

ESE welcomes educators from across the state to join our 2017–2018 mathematics, literacy, and science educator networks. These networks are designed to drive implementation of the 2017 Massachusetts Mathematics and ELA/Literacy Frameworks and the 2016 Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) Framework. We are calling on classroom leaders, school leaders, and district leaders to partner across districts to learn, to test and refine tools and strategies, and to innovate.

Math Networks



Early Numeracy Network (Pre-K–3):

Steppingstones to Addition and Subtraction

Who should attend:

Math curriculum directors, coaches, and lead pre-K–3 teachers

Locations and dates:

Group 1: Holyoke (10/10, 11/16, 1/19, 3/23)

Group 2: Upton (10/13, 11/13, 1/17, 3/9)

Group 3: Woburn (10/12, 11/15, 1/18, 3/27)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Ian Stith, istith@doe.mass.edu

Leah Tuckman, ltuckman@doe.mass.edu

The effective integration of Mathematical Practices (MPs) into elementary instruction promotes a deep and flexible understanding of mathematics and better supports a wide range of students to develop mathematical expertise. This network focuses on key connections between the MP Standards and the Content Standards that define what students should know and be able to do. Specifically, the network aims to amplify opportunities for pre-K–3 students to develop mathematical practices 2 and 7 as they add, subtract, and multiply. It challenges district math leaders, coaches, and lead teachers to expand the problem types their students encounter, and to establish mathematical practice routines that develop students' abilities to reason across diverse problem situations. The network aims to launch common routines across pre-K–3 that focus on contextualizing and decontextualizing problem situations (MP2) and making use of structure (MP7).



Middle Grades Math Network (grades 4–7):

Proportional Reasoning: The Bridge from Fractions to Ratios

Who should attend:

District teams of 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th grade teachers (including EL and special education teachers)

Locations and dates:

Group 1: Holyoke (10/26, 12/13, 2/2, 3/8)

Group 2: Fitchburg (10/24, 12/5, 1/30, 3/6)

Group 3: Bridgewater (10/25, 12/6, 1/31, 3/13)

All groups: Statewide convening (6/5 - tentative)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Ian Stith, istith@doe.mass.edu

Leah Tuckman, ltuckman@doe.mass.edu

The content of middle grades math marks a significant shift from arithmetic concepts (whole number and fractional operations) to algebraic concepts (ratios, rates of change, proportions). The 2017 Mathematics Framework includes new clarifications for the vertical progression of fraction concepts in grades 4–5 to proportional reasoning concepts in grades 6–7. This network brings together 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grade teachers to create, test, and refine standards-aligned tasks that illuminate this vertical learning progression. These tasks will also feature varied opportunities for students to demonstrate the three key elements of mathematical rigor: procedural fluency, conceptual understanding, and authentic application. Network members will apply tools and strategies from cross-district regional sessions to create task progressions within their in-district working groups. These tasks and student work samples will be shared statewide.



Secondary Math Network (grades 6–12):

Access Math: Building middle/high coursework pathways for the future

Who should attend:

District teams, ideally composed of math curriculum director and/or department heads, principal and/or assistant principal, and guidance counselor(s)

Location and dates:

Marlborough (9/27, 11/9, 2/27, 3/14)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Connie Varoudakis, cvaroudakis@doe.mass.edu

The 2017 Mathematics Framework provides an opportunity for districts to revisit and plan course sequences in middle and high school mathematics that encourage ALL students to persist in their mathematical studies. This network brings together math instructional leaders (department leaders, school administrators, and district math leaders) to share current thinking and best practices for grade/course pathways for grades 6–12. The network aims to develop grade/course progressions that are coherent and transparent; that include multiple “on-ramps” to promote equitable enrollment; and that map forward to career pathways and opportunities. The network also aims to foster systems of support to promote opportunities for more students to access accelerated coursework. Network members will have the opportunity to work across districts to identify the indicators they use to evaluate the effectiveness of their math programming; to define problems of practice; and to adapt or create course pathways and support strategies.

Urban Mathematics Leaders Network

Advancing Access for English Learners

Who should attend:

Urban math leaders

Location and dates:

Marlborough (10/11, 1/10, 3/15, 5/31)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Meto Raha, mraha@doe.mass.edu

For 2017–2018, the ongoing urban mathematics leaders (UML) network will focus on advancing access for English learners (ELs). Specifically, network members will work collaboratively to develop, test, and refine diagnostics to accurately assess the mathematical abilities of new EL students at different grade levels.

**The first meeting of this network will share linked tasks from UML’s 2016–2017 proportional reasoning progression project.*

Literacy Networks

Early Grades Literacy Grant (Pre-K–3):

Promoting Integrated Pre-K–3 Literacy Learning Across Strands and Content Areas

Districts participating in ESE’s Early Grades Literacy Grant ([fund code 734](#)) comprise a statewide network and set of regional networks focused on literacy instruction in grades pre-K–3.

Questions:

For more information about this competitive grant opportunity, contact Lauren McBride (lmcbride@doe.mass.edu) or Tracey Martineau (tmartineau@doe.mass.edu).

The Early Grades Literacy Grant challenges early grade literacy educators to promote integration across the reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language strands of the ELA/Literacy Framework and across content areas. Through a series of professional learning opportunities at the state, regional, and school levels, network members will develop, test, and refine ambitious tasks, lessons, and units that provide students with opportunities to read, write, think, and talk about what they are learning. Districts join the network through a competitive grant process that offers two different levels of participation: all members attend statewide literacy institutes and follow-up regional meetings, and some members receive additional school-based support.

Middle and Secondary Literacy Network (grades 4–12):

Promoting Integrated Literacy Learning in Grades 4–12

Who should attend:

District literacy teams that include at least one district literacy leader and a team of grades 4–12 lead teachers who will lead colleagues in developing and refining literacy lessons that strategically integrate ELA/literacy strands

Locations and dates:

Group 1: Springfield (9/26, 11/28, 1/16, 3/6)
Group 2: Bridgewater (10/3, 11/30, 1/23, 3/13)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

**meeting space will be available until 3:00pm for facilitated planning and networking*

Questions:

Susan Kazeroid, skazeroid@doe.mass.edu
Helene Levine, hlevine@doe.mass.edu
Tracey Martineau, tmartineau@doe.mass.edu

The 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework emphasizes an integrated model of literacy in which the strands of reading (R), writing (W), speaking and listening (SL), and language (L) are closely connected. The new Framework includes cross-references among these four strands, and numerous examples that demonstrate how R/W/SL/L standards may be combined for effective instruction. This network focuses on what standards-based literacy instruction looks and sounds like when students are engaged in learning across all strands. The network engages district literacy teams (literacy leader, coach, and/or teachers) in the development, testing, and refinement of integrated literacy lessons that strategically link standards-based student discourse to standards-based reading and/or writing objectives. The goal of the network is to build the capacity of district literacy teams to promote integrated literacy instruction within their schools.

Secondary Literacy Network (grades 9–12):

Promoting Variety and Flexibility in Student Writing

Who should attend:

District teams, ideally composed of ELA/literacy curriculum director and/or department heads; high school teachers

Locations and dates:

Fitchburg (10/13, 11/13, 1/10*, 3/20)

*Virtual Meeting

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Rachel Bradshaw,

rachel.bradshaw@doe.mass.edu

Lauren McBride, lmcbride@doe.mass.edu

The 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework emphasizes flexibility and variety in student writing. This network for high school literacy leaders aims to expand the kinds of writing high school students do. The network challenges school leaders to assess their schools' current writing landscapes and develop plans for diversifying their schools' writing tasks. Network members will evaluate and generate writing tasks that vary across and within writing types. Network members will begin by focusing solely on writing tasks within ELA/humanities courses, and then have the option to look more broadly at writing tasks across content areas.

Urban Literacy Leaders Network:

Designing Complex Literacy Tasks

Who should attend:

Urban literacy leaders

Location and dates:

Devens (10/26, 12/14, 2/7, 4/12, 6/6)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Helene Levine, hlevine@doe.mass.edu

In 2017–18, the ongoing Urban Literacy Leaders Network will focus on supports for educators to design and implement complex and engaging student tasks/assignments. The Network will use the Four Domains of the Literacy Assignment Analysis Framework and corresponding indicators created by The Education Trust to guide its work throughout the year. In the first meeting, participants will be introduced to the framework. Each subsequent meeting will focus on one of the four domains of the framework: (1) alignment to standards, (2) centrality of texts, (3) cognitive challenge, and (4) motivation and engagement. Participants will collaboratively review tasks/assignments and samples of student work in an effort to develop new strategies for improving the quality of instruction in their districts.

Science and Technology/Engineering Networks

Elementary Science Networks

Time on Science: Creating Robust Elementary Science Programs

Who should attend:

Registration for this network is closed for 2017–2018. ESE plans to expand these networks in 2018–2019. Look for new principal network openings in spring 2018.

Location and dates:

Worcester (9/29, 12/1, 3/16, 6/1)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Nicole Scola, nscola@doe.mass.edu

The 2016 Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) Framework presents grade-by-grade standards for elementary school that include all STE disciplines tied together by a grade-level theme. This specificity fosters new opportunities for elementary school principals to push for more time on science in their pre-K–5 classrooms. The STE Framework emphasizes that many instructional models can effectively engage students in STE learning, and that STE instruction may be a dedicated time in the school schedule or integrated with instruction of other subjects. This network brings together principals from across the state to develop customized strategic plans for STE in their schools. Principals will work cross-district to develop and promote a vision for their science programs, instructional models and school-wide science instructional practices, high-quality assessment tasks, and professional learning opportunities for teachers.

Middle Grades Science Networks

Aligning STE Assessments to the Middle Grades STE Standards

Who should attend:

STE curriculum directors, department heads and/or lead teachers for grades 5–8

Locations and dates:

Group 1: Northampton (10/23, 1/30)

Group 2: Worcester (10/26, 1/23)

Group 3: Boston (10/24, 1/25)

*Each group will participate in a virtual meeting between the two meetings and a culminating virtual meeting in the spring.

Time:

9am–3pm

Questions:

Craig Waterman, cwaterman@doe.mass.edu

The 2016 Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) Framework presents grade-by-grade performance standards that state what middle school (grades 6–8) students should be able to do as a result of instruction. This network aims to develop highly effective assessment tasks to measure student mastery of these standards, both the disciplinary core ideas and the STE practices. Network members will use ESE's Assessment Literacy Continuum tool to evaluate sample tasks and to create and critique their own assessment tasks for middle grades performance standards.

Urban Science Leaders Network **Developing Authentic STE Assessments K–12**

Who should attend:

Urban science leaders

Location and dates:

Worcester (10/5, 11/14, 1/24, 2/8, 4/10, 6/13)

Time:

9am–12:30pm

Questions:

Marianne Dunne,

marianne.dunne@doe.mass.edu

For 2017–2018, the ongoing Urban Science Leaders network will focus on developing and curating highly effective K–12 assessment tasks that measure mastery of both disciplinary core ideas and science and engineering practices. The network will operate as smaller working groups focused on tasks that link to specific domains, STE practices, cross-cutting concepts, and grade bands. Network members will use these assessments within their districts to catalyze highly effective instruction that deeply engages students at all levels with the 2016 STE Framework’s performance standards.

English Learner Education Networks

ELE Leaders Networks

Strategic English Learner Education Programming

Who should attend:

District ELE leaders

Locations and dates:

Urban ELE Network

Devens (10/26, 12/14, 2/8, 6/14)

Western MA EL Leadership Network

Northampton (10/19, 1/23, 4/26, 6/12)

ELE Low Incidence Network

Devens (10/23, 4/9)

ELE Mid-Incidence Network

Devens (10/24, 4/12)

Time:

Urban ELE and Western MA EL Leadership

Networks: 9am–11:30am

ELE Low and Mid-Incidence Networks: 9am–3pm

Questions:

Urban ELE Network:

Zhaneta Liti, zlitit@doe.mass.edu

Western MA EL Leadership Network:

David Valade, dvalade@doe.mass.edu

Low and Mid-Incidence Networks:

Sibel Hughes, shughes@doe.mass.edu

The ongoing Urban English Learner Education (ELE) Directors Network, the Western MA EL Leadership Network, and the ELE Low Incidence and Mid-Incidence Networks all aim to advance robust instructional opportunities for language learners. For 2017–2018, ELE networks will focus on developing and fine-tuning district ELE programs. The Urban ELE and Western MA EL Leadership Networks will spotlight writing. Network members will assess EL students' writing needs, and develop action plans at the classroom level (instructional strategies) and the school/district level (programmatic strategies) to respond to EL writing needs.