

# 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 ARTICLE

The Science of Reading: An interdisciplinary field of study rooted in 50 years of scientific research on the cognitive processes that occur when a child learns to read -

[AIU Connections - Winter/Spring 2023 by AlleghenyIntermediateUnit - Issuu](#)

## DID YOU KNOW ...

There is a Structured Literacy eBook on the SAS website –

[Educator Professional Development Resource: Structured Literacy - SAS \(pdesas.org\)](#)

There is a Structured Literacy course on the SAS website which meets the professional development needs outlined in Chapter 49 –

- Go to **SAS website**
- Click on the **PD Center** tab
- Search – **Structured Literacy**
- Structured Literacy course will populate



## INSTRUCTION

For minority students to succeed, teachers need to earn trust | Science News Explores ([snexplores.org](https://snexplores.org))

## FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENT

### Keystone State Literacy Association

KSLA has proclaimed April as Families and Reading Month!

The Families and Reading Committee creates and disseminates resources to educators, and ultimately families, to promote literacy opportunities in the home during the month of April.

<https://ksla.wildapricot.org/Families-and-Reading>



# Using PBS LearningMedia in the Classroom



## Essential Questions

- How does learning media promote deeper understanding and engage learners in the learning process?
- What media resources does PBS LearningMedia offer to an educator and learner to enrich instruction and learning?
- How does integrating PBS LearningMedia into instruction enhance the classroom experience?

## The Course

- 5-hour Act 48 course in SAS PD Center
- Available to anyone registered as a SAS user
- Facilitated course with knowledge checks along the way
- Engages participants in scavenger hunts, readings, teaching scenarios, and identification of resources for integration into classroom instruction



### New English Language Arts Assessment Advisor

**Beth Gannon, Ed.D.**

Greetings, fellow ELA Educators! I am happy to introduce myself as the ELA Assessment Advisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

I am born and raised and started my teaching career in Delaware, but I have called Central Pennsylvania my home for the last 15 years. I attended the University of Delaware for my bachelor's degree in English education and my master's degree in educational leadership and K-12 principal's certificate. I then attended Drexel University for my doctoral degree in education leadership and policy. During my 20 years in the classroom, I had the opportunity to teach in vocational and traditional schools, and in online, in-person, and hybrid settings. I have taught grades 7-12, Advanced Placement courses, ELA for English learners, creative writing, journalism, and dramatic arts. I was involved in many different leadership and curricular roles and advised many student activities over the years.

I am excited to support students and educators in a new way through this position at PDE. I look forward to future opportunities to work with you!



### New English Language Arts Education Advisor

**Jennifer T. Wicht, M. Ed.**

Hello fellow Educators! I am humbled and excited to be the English Language Arts Education Advisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

I grew up in Central Pennsylvania and continue to live and now work within 10 miles of where I was born. I attended Kutztown University for my undergrad work, and The Pennsylvania State University for both my master's in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and my K-12 Principal Certificate.

I had professional experiences in rural, suburban, and urban schools throughout central PA. I previously taught English Language Arts at the middle school level and was both a Pre-K - 8th-grade principal and middle school principal. Before joining PDE, I was a supervisor of special education.

One of the most exciting aspects of my job is supporting fellow Educators across this great state! I look forward to working with each one of you, and your school districts. The monthly PDE ELA PLC eBlasts will continue with many more to come!

NOTE: Sites identified here have been reviewed by the content advisor; however, educators are advised to preview for appropriateness for their respective classrooms.

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