

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

Melissa & Lori Love Literacy

is a podcast for educators interested in learning more about the science of reading, knowledge building, and high-quality curriculum!

Join us as we tackle new ways of thinking about how to teach reading and writing.

Guests include literacy researchers and experts, teachers and leaders, parents, and advocates.

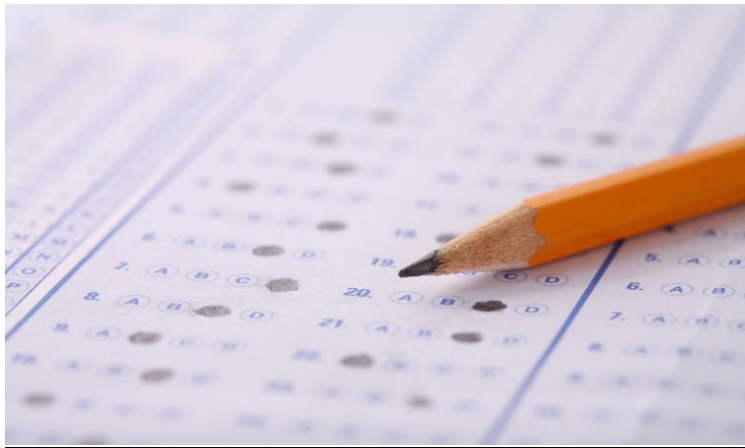
[Melissa & Lori Love Literacy](#)

DID YOU KNOW ...

In 1989, the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English accepted the Issues Committee's recommendation that the Black Caucus sponsor a nationwide read-in on the first Sunday of February. At the request of educators, Monday was designated for educational institutions. Dr. Jerrie Cobb Scott, an active member of NCTE and the Black Caucus, brought the idea to the committee. It was envisioned that following a decade of rigorous campaigning for participants, the African American Read-Ins would become a traditional part of Black History Month celebrations.

[African American Read-In 2024](#)

Assessment Information



NCEO has released an updated resource,

[Communicating about Annual State Assessment Participation for All Students: A Communication Toolkit.](#)

This communications toolkit was developed by NCEO to identify and describe reasons why all students, including students with disabilities, English learners, and English learners with disabilities should take state tests.

The purpose of the toolkit is to provide a concise resource that state education agency staff, and district and school administrators can use when communicating with educators, policymakers, families, and students about why it is so important that students participate in state assessments.

It also contains materials that Individualized Educational Program (IEP) teams can use when making state test participation decisions for students with disabilities. This toolkit is intended to provide a neutral but useful mechanism to guide positive, thoughtful conversations about student testing participation. The toolkit includes:

- Sample social media posts
- Sample letter to families
- One-page “ready-to-go” flyers
- One-page “ready-to-go” discussion guide for IEP teams
- Customizable slide deck
- Customizable flyers

Questions and comments can be sent to Andrew Hinkle at ahinkle@umn.edu

Article on Sound Walls

If you're someone who's interested in early literacy instruction, there is an excellent chance you've heard of sound walls with articulatory gestures, a current hot topic in literacy.

On this type of sound wall, speech sounds are laid out according to how they are produced.

To learn more, here is Part 1 of a 3-part read -

[Sound Walls](#)



By: Laura Macgrath

November 14, 2023

New Advanced Placement Course

After more than three years of work by scholars, teachers, and the Advanced Placement Program (AP), the College Board is excited to share that the AP Program has released the revised operational course framework for AP African American Studies. This framework will guide the full nationwide launch of the course in the 2024-25 academic year. This dynamic and robust course introduces students to the rich history, culture, and literature of African Americans and the larger African diaspora. We encourage all educators to read the course framework and learn about the rich context covered in this exciting new course.

To review more about the course and learn how to bring it to your school, please visit -

[AP African American Studies](#)

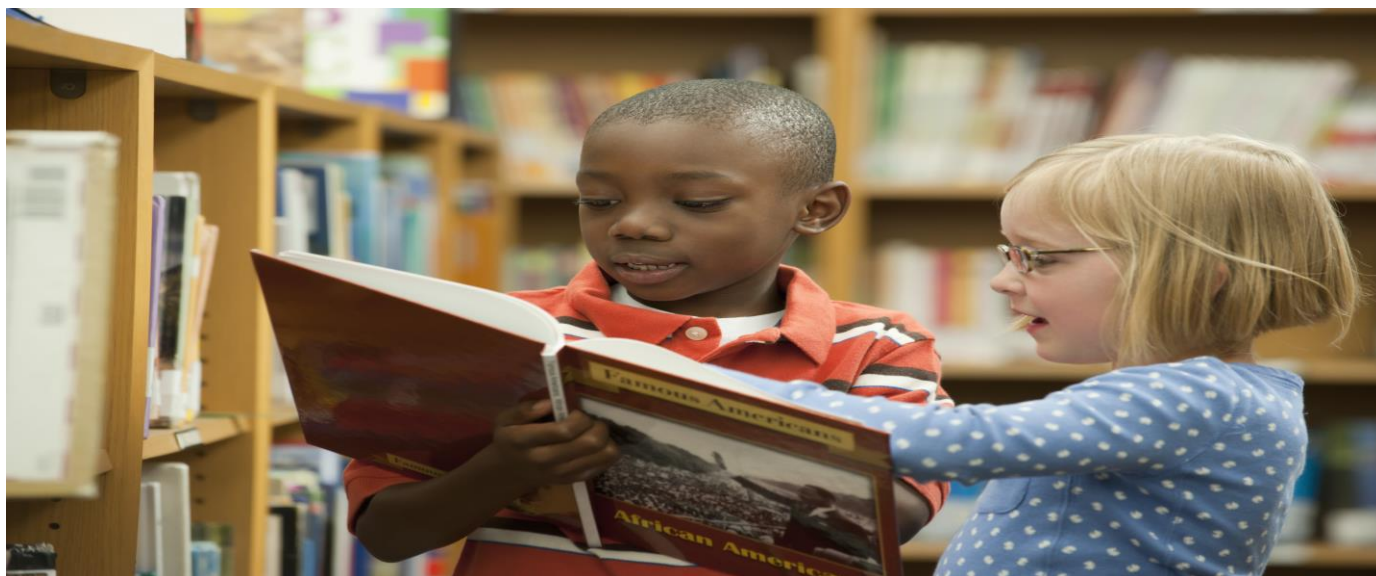
From PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA)

Let's Chat About Early Language and Literacy

Join the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) during the winter months for a series of 4 webinars on language and literacy development including information on structured literacy. These webinars will provide resources to share with families and use in classrooms and centers. These one-hour webinars will be offered for FREE from 1pm to 2pm on the dates listed below:

- February 2nd, 2024: Let's Chat About: Talking with Young Children
- February 16th, 2024: Let's Chat About: Bringing the Read Aloud to Life
- March 1st, 2024: Let's Chat About: Sounds Abound – Phonological Fun!
- March 15th, 2024: Let's Chat About: Emergent Writing and Print All Around Us

PQAS credit hours, Infant Toddler hours, and ACT48 hours are available for these webinars. [Get additional information on topics, credits, and registration.](#)



Innovation Challenge



The Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is announcing an Innovations Challenge which is a statewide competition that challenges teams of students in 9th through 12th grade to use their problem-solving, creative, and strategic-thinking abilities to solve real-world lifesaving challenges. Winners will be selected by members of the Organ Donation Advisory Committee (ODAC).

Your Challenge: Develop an innovative video that would encourage people; teens and/or adults, to become organ and tissue donors.

Your Award: The statewide winning team will be awarded \$3,000. The winning team members will receive certificates as well as their school receiving a traveling trophy and permanent trophy engraved with the school's name. The team will also be invited to attend the Annual OTDA Spring Conference in State College in May 2024.

For details please visit the [OTDA-challenge](#)

2023-24 National Civics Bee®

The PA Chamber of Business and Industry is partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and chambers of commerce across Pennsylvania to host a statewide civics competition. The **2023-24 National Civics Bee®** encourages young Americans in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. The competition, modeled on traditional spelling and geography bees, gives students the chance to win recognition and earn cash prizes by sharing ideas for improving their communities and showing their enthusiasm for civics.

The winner of the **National Civics Bee® Pennsylvania State Finals** will be invited to Washington, DC to compete in the inaugural National Civics Bee® National Championship in Fall 2024.

The PA Chamber of Business and Industry is hosting the National Civics Bee® Pennsylvania State Finals because they believe that informed and active citizens make for a strong country, a strong economy, and a strong workforce, and that the nation's continued prosperity depends on the strength of all three. Through the Bee, The Chamber of Business and Industry is promoting greater civic knowledge throughout Pennsylvania and celebrating civic pride.

The Following Chambers are still seeking 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to participate in their regional Bee.
***Registration Extended to February 19th!**

[Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County: Civics Bee*](#)

[Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership Civics Bee*](#)

[Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce Civics Bee*](#)

[Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC Civics Bee*](#)

The Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts

The Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts ([PCTEL](#)) is our state-level affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The 2024 PCTELA Conference theme is "Elevate: Inspiring Each Other & Lifting Voices." We are excited to announce that our PCTELA Conference theme this year, *Elevate*, will afford educators the opportunity to inspire and be inspired so we can lift the voices of our students and each other. Taking the opportunity to work collectively with passionate educators from across the Commonwealth will help elevate our practices and allow us to grow together as a community of learners. This year's conference seeks proposals for sessions on practices and strategies that have worked, have sharpened our students' skills, and have brought joy to the English Language Arts classroom so we can inspire students and teachers to grow their practice and guide each other.

PCTELA 2024 Details: October 18 and 19, 2024 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry

PCTELA 2024 Session Proposals: [Our proposal form is now open](#) until March 15, 2024.

PCTELA 2024 Registration: [Registration is open](#)! Attend both days for \$250, which includes full access to the conference and breakfast and lunch each day. Discounts available for pre-service, early career, and retired teachers. Daily rates are also available. You can also [book your room now](#) for \$116/night!

PCTELA 2024 Co-Chairs: Mr. Tien Pham and Mr. Paolo Tolomeo

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IT'S TIME TO THRIVE

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

PCTELA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PITTSBURGH, PA

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OCTOBER 18-19

HTTP://BIT.LY/PCTELA24CFP

NOTE: The content advisor has reviewed sites identified here; 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 of PDE.
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