



## Elementary Instructional Update

February 2021

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.” ~Marian Wright Edelman

[DOI Policy Updates](#)

### General Updates and Resources

#### Community Schools Cohort 2 Designation

Community Schools Cohort 2 applications will be available in February. Any Local District, Community of Schools, or school site that would like to set up an informational meeting about this transformational process, may reach out to Cora Watkins. Applications, resources, and a complete schedule describing the application process will be available through the new Community Schools website on February 8, 2021.

For more information, please contact Cora Watkins, *Coordinator*, [cwatkins@lausd.net](mailto:cwatkins@lausd.net).

#### African American Experiences Channel

The contributions, struggles, and triumphs of [African Americans](#) are woven into the fabric of American history and culture. This robust collection is organized by two frameworks: the Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards and the African American Studies curriculum organization of Culture, History, and Politics. [Explore and integrate](#) a variety of K-12 resources into classroom instruction and help students understand America's complex history, gain insight into the experiences of classmates, and imagine a more equitable future for people of all backgrounds.

#### LACOE Series on Dyslexia and Struggling Readers

[Screening for Dyslexia: What School Leaders Need to Know](#)

Feb. 23, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Audience: K-12 Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Administrators

[Implementing Intervention for Students with Dyslexia: What Teachers Need to Know](#)

March 17, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Audience: K-12 Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Administrators

[Accommodating Students with Dyslexia in the Middle & High School Classroom: What Teachers Need to Know](#)

April 14, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Audience: Middle School Teachers, High School Teachers, Secondary Administrators, Instructional Coaches

[Assessing & Supporting Dyslexia: What School Psychologists Need to Know](#)

May 12, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Audience: School Psychologists, Administrators, Instructional Coaches

### **I Do Solemnly Swear: The U.S. Presidential Inauguration Virtual Field Trip**

This behind-the-scenes [Virtual Field Trip](#) features Inauguration Day questions from real students and answers from real experts. Spark student interest and dive deeper into Inauguration Day topics including what it is like to be present during a presidential inauguration, the purpose of inaugurations, why inaugurations happen on January 20 in the United States, why the inauguration is held at the Capitol, and what it is like to move into the White House.

### **UCLA Curtis Center Mathematics and Virtual Teaching Conference**

Join fellow educators on March 6<sup>th</sup> for [inspiring day of learning](#).

## **Grant and Competition Opportunities**

---

### **K12 Grants and Upcoming Events**

Upcoming and continuing [grant opportunities](#) are available.

### **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.

## **Access, Equity, and Acceleration (AEA)**

---

### **MOY LAS Links Remote Testing Window - January 19 - March 5, 2021**

The Middle of the Year LAS Links Remote testing window began on Tuesday, January 19 and has been extended to Friday, March 5, 2021. Academic English Mastery Program Schools are recommended to administer the MOY LAS Links Assessment to monitor the Academic Language Proficiency Levels of Standard English Learners.

For more information, please contact Kimberly Mitchell-Dismukes, *Administrative Coordinator*, [kmitc1@lausd.net](mailto:kmitc1@lausd.net).

### **African American History Month Essay and Multimedia Contest - January 25 - March 5, 2021**

In honor of African American History Month, the Academic English Mastery Program is hosting their annual essay and multimedia contest! Students throughout L.A. Unified are invited to write an essay or create a multimedia presentation that vividly describes an African American who has impacted the field of STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Grand Prize Winners and winning participant will receive certificates and prizes. Visit the AEMP website for [contest guidelines](#).

For more information, please contact Jessica Thomas, *Specialist*, [jessica.thomas@lausd.net](mailto:jessica.thomas@lausd.net).

## **Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI)**

---

### **Professional Development Opportunities**

*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.

**Dates:** February 15-28, 2021

**Time:** Two-hours Asynchronous Self-Paced

**Registration:** MyPLN

**Location:** Virtual Connect

**Compensation:** District Training Rate (\$25/hour)

*Google Level 2 Certification:* designed for educators and classroom teachers who wish to demonstrate proficiency in using Google for Education tools. The Level 2 status indicates that an educator is able to successfully integrate a wider range of Google Suite for Education tools and other technologies in order to transform their teaching practice.

*International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Innovative Designer:* this course guides learners in understanding how to integrate a variety of technologies in the design process as they explore the development of innovative solutions to real world problems (two-hour synchronous).

**Dates:** February 17, 18, and 24, 2021

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual Connect

**Registration:** MyPLN

*Foundations for Computational and Critical Thinking (Early Education):* this course is an adaptive hands-on experience for educators in Early Education. Participants will interact with different manipulatives to reinforce, math, English, coding, and student’s imagination (two-hour synchronous and two-hour asynchronous).

**Dates:** Saturday, February 27, 2021

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Virtual Connect

**Registration:** MyPLN

For more information, please contact Maria Magnanimo-Toledo, *Specialist*, [mmagna1@lausd.net](mailto:mmagna1@lausd.net).

## Mastery Learning and Grading (MLG)

---

### Virtual MLG PD Series for School-Sites

MLG offers equity in grading and instructional practices and fosters a growth-mindset in students. Facilitated by MLG coaches, six two-hour, synchronous [Zoom workshops](#), scheduled two to three weeks apart, and eight hours of asynchronous Schoology learning result in MLG certification and training rate pay for all hours beyond the contracted day. To schedule a school-site specific PD series for 12 or more or to join a PD series, please contact your Local District MLG coaches.

### Virtual MLG Salary Point Classes

Participants who successfully complete this deeper dive into MLG with six synchronous Zoom 2.5 hour workshops and 30 hours of asynchronous online learning will earn one Salary Point Credit and MLG certification. To enroll on MyPLN, search keywords “mastery salary point.”

### 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.

For more information, please contact Chris Grounds, *MLG Coordinator*, [christopher.grounds@lausd.net](mailto:christopher.grounds@lausd.net).

## Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department (MMED)

---

### Summative ELPAC Testing Window

The administration of the 2020-21 computer-based Summative ELPAC assessment must occur within the established testing window. For all students, the testing window for the computer-based Summative ELPAC assessment opened on February 1, 2021 and ends on May 14, 2021. New eligible students who enroll at the school after May 14, 2021 must be tested by May 28, 2021.

For more information, please contact Local District EL programs Coordinator or Elizabeth Shnorhokian, *EL Programs/ Compliance Specialist*, [emald4@lausd.net](mailto:emald4@lausd.net).

## Personalized Learning Systems (PLS)

---

### Schoology Professional Development

There are a number of new Schoology training sessions taking place this Spring. New asynchronous topics are available and synchronous topics are updated monthly. Please visit our [training website](#) to find these learning opportunities as well as Office Hours sessions and salary point classes.

### Recurring Calendar Events

Users can now create recurring calendar events in Schoology. This enhancement gives users the ability to [create recurring calendar events](#) that can be set to repeat daily, weekly, monthly, etc. as well as [deleting them](#).

### Schoology Support

Schools and District offices seeking Schoology support should contact the help desk via phone at 213-241-2700 or open a self-service ticket using the [Remedy ticketing system](#). Please note that you will receive a response to your help desk ticket through a Remedy system email. Please check your SPAM or JUNK email folder for messages coming from LAUSD ITSM Remedy [incoming@lausd.onbmc.com](mailto:incoming@lausd.onbmc.com).

For more information, please contact Antonio Hernandez, *Coordinator*, [antonio.hernandez@lausd.net](mailto:antonio.hernandez@lausd.net).

## Whole Child Student Information Reporting System

---

### Whole Child Student Information Reporting System Supports Remote Learning and College & Career Readiness

New ed tech data includes *Benchmark*, *Great Minds*, *Reading Horizons*, and *Savvas*; see *Remote Learning Student Related Information* on the [What's New Page](#).

Information on College and Career Readiness such as A-G status, career pathway, and Naviance tasks are available:

- Student Monitoring > Challenged Tenet > College and Career
- Student Search > College Readiness > College & Career Readiness Guide (individualized and downloadable)
- Whole Child View > Graduation & College Readiness and Career Readiness

## Observances and Commemorative Events

---

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

Observance	Resource Links
Black History Month	<a href="#">ASALH</a> <a href="#">Black History Month</a> <a href="#">African American History Month</a>
National Freedom Day (February 1)	<a href="#">National Freedom Day</a> <a href="#">13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution</a> <a href="#">History Channel</a>
Lincoln's Birthday (February 12)	<a href="#">History Channel</a> <a href="#">Lincoln's Birthday</a> <a href="#">National Constitution Center</a>
National No One Eats Alone Day	<a href="#">No One Eats Alone Day</a>

Observance	Resource Links
(February 12)	<a href="#">Beyond Differences</a> <a href="#">The Lunch Tray</a>
Susan B. Anthony Day (February 15)	<a href="#">Susan B. Anthony Museum</a> <a href="#">Susan B. Anthony</a> <a href="#">10 Quotes</a>
Presidents' Day (February 15)	<a href="#">History Channel</a> <a href="#">InfoPlease</a> <a href="#">Presidents' Day</a>
Washington's Birthday (February 22)	<a href="#">National Archives</a> <a href="#">Washington's Birthday Fast Facts</a> <a href="#">Mount Vernon</a>
National School Counseling Week (February 1-5)	<a href="#">American School Counselor Association</a> <a href="#">National School Counselor Week</a> <a href="#">California Educator</a>
Take Your Family to School Week (February 14-21)	<a href="#">PTA</a> <a href="#">NAEYC</a> <a href="#">Education World</a>
American Heart Month	<a href="#">American Heart Association</a> <a href="#">National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute</a> <a href="#">Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</a>
Children's Dental Health Month	<a href="#">American Dental Association</a> <a href="#">National Dental Pulp Laboratory</a> <a href="#">Oral Health Resource Center</a>