

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 ABCs of Rigorous Lesson Design

By: Karen Hess

Rigorous teaching and learning involves setting high expectations while maintaining a balance among the complexity of the learning content (texts, concepts, etc.), cognitive engagement with that content (learning tasks), and a teacher's ability to make the content or tasks accessible to every student.

[The ABCs of Rigorous Lesson Design](#)

June 24, 2021, 11 min read

DID YOU KNOW . . .

Teachers can use the **DOK rubric** from **DRC** to create PSSA and Keystone questions.

Click the link below.

[DOK for PSSA and Keystone](#)



Also, **DRC** posted the **Spring Assessment Update**.

Click the link below.

[2024 Spring Assessment Update](#)

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.

KSLA encourages teachers to promote April as Families and Reading Month by visiting the website below and previewing the resources for families.

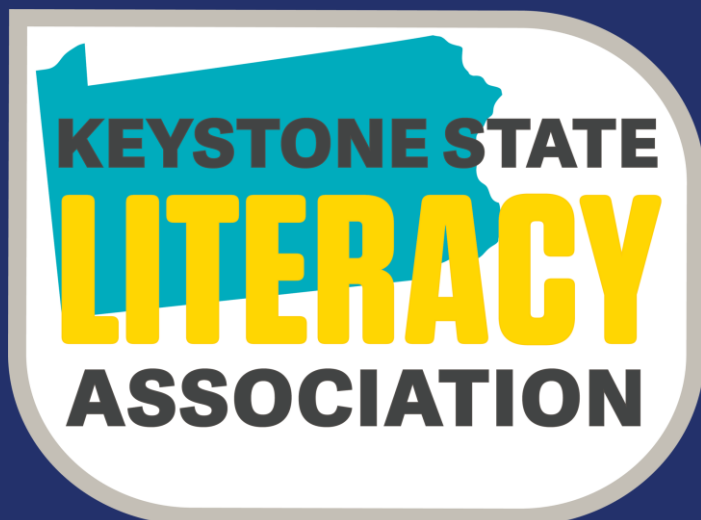
You'll find a letter for teachers explaining the purpose of Families and Reading Month and sharing ideas for promoting literacy in the school and home during April.

The family resources include an explanation of April as Families and Reading Month and resources to locate books and calendars full of engaging literacy activities for primary, intermediate, and middle school students.

Some of the resources are available in Spanish. The website also offers certificates for families who participate.

Feel free to share paper copies of the documents or post them electronically to your website or family communication platform.

[KSLA website](https://www.education.pa.gov/)



Read Together: Parents and Educators Working Together for Literacy

Learning to read doesn't happen magically. Parents and teachers play important roles in developing young readers. Supporting a child is best accomplished when parents and teachers share common methods and basic understandings of the reading process. This brochure describes ways you can help your child as a reader. As you work together, celebrate your child's efforts and successes—just as you did when your child learned to walk and talk.

Read Together: Parents and Educators Working Together for Literacy

National Library Week is the perfect time to visit a library. Many libraries have special events planned for the week. The State Library will have game tables and new books on display. Take a few minutes to try out a new game and see what new books you can borrow with your State Library card. Visit the Rare Collections special exhibit on Publishers' Bindings. Meet the librarians and take time to learn all that libraries have to offer. The State Library historic reading room is open to the public on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit - [PA State Library](https://www.education.pa.gov/).



The Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act (Public Law No. 116-13), which Congress passed in March 2019, directs the U.S. Secretary of Education to establish a national award program **recognizing the excellence exhibited by public school non-teaching employees** (called paraprofessionals and school-related personnel) who provide services to public or private prekindergarten through high school students across the nation. The act was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and Senate and created the first national U.S. Department of Education award of its kind.

[Recognizing Inspiring School Employees \(RISE\) Award](#)



CAREER READY PA BACKPACK CHALLENGE



The Remake Learning Days festival will take place across Pennsylvania from May 2 to 22, 2024. Various organizations will host free events for all age groups and provide hands-on learning opportunities. Participating organizations include libraries, schools, tech centers, museums, play spaces, community centers, and more.

Did you know that 91% of STEM jobs in Pennsylvania will require some form of a post-secondary credential? Participating in hands-on learning is one way to learn STEM and employability skills. The STEM career tree has many branches, and you may explore one at the Remake Learning Days festival.

Did you ever think that creating an invention, learning to code, or planting a garden builds employability skills? Activities like learning how to fly a drone, marketing a product, and helping your community are a foundation to your future career pathway!

Events listed under Career Ready PA qualify for the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge. Students who participate will earn a Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge badge. Career Ready PA will also award a banner to schools with over 100 artifacts.

After the event, students will need to complete the artifact survey on the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge page. This survey will be shared with your school so you can earn your badge and get career portfolio credit for the Backpack Challenge!

To learn more, [view the detailed instructions](#) for 2024 and register now for the Challenge!

Explore events, participate in an event, and earn a digital artifact for the career portfolio at the [Remake Learning Days Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge website](#).

FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The [SAS PD Center](#) is the Pennsylvania Department of Education's repository of professional development courses, including Act 126 and Act 55 courses.

Courses in this system are generally self-paced, and all provide Act 48 or Act 45 hours.

You can register and take courses free of charge with your SAS account and PPID (if you want Act 48 hours).

The 2024 PaTTAN Literacy Symposium: SORing into Structured Literacy

Will be held virtually from June 11 to June 13, 2024

[PaTTAN - Literacy Symposium 2024](#)

Why should you attend? With structured literacy recognized as a critical evidence-based reading approach for all students, this conference comes at an important moment for improving literacy outcomes.

What is it? The 2024 PaTTAN Literacy Symposium is a premier professional learning event that brings together leading national and state-level literacy researchers in the field of the science of reading, structured literacy, and reading instruction and intervention, along with classroom teachers who have successfully implemented structured literacy approaches.

Who should attend? Elementary Educators, Secondary Educators, Reading Specialists, Special Educators, School Psychologists, School Leaders/Coaches, Speech-Language Pathologists

Where does it take place? This virtual symposium will utilize the PaTTAN Events web platform to access all sessions. More information about this will be provided when you register.

When is it? (All times are in the EASTERN TIME ZONE)

June 11, 2024, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

June 12, 2024, 8:30 am - 3:15 pm

June 13, 2024, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Presenters include - Natalie Wexler, Deb Glaser, Laura Stewart, Margie Gillis, Lindsay Kemeny, Daryl Michel, Mitchell Brookins, Stephanie Stollar, Maria Murray, Joan Sedita, Nancy Chapel Eberhardt, Carolyn Strom, Michael Hunter, Linda Farrell, Lynn Kuhn, Nancy Hennessy, Michelle Trostle, Lyn Stone, and many others!

NOTE: The content advisor has reviewed the sites identified here; however, educators are advised to preview for appropriateness for their respective classrooms. The publication's content does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the PDE, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the PDE.

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