

PDE - English Language Arts LEARNING COMMUNITY



WHO WE ARE

Welcome to the [PDE - English Language Arts Learning Community](#). The Learning Community provides an avenue to connect with educators of all levels across the Commonwealth. The Learning Community also provides a collaborative environment to extend and enhance the discussion of important issues with PDE staff and colleagues regarding teaching, learning, and assessing. Please join us by discussing and sharing important issues, challenges, and ideas that promote the effective and successful teaching, learning, and assessing of ELA throughout the Commonwealth.

FEATURED PODCAST

Two Writing Teachers Podcast

Since 2007, Two Writing Teachers has been a vibrant community of reflective writers. We're excited to take our passion for teaching writing to new heights in the second season of our podcast. Join us as we explore ways to create, lead, and sustain joyful and productive writing workshops, empowering educators to help their students become competent, brave, and confident writers. Let's make writing instruction engaging and rewarding for everyone involved!

[two-writing-teachers-podcast](#)

DID YOU KNOW ...

October 20, 2023, is National Day on writing? [National Day on Writing® - National Council of Teachers of English](#)

A graphic with a yellow and blue color scheme. At the top, it says "SAS INSTITUTE 2023 Successful Leadership" with a logo. Below that is a bell icon and the word "REMINDER". The main text says "Click here to REGISTER NOW" in large, bold letters. At the bottom, there is a URL: "www.tinyurl.com/SAS-2023".



WRITING RESOURCES

4 Ways Reading and Writing Interlock: What the Research Says

By: [Stephen Sawchuk](#) - January 17, 2023

[4 Ways Reading and Writing Interlock: What the Research Says](#)

Mission: Write with Stuart Gibbs

Stuart Gibbs is a New York Times bestselling author of series including Spy School, FunJungle, Charlie Thorne, and Once Upon a Tim. With the help of educators, we have created a creative writing video series that focuses on providing real world tips from Stuart Gibbs for aspiring young writers.

[Welcome! | Stuart Gibbs - Mission: Write](#)

What does the Pennsylvania State Literacy Plan (PaSLP) say about writing –

The Pennsylvania State Literacy Plan (PaSLP) was written to provide guidance to stakeholders about their roles in developing an integrated, aligned, and comprehensive set of literacy experiences for children (birth—grade 12). Administrators and educators will find specific information about developing, implementing, and evaluating an evidence-based school literacy program.

[PaSLP Writing Focus of Instruction](#)

REFLECTING on INSTRUCTION

The Smell of Ink: a Profile of Teacher-Leader Tonya Perry

[National Writing Project | The Smell of Ink: a Profile of...](#)

So many children want opportunities to learn and develop, but there are still barriers. I grew up in rural North Carolina and worked with the communities in rural Alabama through our GEAR UP Alabama program. I truly understand that getting an education is navigating the unknowns for many children and families. Having the support of those who have traversed through the many education lands is essential. That's what we do as educators—we open doors for students and help them find their paths.

[Spotlight on Dr. Tonya Perry](#)



New Structured Literacy Content Advisor

Kate Bacher has recently joined the PDE Team in the capacity of Structured Literacy Content Advisor. Kate comes from 24 years in education, first as an Adult Education/GED instructor for IU10 DCA, junior/senior high Language Arts instructor, Title 1 Reading Instructor K-6, Instructional Coach 7-12, and most recently a K-6 Principal from Cambria/Clearfield Counties. She is a Clarion University alumna and has master's degrees from both Marygrove College and Edinboro University. She also completed doctorate credits at Indiana University in the Administration and Leadership Studies Program (ABD). Kate and her husband reside in Clearfield County and have three grown children and four grandchildren with whom they enjoy spoiling and spending lots of quality time.

She is looking forward to supporting district leadership, educators, and students across the state to not only implement the new SL mandate successfully, but also to support the growth of literacy programs PK-12 and resources available to those who teach it. She has opened a Structured Literacy Learning Community on SAS and encourages all interested to follow that PLC for the most current information and resources in SL. Kate can be reached at kabacher@pa.gov.



Calling on ELA Teachers!

Pennsylvania educators play an important role in reviewing items for the PSSA and Keystone tests.

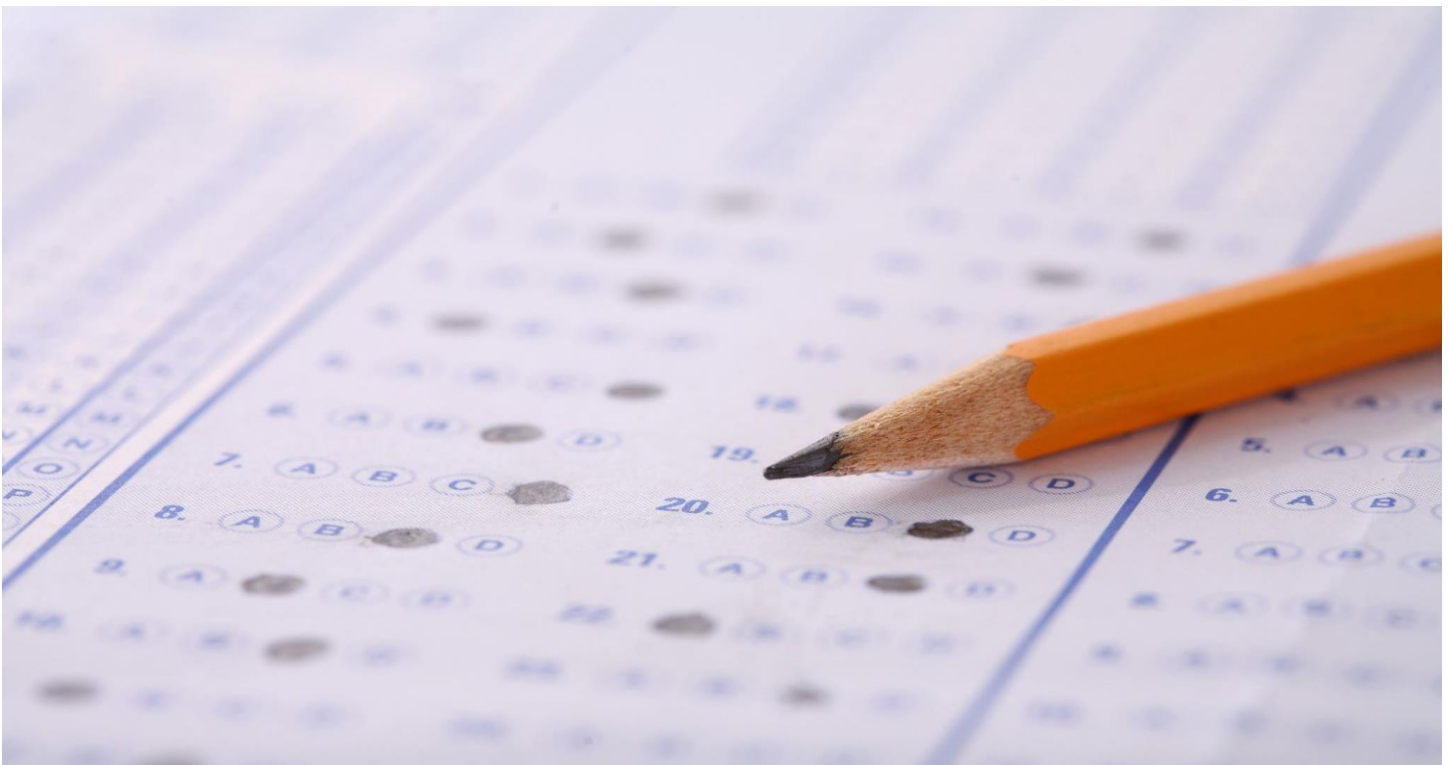
Each summer, educators from all over the Commonwealth engage in setting ranges for open-ended questions, reviewing new test items, and reviewing data from field tested items.

If you are interested in participating, complete the [Educator Application: PSSA & Keystone Exams Assessment Committee Reviews](#).

Your application will be evaluated, and your name will be placed in a pool of educators.

You will receive an availability survey in the winter, and committees will be formed in early spring.

Contact Beth Gannon, ELA Assessment Advisor, with questions at egannonrit@pa.gov.



NOTE: Sites identified here have been reviewed by the content advisor; however, educators are advised to preview for appropriateness for their respective classrooms. The mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations does not imply endorsement by PDE.

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