Elementary Instructional Update

November 2020

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."
~ President John F. Kennedy

[DOI Policy Updates]

General Updates and Resources

NEW and IMPORTANT! Blackboard Teacher Communications System
Teacher can now send personalized messages to the their families. The Blackboard Teacher Communications system allows for customized phone, email or text messages to be sent by teachers to parents and guardians of their rostered students. All permanent and long-term substitute teachers have access to this new system which is accessed using their Single Sign-On credentials. To begin using the Teacher Communications system, please go to bbc.lausd.net and click on the Teacher Resources menu. View the Teacher Communications Online Training Video on the page. Click on the Teacher Communications Single Sign-On Instructions link to learn how to log in using your Single Sign-On user name and password.

Williams: Textbook Inventory
A complete list of textbooks on campus should be reflected in Destiny. Inventory opens November 1. Users with full or limited access can perform the inventory.

For more information, please contact Kimberly Balala, *Coordinator, ILTSS*, kkr3219@lausd.net.

Chargers Mathletes and Play60
Mathletes webpage is where students can fill out weekly worksheets and have their parents submit answers online for a chance to win a new Chargers jersey. The Play60 Challenge webpage is periodically updated with virtual workout videos featuring Chargers players and staff.

Online Curriculum Maps
Curriculum maps for elementary schools are available for English Language Arts, health, history/social sciences, mathematics, physical education, science, and visual and performing arts.

For Teachers, by Teachers Playbook and Instructional Handbook
Located in the *L.A. Unified Educators* Schoology group is the For Teachers, by Teachers Playbook and Instructional Handbook providing information to assist teachers and administrators as we begin the school year with online learning. Additionally, there are folders containing resources, lessons, and links to 25 days of lessons.

For more information, please contact Caroline Walden, *Coordinator, Division of Instruction*, caroline.walden@lausd.net.

Math Teacher Lounge
The debut episode of Math Teacher Lounge is now available. This is a video series designed for K–12 math educators. Hosts Bethany Lockhart Johnson and Dan Meyer delve into topics and interview guests.

Teaching Students The Difference Between Fact and Fiction
Here are some organizations, experts and tools that can assist in teaching students to be news and media literate. These resources, *News Literacy Project, Stanford History Education Group Civic Online Reasoning Curriculum* and the work of LaGarde and Hudgins, provide a deep and comprehensive look at the issues of news literacy in the classrooms.

Tools for Teachers
Tools for Teachers from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is an easy-to-use website featuring lessons and strategies to support instruction, save teachers time in developing quality lessons, and help prepare students for college or career success. The Tools for Teachers website focuses on the formative assessment process, which helps teachers identify where students are in their learning, where they are heading, and how they will reach their learning goals. The website's resources include recommended teaching strategies that support diverse learners and can be modified by teachers to meet instructional needs during in-person or distance learning.

For more information, please contact caaspp@cde.ca.gov.

LA2050 Virtual Learning Guide
LA2050 has compiled a virtual learning guide for educators, families, and students in Los Angeles. The guide features a range of resources including programs for low-cost internet, at-home educational content, and virtual-friendly curricula for teachers.

Grant and Competition Opportunities

California Grant Watch Website
The California Grant Watch website lists grants for public school teachers for the improvement of education, innovative teaching strategies, and professional development opportunities.

Educators of America Grant
MicroGrant Program for Educators and Teachers provides grants to improve technological resources. Classroom technology grant applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis and responses are given accordingly.

Grant Writing Modules
The Division of Instruction has three online modules focused on Grant Writing. Each module is between 8-15 minutes in length. Module 1: A Grant Writing Guide; Module 2: Grant Application Process; Module 3: Key Components of a Grant Proposal. To access the modules, go to MyPLN, under the learning dropdown menu, select Search LAUSD Catalog, and enter keyword *Grants* in the Global Search. Click on the module you wish to view.

National Education Association Foundation Learning and Leadership Grants
The National Education Association Foundation is offering $2,000 and $5,000 grant awards. Deadline for applications are February 1, June 1, and October 1, of each year.

Advanced Learning Options (ALO)

Questioning: The Deep Dive
Gifted/Talented Programs (GATE) is pleased to announce that L.A. Unified is one of only ten districts nationwide with exclusive access to the online professional development course, "Questioning: The Deep Dive." This free asynchronous course, which is open to L.A. Unified teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals, is an extensive exploration into how teachers (new and experienced) can craft questions that improve student achievement, build relationships and more. Registration via MyPLN. The three-hour video course (five modules), which must be completed by June 30, 2021 (3.5 GATE PD hours), can be experienced two ways: 1) Self-Guided or 2) School Site Cohort (Hybrid or Group Implementation).

For more information, please contact Dr. Lucy Hunt, Gifted/Talented Programs, lhunt@lausd.net.

Fall Visual and Performing Arts Demonstration/Auditions for Gifted/Talented Identification
Demonstration and auditions will be held virtually on Saturday, November 21, 2020. This is the first time Gifted/Talented Programs will hold its demonstration/auditions online. Only students in grades 10 through 12, who submitted a complete referral application by the October 14, 2020 deadline, will receive an invitation through U.S. Postal Service. The invitation will include detailed information about the process. All other students (grades 2 – 9) with complete referral applications will be

assessed in the spring of 2021. The spring 2021 assessment process may be conducted virtually or in person. This decision will be based on guidelines from the Los Angeles County Public Health Department and the Center for Disease Control.

For more information, please contact Susanna Furfari, *Coordinator,* at susanna.furfari@lausd.net.

Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI)

21st Century Learning Foundations
This session sets the foundation for the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students professional learning sessions offered throughout the school year. This highly interactive session provides a deep dive into the foundations for 21st Century Instruction. This session will be a two-hour synchronous session with an additional two-hour asynchronous work.

> **Date:** Saturday, November 14, 2020
> **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect
> **Registration:** MyPLN
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

International Society for Technology In Education (ISTE) Digital Citizen
Learners will gain an understanding that being a good digital citizen is more than knowing your way around the web. This course is about understanding how to prepare students to make purposeful, smart, and ethical decisions in our digital world. This will be a two-hour synchronous session.

> **Date:** Saturday, November 14, 2020
> **Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect
> **Registration:** MyPLN
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Creative Communicator
In this course, learners develop ideas to create interactive activities designed to promote, support, and model creative thinking using a variety of digital objects such as visualizations, models, or simulations. This will be a two-hour synchronous session.

> **Date**: Wednesday, November 4, Thursday, November 5, and Tuesday, November 10, 2020
> **Time**: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
> **Location**: Virtual Connect
> **Registration**: MyPLN
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

Instructional Technology Planning Cohort 2020 - 2021
These sessions are aimed at cultivating and refining instructional practices to support academic achievement, empower the leaders of tomorrow, and ground our District's core beliefs in equity and access for all students. ITI will offer guidance in developing an informed, effective plan for learning leveraging digital tools tailored to each school's needs connected to high level instructional strategies to prepare students to the 21st Century**.**

> **Date:** Monday through Wednesday, November 23 – 25, 2020
> **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour), one Salary point with additional homework, or National Board hours

Reaching Beyond the Classroom - Digital Citizen
This course is designed to support educators in preparing to engage with learners that need to be empowered to thrive in an increasingly evolving technological landscape. Through a variety of activities, this course will provide opportunities to learn

L.A. Unified's definition of Digital Citizenship, the District's policies and best practices around engaging in digital learning environments, as well as provide a wealth of teaching and learning resources that educators can put into practice immediately.

> **Date:** Saturday, November 14, 2020
> **Time:** Two hours, Asynchronous Self-Paced
> **Registration:** MyPLN
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

Navigating Computer Science
Educators and administrators are invited to explore the vision for computer science education. Explore possible solutions for your school site, learn about upcoming professional learning sessions and review current standards.

> **Date:** Saturday November 7, 2020
> **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

Spark Your Creativity through Game Based Learning with Minecraft Education Edition
Learners will be introduced to Minecraft: Education Edition, a game-based learning platform that builds C+STEM skills, unleashes creativity and engages students in collaboration and problem-solving.

> **Date:** Saturday November 7, 2020
> **Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect (2 hours synchronous, laptop or desktop preferred)
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

Explore Computer Science Fundamentals
Learners will explore basic computer science concepts and digital citizenship skills while creating interactive games, digital stories and creative collaborative projects.

> **Date:** Saturday November 7, 2020
> **Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect (2 hours synchronous, laptop or desktop preferred)
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

Launch into Beginning Computer Science Programming
Learners (grades K-2) will learn to program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animation. They will use it to collaborate with students using visual programming language. They will also learn to think creatively, work collaboratively, and reason systematically.

> **Date:** Saturday November 7, 2020
> **Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect (2 hours synchronous, laptop or desktop preferred)
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

For more information, please contact Maria Magnanimo-Toledo, *Specialist*, mmagna1@lausd.net.

Mastery Learning and Grading (MLG)

Virtual Mastery Learning and Grading Professional Development
Virtual Mastery Learning and Grading PD available for school sites/individual educators. To schedule a school-site specific PD series for 12 or more participants or to join a PD series, please visit to our website and contact your Local District MLG coaches.

MLG Certified Implementation Support

Mastery Learning and Grading Implementation Support sessions are available to MLG certified teachers. To find out about implementation support options in your Local District and compensation, please visit our website and contact your Local District MLG coaches.

Mastery Learning and Grading Certification

Virtual Mastery Learning and Grading Salary Point Classes are available. To enroll on MyPLN, search key words "mastery salary point." If you cannot find availability in current offerings, please contact Chris Grounds to be added to the email list and receive notifications when additional offerings are added.

For more information, please contact Chris Grounds, *MLG Coordinator,* christopher.grounds@lausd.net.

Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department (MMED)

New Teacher Support for Dual Language Education Program

This session will focus on how to elevate target language proficiency through assets-based practices for biliteracy. Teachers will share how they are optimizing resources digitally to support the goals of Dual Language Education. Register on MyPLN, keywords "Dual New Teacher Support."

> **Date:** Saturday November 7, 2020
> **Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect (2 hours synchronous, laptop or desktop preferred)
> **Compensation:** District Training Rate ($25/hour)

For more information, please contact Claudia Lee, *Dual Language Education Specialist*, claudia.lee@lausd.net.

Reading Horizon Family Training for English Learner Students

This brief informational meeting will share resources to support LAUSD students at home as they work on the Reading Horizons Discovery® (grades K-3) and Reading Horizons Elevate® (grades 4+) software programs. Please check the MMED website additional PDs.

> **Date:** Friday November 13, 2020
> **Time:** 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
> **Location:** Webinar link
> **Passcode:** Qy9t3N

For more information, please contact Rania Nahle, *English Learner Coordinator*, rania.nahle@lausd.net.

iELD Leadership Cadre - Title III Coaches and EL Designees

Title III Coaches and EL Designees are invited to this four-day professional virtual learning series. Participants will deconstruct ELPAC tasks to understand how to support content and linguistic success for English Learners using the EL Instructional Approaches in a Comprehensive ELD Program. Participants will be provided with Professional Development resources for school-site presentations. This professional learning series is in alignment with L.A. Unified's 2019-2020 Office of Civil Rights Commitment Plan. Register on MyPLN, keywords "ieldcadre2020."

For more information, please contact Carla Gutierrez, *Elementary EL Coordinator*, carla.gutierrez@lausd.net.

Unified Enrollment and Dual Language Education Training

This virtual training will provide an overview of Dual Language Education (DLE) and the Unified Enrollment DLE Choices application process. The training is designed for Proposition 58 Community Representatives, Local District DLE Coordinators, and Local District Leaders. Five training sessions will be held to inform participants on Unified Enrollment tasks and Dual Language Education. Register on MyPLN, keywords "Unified Enrollment DLE."

> **Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2020
> **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
> **Location:** Virtual Connect

For more information, please contact Diana Sanchez, *Dual Language Unified Enrollment Specialist*, dab9296@lausd.net.

Personalized Learning Systems (PLS)

Schoology Professional Development
There are a number of Schoology training sessions taking place this fall. If you are interested in learning more about Schoology, please visit our training website to find asynchronous and synchronous learning opportunities as well as Office Hours sessions and salary point classes.

For more information, please contact Beth Billett, *Coordinator*, ebillett@lausd.net.

Schoology Elementary Grade Passback Application
Elementary teachers who will be using the Elementary Grade Passback (EGP) app should review the EGP resources. These resources will ensure that the Schoology gradebook is set up correctly to submit final marks into MiSiS during the open grading window. The first grading window for elementary will be from October 23 to November 13, 2020. An EGP App Checklist is available to help teachers get started. During Remote Learning, teachers may have added additional staff to their course(s). Additional staff may have been added as members of the course.

Submission of Grades through Schoology
During an open grading window, when teachers are using the Grade Passback screen to submit grades to MiSiS, any additional staff members in the course that are not part of the teacher's official MiSiS roster will cause the Grade Passback screen to return an error. This is the expected behavior and will not prevent student grades from flowing back to MiSiS. Upon submission of grades, teachers should run the MiSiS Teacher Verification of Marks report to confirm grades have successfully passed back to MiSiS.

Digital Content Application Support
With the increased use of L.A. Unified approved digital content applications, teachers may contact the vendor directly for support. To access vendor support contact information, visit the LMS App Center.

Deleting of Courses
Schoology is integrated with MiSiS and will automatically update courses as schedule changes are made in MiSiS. *Manually deleting courses should NOT be done under any circumstance*. Doing so will have a negative impact on students and teachers in the course being deleted. If you are a member of a course and wish to be removed from it, inform the course administrator and have them remove you from the courses Members page. Do not go to your course list and delete the course manually. Deleting a course, yourself, deletes the course for everyone else as well.

Course Administrators can remove a member from a course with the following steps:
1. Go to the Members page
2. Click on the gear icon next to their name
3. Select Unenroll

For more information, please contact Antonio Hernandez, *Coordinator,* antonio.hernandez@lausd.net.

Student Health and Human Services (SHHS)

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports/Restorative Practices (PBIS/RP)
For resources and tools to implement PBIS/RP including creating virtual expectations, virtual community building thematic activities and lessons, and responding to behavior, please visit our website as well as join the PBIS/RP Schoology group.

For more information, please contact Laura Zeff, *Administrative Coordinator*, laura.zeff@lausd.net.

Whole Child Student Information Reporting System

Whole Child Student Information Reporting System Makes New Remote Learning Data Available
Now available: DIBELS Benchmark BOY, Progress Monitoring, and SBAC Interim Assessment data. New to Tracking at a Glance: Google Classroom, IXL, Renaissance, Amplify, and Edgenuity; see the Remote Learning Student Related Information quick guide on the What's New Page. For additional resources, go to Quick Links > Professional Development Resources: > Professional Development for training courses; and > User Guides & Information for brief navigation videos, user manuals, scavenger hunts, and more.

Observances and Commemorative Events

For the month of November, L.A. Unified has the following observances and commemorative events:

Obsevance	Resource Links
Election Day (November 3)	The Old Farmer's Almanac How to Vote Election Day USA
Veterans Day (November 11)	The History Channel History of Veterans Day The US Department of Veterans Affairs
Thanksgiving (November 26)	The History Channel Eye-Witness to History Thanksgiving 2020
Alzheimer's Awareness Month	Senior Living Alzheimer's Awareness Alzheimer's Disease Fact Sheet
California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month	California Sikh Awareness Month CDE 5 Things to Know about the Sikh Religion
Child Safety and Protection Month	National Safety Council Parent Guide Take a Bite Out of Crime
Epilepsy Awareness Month	Epilepsy Foundation Epilepsy Awareness Mickie's Miracles
Family Literacy Month	ReadWriteThink National Center for Families Learning Ten Ways to Celebrate
Gang Awareness and Prevention Month	Gang Awareness and Prevention Month National Gang Center LAPD
National Homeless Youth Awareness Month	The National Child Traumatic Stress Network Hunger and Homeless Awareness Homeless Youth Awareness
Native American Heritage Month	Native American Heritage Month National Congress of American Indians Native American Heritage