E.X.C.E.L.L. PUT ON NOTICE OF INTENT

In June, BESE and LDOE had passed the E.X.C.E.L.L. legislation that would allow ELs with very limited English to graduate even if they could not pass a Louisiana State LEAP exam, which is a requirement for all students in public schools in our state. In the past this LEAP requirement has resulted in too many very intelligent and hardworking students to be forced to dropping out of high school. Unfortunately, the opposition has imposed a legislative maneuver that puts this much needed legislation in jeopardy. Read more about what you can do to help on page 2.

JOIN US @ LDOE AUGUST 25TH 2 PM

START THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH BIG DREAMS AND SMALL ACTIONABLE GOALS

Ana Beth McConnaughhay
Second Language Acquisition Specialist and Teacher
KIPP New Orleans

How lucky are we, in the education field, that we get a fresh start again every August! Like a brand new Kindergartener, or a Freshman, or a newcomer to US Schools, I still get butterflies in my stomach with the excitement of the start of the school year. The new semester has me pondering the goals I have for myself and my students this year, as well as how to sustain the momentum and motivation toward those goals throughout the year. The beginning of the year is always full with big dreams and plans but it can be helpful to stay grounded in the small action steps and to continually revisit our big dreams and our progress towards them.

My students have big dreams to be proficient in English and to be able to offer their skills as community members. It is important for me to keep their big dreams in the forefront of my mind. It is also important that I create opportunities for them to see their small steps getting them closer to their big dreams.

As we all jump into the Fall semester together, how can you dream big and act small? How can you guide your students to dream big and act small?

Happy School Year 2023-2024!

LATESOL 2023 CONVENTION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA @ LAFAYETTE
REGISTRATION IS LIVE

DREAM BIG
SET GOALS
TAKE ACTION
E.X.C.E.L.L., an appeals process that was passed by the Louisiana Board of Education (BESE) in June, is in danger of being overturned. Louisiana is one of eight remaining states that still require minimum standardized test scores for graduation, and only Louisiana has not offered students an appeals process for that requirement. The high school LEAP exams are very language-intense and LDOE does not allow any translations for our EL populations. A word to word dictionary is all that is allowed, but that is far from helpful for our students who are very early in their English language studies. The new policy provides an appeal option for all seniors who have demonstrated the knowledge and skills sufficient to graduate, but struggle with difficulties related to standardized assessments, such as English Language learners and students with other learning challenges.

The opposition has placed the policy on notice of intent. There will be another hearing for E.X.C.E.L.L. at the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) on Friday, August 25th at 2:00 pm. Make no mistake, that meeting was scheduled at an unpopular time on purpose. Let’s show the board that we will show up for our students no matter what! Please attend and share with the board how the in-place LEAP graduation requirement policy has hindered your students. Bring your students if you can! We must show the Board the faces they are making policy decisions for.

CALL TO ACTION
JOIN US IN BATON ROUGE AT LDOE TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR ELS!

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TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This year we want to honor a K-12 ESL educator for their outstanding work with their EL population, so we are pleased to announce our very first annual Teacher of the Year award. The winner will be announced at the 2023 LaTESOL Conference.

If you or a teacher you know deserves this recognition, please apply using this application.

Mandatory Qualifications:
- Minimum of 5 years teaching ESL
- Currently employed as a K-12 ESL educator
- ESL certified (no OFAT)

Requirements for the Application:
- 2 Letters of Recommendation
- 2 Student Writing Samples
- Letter of Interest
- Resume/CV

DEADLINE:
- OCTOBER 1ST 2023

REWARD: $500

1201 N 3RD ST
BATON ROUGE
LOUISIANA DEPT. OF EDUCATION
LOUISIANA PURCHASE ROOM
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH @ 2:00 PM

FREE EL ADD-ON CERTIFICATE

Sign up for the Overview Session on August 30th to Receive Your Application

YOUR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS & FAMILIES HAVE RIGHTS! HELP THEM UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE ARE!

As educators of English Learners, we are often faced with immigration rights matters. We are often asked questions by our families that we simply are not knowledgeable enough to answer. The National Organization for Women Foundation (NOW) has many resources to help you understand how you can best help your students and their families learn about their rights as immigrants in the United States.

TEACHING IS A WORK OF HEART

1201 N 3RD ST
BATON ROUGE
LOUISIANA DEPT. OF EDUCATION
LOUISIANA PURCHASE ROOM
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MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!