please reach out to me when you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or are just in need of general guidance or encouragement. I will continue to use this newsletter as a one-stop-shop for educators and school personnel. If ever I can improve my communication, please let me know. Best of luck as conferences approach and quarter 1 comes to an end.

-Sarah Perryman

Professional Learning Opportunities

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

Online Learning: **November: Data-Driven Instruction and Assessment**

(url for course: <https://learning.ksde.org/course/view.php?id=143>) (key: NOV2018)

You can sign up **beginning** October 29

Online Collaborative Discussions (choose 1): November 8 or 29 3:30-4:45 pm

October 8-10, 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

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

****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.**

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: [Reciprocal Teaching](#)

This teaching strategy is used before, during, and after reading. Students are asked to do four things: predict, question, clarify, and summarize. This strategy should be modeled before students are asked to engage independently. It can also be used with any type or genre of text. Click on the link to learn more.

ELA News: Under “Standards” and “Parent Resources”, you will now find one-page information sheets for each grade level that can assist you in speaking with parents about the goals of our ELA instruction. I am also working with TASN to compile a “Best Practice” resource for ELA teachers. Stay tuned for more on that in the coming weeks!

****Principals:** Observing and evaluating effective literacy instruction can be difficult for someone whose background is not ELA. The Center on Instruction has an [Adolescent Literacy Walk-Through Guide for Principals](#); this may assist you in better evaluating and supporting your ELA teachers.

Agency News: In September, the department of Special Education and Title Services published a resource regarding the effective use of para-professionals in the classroom. As I reviewed this document, I found myself taking note of the many suggestions and questions it raised. I would encourage all of you to review that document; it can be found [here](#). All resources over para-professional use can be found [here](#).

Assessment News: We had over 70 teachers apply to write items for the Kansas ELA State Assessment! I was blown away by the level of response. It is humbling to see so many hard-working teachers electing to give up time with their kiddos to design an assessment that is rigorous, reliable, and relevant to the lives of our Kansas students. Please review the <http://www.ksassessments.org> site for resources regarding online demos of KITE, evaluation rubrics, and updates on the state interims and the reporting of student results. **The mini-assessments in KITE are now open, and the first interim window is October 8-19.**

Good Things

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](#).

William Allen White Award Celebration- On October 5 and 6, Emporia State University will host their 66th annual celebration of the William Allen White Book Award. To learn more about the event and register to attend please visit this [link](#). This event is meant for students in grades 3-8. Students will have the opportunity to celebrate literature and hear from the winning author.

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 ready for the 2018-2019 school year. Click [here](#) to contact your regional rep for more information.

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

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