

Did You Know?

Diagnostic Category Testing and Interactive Reports – At No Cost!

The current suite of Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) includes 13 tests across four subject areas: Math, Reading, Writing, and Science. Each individual CDT assessment includes items that test 4-5 separate diagnostic categories (DC). Since its inception, the CDT has become a widespread and valuable tool across the Commonwealth. As its use has expanded, so have the requests for the CDT to be able to target specific diagnostic categories for testing or retesting areas of need.

You are now able to administer 50 new CDT Diagnostic Category Tests!

Each test will include items for the selected category only, which will result in a shorter testing experience for the student and will provide teachers with information targeted to a student's specific area of need.

The CDT Quick Start Guide is available at <https://pa.drcedirect.com>. If you have any questions, please contact DRC Customer Service Team via email, pacustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com, or by phone at 1-888-551-6935.

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Our monthly ELA Assessment eBLAST will focus on providing the following: insight around standardized assessment, professional learning for ELA classroom instruction and assessment, professional opportunities, and a question/answer section.

Email questions to:

dsimaska@pa.gov

rbaumleama@pa.gov

Coming Soon!

Soon, we will be releasing the **Close Reading Lessons based on the Text Dependent Analysis Annotated Student Work** for grades 3-8:

For students to successfully respond to text dependent analysis prompts, students should engage in close reading lessons. Close reading involves the use of a collection of evidence-based comprehension strategies embedded in a teacher-guided discussion, planned around repeated readings of a text to increase student comprehension. Close reading will often lead students to discover something important that may have been overlooked the first time they read the text. Throughout a close reading, the teacher can use text dependent questions to promote discussion and help students to better understand the nuances of what they are reading. They can be used to start student discussions and give students opportunities to discuss the text with each other and voice their ideas. Successful analysis requires a study of the text in which students can analyze over and over again. The **PA Academic ELA Standards** require moving instruction away from generic questions, to questions that require students to analyze what they are reading. This will help to ensure that students are college and career ready.

The TDA Toolkit is now located on the [PDE Website](#) and [SAS](#). Check it out!



TDA Toolkit

Professional Opportunities

KSLA-TE Masters Paper Award

The Keystone State Literacy Associations Teacher Educator Group is seeking nominees for next year's Master's Research Paper Award. Master's research papers may include papers written to complete requirements for a Master's or Specialist degree program, (e.g., action research, commentary, capstone paper, theoretical paper or thesis). For more information visit the [NEWS folder](#) in the ELA CAI content repository on SAS.

E-mail master's research paper entries to Cathy McGeehan by August 1, 2019 to mcgeehan@kutztown.edu.

PDE Needs You!

PDE is seeking [nominations](#) of mid-career school [educators](#) – classroom teachers, principals, specialists - for consideration for special recognition, advisory boards, and task force participation. Administrators are invited to nominate worthy educators for this prestigious program. All nominations are due no later than **May 17, 2019**. Questions: Contact Dr. Nick Blanch, PDE Special Programs Coordinator, at nblanch@pa.gov.