



Division of Instruction  
Los Angeles Unified School District



Student Health &  
Human Services



Division of  
Special Education



## Secondary Instructional Update

*April 2021*

“The future depends on what we do in the present.” ~Mahatma Gandhi

[DOI Policy Updates](#)

### General Updates and Resources

#### Summer Teaching Work Opportunities: June 22<sup>nd</sup> - July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Apply now for exciting summer teaching work opportunities. Teachers can apply through April 30 via [the Teacher Portal](#). More information can be found on the application.

#### STEAM Bytes: featuring Dan Meyer

Learn from [STEM/STEAM professionals](#), their journey and how their calling became their career.

For more information, please contact Jaspreet Sandha, Coordinator, [jaspreet.sandha@lausd.net](mailto:jaspreet.sandha@lausd.net).

#### Professional Learning Opportunities from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

LACOE is offering a [variety of sessions](#), both free and fee-based, throughout the spring. All trainings are held on Zoom. Topics include Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Enhancing Equity by Understanding Implicit Bias, and Restorative Practice.

#### Addressing Anti-Asian Racism and Discrimination: Resources for Educators from LACOE

Among the social issues exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic is the rise of anti-Asian violence. For educators who are looking for resources to address this unsettling trend, here are some [expert tips for addressing](#) anti-Asian racism and discrimination in the classroom.

#### LACOE Series on Dyslexia and Struggling Readers

- [Assessing & Supporting Dyslexia: What School Psychologists Need to Know](#)  
May 12, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Audience: School Psychologists, Administrators, Instructional Coaches

#### Planning Webinars for K-12 Leaders & Community Partners

This summer is more important than ever to help students begin to recover from the learning loss, isolation and trauma of the past year. Partnership for Children & Youth is holding four [Summer Game Plan webinars](#) designed especially for K-12 administrators, educators and community partners.

- Thursday, April 29 at 10 a.m.: How to Engage English Learners in Summer Learning

#### Open Library

[Open Library](#) is an open, editable library catalog, building towards a web page for every book ever published. The nonprofit group, which has made millions of books available online for free, says that it is suspending waitlists for the 1.4 million works in its lending library.

### Get Up! Using the Arts to Inspire Movement and Play

With remote and socially-distanced classroom spaces, student movement is more constrained than ever. [We'll tackle this challenge](#) by sharing arts-based activities that use movement and play to get students out of their chairs (or off their sofas, beds, floors) and energized – all while staying socially distant!

### Climate Reality Leadership Corps Virtual US Training

The [Climate Reality Leadership Corps Virtual US Training](#) will feature four days of two-hour live broadcasts, with additional on-demand viewing and interactive sessions available between April 22 and May 2. Join over 31,000 Climate Reality Leaders in the global community to learn about the climate and justice crises shaping this time and how to solve them together in this free online training.

### Graduate Profile Portfolio and Defense

Learn how Los Angeles Unified is turning its vision of the [Graduate Profile](#) into practice through the portfolio and defense. Participants will see LA Unified student work that demonstrates how the portfolio and defense is being implemented and have the opportunity to listen to a panel of educators, school leaders, and students on their experiences. This event is open to all school leaders, teachers, district administrators, educational partners, parents, and anyone interested in learning more about authentic assessments for K-12 students. [Registration](#) is required.

## Grant Opportunities

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### American History and Civics Academies through the Center for Civic Education—Application due May 1, 2021

The Center's [American History and Civic Academies](#) provide teachers and students with high-quality educational engagement. The experience significantly enhances students' civic dispositions related to political interest and attention, political discussion, community engagement, government service, civic duty, and trust in government. [Research](#) from the Civic Education Research Lab at Georgetown University demonstrates that students' knowledge of history and civics improve, especially among Title I school students. In 2021, we are taking this immersive experience into a virtual setting.

### Teacher Grants through the California Credit Union

California Credit Union announces its [Spring Teacher Grant opportunity](#) for 10 grants of \$500 for innovative learning opportunities for students. The program is available to full-time teachers in Los Angeles and Orange County or credit union members teaching in California. Application deadline is Friday, April 23, 2021.

### 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.

## A-G Interventions and Supports

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### Middle and High School English Language Arts (ELA) Intervention Supports

This is a professional development opportunity designed for all [middle school](#) and [high school](#) ELA educators to support instructional intervention practices during and outside the regularly scheduled class period. Participants will explore the variables for learning & key principles to address unfinished learning, develop a clear understanding of instructional intervention, and access supplemental resources. Self-paced, asynchronous, accessible via Schoology.

For more information, please contact Richard An, *A-G ELA Advisor*, [rha2223@lausd.net](mailto:rha2223@lausd.net).

### Middle and High School Mathematics Intervention Supports

A professional development opportunity designed for all [middle school](#) or [high school](#) mathematics educators to support instructional intervention practices during and outside of the regularly scheduled class period. Participants will explore the variables for learning and key principles to address unfinished learning, develop a clear understanding of instructional intervention, and access supplemental resources.

For more information, please contact Adriana Zuniga, *A-G Mathematics Advisor*, [adriana.zuniga@lausd.net](mailto:adriana.zuniga@lausd.net).

## Advanced Learning Options (ALO)

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### 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Angeles City/County Conference on Gifted Education

[The conference](#) will advance the professional development of District educators and strengthen efforts to increase equity and access in gifted education by sharing best practices and providing curated resources. Speakers include Dr. Adolph Brown, Dr. Howard Gardner, Dr. Tyrone Howard, Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson, and Lisa Van Gemert. The conference will be held May 1, 2021 from 7:40 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

For more information, please contact Dr. Lucy Hunt, *Coordinator*, [lhunt@lausd.net](mailto:lhunt@lausd.net).

## Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI)

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### Professional Development Opportunities

The Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI) is a department within the Division of Instruction that supports all schools interested in 21<sup>st</sup> century instructional practice. The department's main focus is in providing professional learning opportunities founded on instructional frameworks that leverage technology in purposeful, personalized ways, such as the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards. Please see this [month's catalogue of learning opportunities](#) that include Digital Presence with a Purpose, Computer Science Fundamentals, Google Level 2 Certification, ISTE Knowledge Constructor, Reaching Beyond the Classroom: Digital Citizenship, Integrating Physical Computing: An Interdisciplinary Approach, An Introduction to Physical Computing, Exploring Artificial Intelligence, An Interdisciplinary Approach to Creative Computing, and Game Based Learning with Minecraft: EE Intermediate-Customizing and Designing Lessons.

## Health Education/Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

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### Newly Updated - Free Second Step Middle School Curriculum

The Social Emotional Learning Unit is excited to announce that an updated, [digital Second Step SEL Curriculum](#) is available to all Middle School teachers, grades 6-8. If you are interested in gaining access to the curriculum to support social emotional learning and advisory, please contact your Local District SEL Adviser.

For more information, please contact: Adriana Valenzuela, *Coordinator*, [adriana.valenzuela@lausd.net](mailto:adriana.valenzuela@lausd.net).

## Linked Learning/Career Technical Education (LL/CTE)

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### Graduate Profile Portfolio and Defense

Learn how L.A. Unified is turning its vision of the [Graduate Profile](#) into practice through the portfolio and defense. Participants will see L.A. Unified student work that demonstrates how the portfolio and defense is being implemented and

have the opportunity to listen to a panel of educators, school leaders, and students on their experiences. This event is open to all school leaders, teachers, district administrators, educational partners, parents, anyone interested in learning more about authentic assessments for K-12 students. Please [register](#).

For more information, please contact Nancy Le, *Specialist*, [nancy.le@lausd.net](mailto:nancy.le@lausd.net)

## Mastery Learning and Grading (MLG)

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### MLG Implementation Support Sessions for MLG Certified Teachers: Spring 2021

MLG coaches provide feedback and resources for MLG certified teachers to collaborate and create MLG classroom materials. These are virtual, synchronous, beyond the bell opportunities for 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)

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### Spring Bridge to Reclassification (BTR) and Spring Semester Reading Inventory (RI)

The 2021 Spring Semester Bridge to Reclassification (BTR) [testing window](#) has closed. Student score data is now available on MiSiS. The 2021 Spring RI assessment window will open on April 5, 2021 and will close on May 4, 2021. For schools whose RI Designee has been changed, please ensure that the [information is updated](#).

For more information, please contact Youssef Mossadaq, *Specialist*, [yxm9573@lausd.net](mailto:yxm9573@lausd.net).

### 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)

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### Student MyMail Access

Students can now link to their L.A. Unified MyMail email account from within the LMS, Schoology. This feature will help students easily access their email from within their Schoology account. Students can click on the 'waffle' icon and select MyMail to be directed to their email login page. Students will need to enter their SSO email address and password to access their account. QR codes cannot be used to access student email accounts.

### Assessment Item Level Feedback

Teachers can now provide item-level assessment feedback to students when using Schoology Assessments. Teachers can use this feature to provide constructive, meaningful feedback to students in text, audio, or video format. For more information, please [view the job aid](#).

### 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.

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

**Science**

**Science Professional Development for the Newly Adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Curriculum**

The Division of Instruction is offering monthly [Professional Development sessions](#) (PD) to unpack the instructional units for the newly adopted science curricula. The two focuses of these sessions are differentiation of instruction and formative assessment. Use the provided MyPLN Keywords to register for your selected curriculum sessions. Compensation is at the District Training Rate.

**Curriculum Planning Sessions for MS and HS Science Teachers**

The Division of Instruction is offering curriculum planning sessions for middle and high school science teachers to plan collaboratively with other teachers to address the needs of all students using the newly adopted curriculum on the following dates: May 6 and 20, 2021. All sessions are on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Register on MyPLN, Keywords “Planning Sessions for Middle School Science Curriculum” or “Planning Sessions for HS Science Curriculum.”

For more information, please contact: Ayham Dahi, *Coordinator*, [ayham.dahi@lausd.net](mailto:ayham.dahi@lausd.net).

**Whole Child Student Information Reporting System**

**Whole Child Student Information Reporting System Offers New Information such as End of Year (EOY) DIBELS, New Learning Applications, and DRDP Data for Kindergarten Readiness**

- Find DIBELS EOY and DIBELS Progress Monitoring assessments in:
  - Assessment Analytics, Classroom View & Student Monitoring (Teachers)
  - Program View & School View (Counselors)
  - At A Glance (Principals & CoSAs)
  - Whole Child View (All users)
- Go to the [What’s New page](#) to learn about:
  - DRDP preschool assessments (in the February release notes)
  - New ed tech sources such as Zearn and FOSS in *Remote Learning Student Related Information*
- [Register for webinars](#) in MyPLN

**Observances and Commemorative Events**

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

Observance	Resources
National Walking Day (April 1)	<a href="#">American Heart Assoc. How to Guide National Walking Day</a> <a href="#">11 Ways to Walk More</a>
California Poppy Day (April 6)	<a href="#">California Poppy Day</a> <a href="#">CA Poppy Reserve</a> <a href="#">History of the CA Poppy</a>
Administrative Professionals Day (April 21)	<a href="#">Administrative Professionals Day</a> <a href="#">Administrative Professionals Day</a> <a href="#">Ideas to Say Thank You</a>
Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (April 22)	<a href="#">TODASTW Day</a> <a href="#">Forbes-Do’s and Don’ts</a> <a href="#">Time article</a>
Armenian Martyrs Day (April 24)	<a href="#">FAQ on Armenian Genocide</a> <a href="#">The History Channel</a> <a href="#">The Armenian Genocide Museum</a>
Denim Day/Peace Over Violence (April 28)	<a href="#">Facts about Denim Day</a> <a href="#">Denim Day Info</a> <a href="#">Peace Over Violence</a>

National Library Week (April 4-10)	<a href="#"><u>American Library Association</u></a> <a href="#"><u>I Love Libraries</u></a> <a href="#"><u>National Library Week</u></a>
Autism Awareness Month	<a href="#"><u>Autism Society</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Autism Speaks</u></a> <a href="#"><u>National Autism Association</u></a>
Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month	<a href="#"><u>Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Resolution</u></a> <a href="#"><u>TESOL</u></a> <a href="#"><u>NABE</u></a>
Financial Literacy Month	<a href="#"><u>Financial Literacy Month</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Council for Economic Education</u></a> <a href="#"><u>National Financial Educators Council</u></a>
Jazz Appreciation Month	<a href="#"><u>National Museum of American History</u></a> <a href="#"><u>A Passion for Jazz</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Jazz Appreciation Month</u></a>
Mathematics Awareness Month	<a href="#"><u>Math and Stats Awareness</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Activities for Math Awareness</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Math Activities Calendar</u></a>
Month of the Young Child	<a href="#"><u>NAEYC</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Facts about the Week of the Young Child</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Young Child Activities</u></a>
National Child Abuse Prevention Month	<a href="#"><u>Child Welfare</u></a> <a href="#"><u>NCTSN</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Joyful Heart Foundation</u></a>
Parkinson’s Awareness Month	<a href="#"><u>Parkinson’s Foundation</u></a> <a href="#"><u>The Michael J. Fox Foundation</u></a> <a href="#"><u>APDA</u></a>
Poetry Month	<a href="#"><u>National Poetry Month</u></a> <a href="#"><u>ReadWriteThink</u></a> <a href="#"><u>US Dept of Education</u></a>
School Library Month	<a href="#"><u>American Association of School Librarians</u></a> <a href="#"><u>EBSCO</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Library Sparks</u></a>
Sexual Assault Awareness Month	<a href="#"><u>National Sexual Violence Resource Center</u></a> <a href="#"><u>No More</u></a> <a href="#"><u>RAINN</u></a>