



## Welcome!

### Agency Update

Allow me to be one of the first to welcome you all back to school! With August comes enrollment, school supplies, brainstorming, kids, fun, but also small doses of panic and stress. August is a busy time for schools and teachers, and so I am hoping that this newsletter offers you the guidance and information you need to move into your school year with ease. I have met some strong teachers and curriculum advocates this summer, and I am excited to meet more teachers across our state and to become more involved in your classrooms.

As I mentioned in my first newsletter, it is my goal to establish an online Professional Learning platform that we can use to grow professionally and collaborate across grade levels and regions. My first online "course" will cover Text Complexity. This class will be open throughout the month of September. I will also host two online collaborative sessions for teachers who wish to share questions or ideas related to our topic of Text Complexity. This learning opportunity is

yours for the taking. Feel free to simply survey the materials, or interact with the materials deeply. You can attend the online sessions only, or take part in all that is offered. This is your experience. If you have suggestions for how these courses can better meet your needs, please do not hesitate to contact me. September will be our first attempt at online learning, so please be patient with me as I learn how to best serve all of you.

In the next few weeks, it is my hope that you will begin finding some new resources on our ELA webpage. These resources include: vertical alignment documents for our standards K-12; a revised format and structure for our State Guide to Literacy; and parent brochures regarding English Language Arts at each grade level. Let me know if you have suggestions for resources to better support your work.

-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)

You can sign up **beginning** Monday, August 27.

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

#### **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)

Did you know that KATE also sponsors a book club for professional learning? Learn more about it at <https://www.kansasenglish.org/kate-book-club>

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

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

**\*\*If you feel that your district is in need of more targeted and/or specific professional development, please contact me at [sperryman@ksde.org](mailto:sperryman@ksde.org). You can review my most up to date professional learning schedule by clicking [here](#).**

## Standards and Assessment News

In order to help teachers utilize our standards as a tool for scaffolding, the new Elementary Consultant (Cindy Hadicke) and I created a vertical alignment document for our Kansas ELA Standards. This document is meant to function like a scope and sequence document that school districts, curriculum leaders, and teachers can use to assess resources and prepare appropriate supports for our kids.

You will also find a revised version of our state literacy guide. In 2010, KSDE published our state literacy plan with a guide to teaching literacy. While this document was incredibly comprehensive and could be utilized as a great resource for teachers, its horizontal design and birth through grade 12 layout made it very overwhelming for viewers. We have reworked the document so that it can be read in a linear fashion, and we broke it into age/grade-level sections. This document will be republished in the coming weeks.

Additionally, we are working on creating parent brochures that can be accessed by parents and educators alike and discuss the literacy skills that students will be working on in each grade while also outlining the elements of school redesign that will most impact the grade. While there are many resources available to parents outlining ELA outcomes, these brochures will directly connect what is happening in the classroom to Kansas Redesign.

**TESTING:** If you are interested in helping write and review materials for the Kansas State ELA exam, please email me (or Natalie Nordby Chen at [nnchen@ku.edu](mailto:nnchen@ku.edu)) your name and grade preference. KU is planning an Item Writer Workshop for this Fall. Additionally, on <https://ksassessments.org>, you will also find a revised Target and Standard Performance Level Descriptor document for your grade level by August 10.

## Good Things

July 17 and 18, I attended the KSDE Impact Institute hosted by Fort Hays State University. I attended two great sessions on teaching in the ELA classroom where I learned more about personalization and teaching complex texts; one powerful session on the culturally responsive school; and a very informative presentation over the role of teachers in the district accreditation process. After participating in these sessions and deepening my own learning, I am even more excited to see what we can learn and accomplish at KSDE's annual conference October 15-17 in Wichita, KS.

**"Stuff the Bus"**- You may notice that the homepage of our ELA site looks different; as I stated in my first newsletter, I am hoping to update our community on good things happening in our state. Recently, the Manhattan and Ogden community came together to collect school supplies to help their students come back to school ready to learn. They had a wonderful turn out, and they were able to support over 200 students and families in their community!

**Scholarship Opportunity-** The Kansas Masonic Foundation offers scholarships to many Kansas Students wishing to attend two year or four year universities. While some scholarships are based on need, some scholarships require the students to write an essay. Learn more about this opportunity for your Juniors and Seniors by visiting <https://kansasmasonic.foundation/program/kansas-masonic-foundation-scholarships/>

**\*\*If you have a good thing happening in your class, school, or district, please email me at [sperryman@ksde.org](mailto:sperryman@ksde.org)**

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