

INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE LOUISIANA INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM?

Research shows that students need to possess deep knowledge of a subject in order to effectively read, comprehend and write about complex texts. However, reading tests traditionally use passages that are not from the texts students study each day requiring them to grapple with vocabulary and content that may be entirely new, placing those who have fewer life experiences at a disadvantage.

To solve for this disconnect and better assess students' knowledge of complex texts, **Louisiana has partnered with school systems to develop an innovative English language arts (ELA) assessment that ensures all students have an equal opportunity to succeed on the test.**

PRIORITY ALIGNMENT

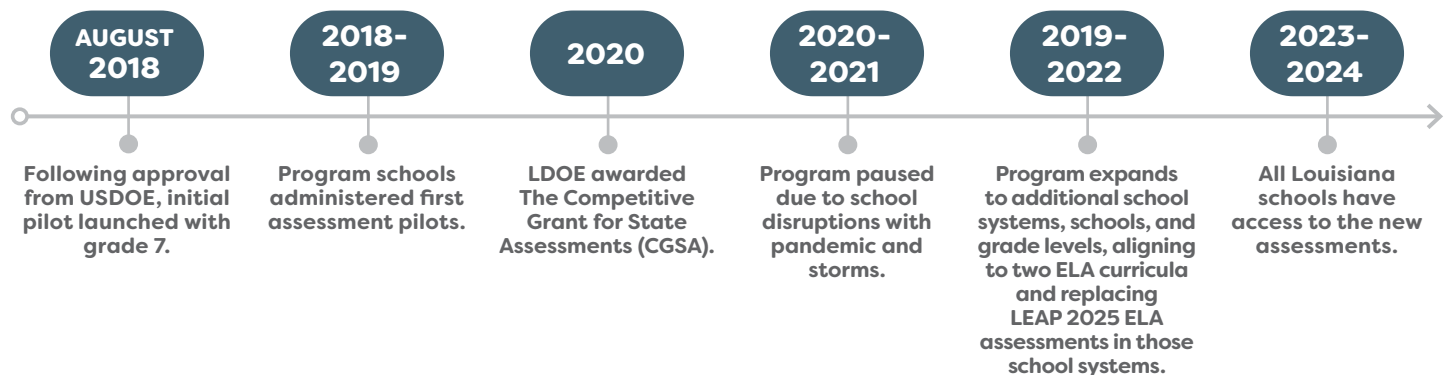
Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.

FOCUS AREA

- Academic standards
- Aligned instructional materials and resources
- Arts and humanities
- Comprehensive, equitable accountability system
- Literacy

PILOT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Integration:** Several brief assessments are administered throughout the year, rather than one end-of-year ELA exam, to measure students' deep knowledge of books or passages that they have studied in class.
- **Equity:** All students have the opportunity to develop background knowledge together so that no student is at a disadvantage due to a lack of life experiences.
- **Focus:** Teachers can focus instruction on background knowledge and making meaning of full texts.
- **Preservation of local control:** School systems continue to decide which books are used during instruction and which assessments students take.



WHAT SUCCESS HAS THE PILOT HAD IN LOUISIANA AND NATIONALLY?

- During the 2019-2020 school year, 25 schools, 44 teachers and approximately 2,500 students tested questions for the new assessments.
- “This is a more authentic and effective way to assess students’ knowledge of texts and topics. When students can take information from texts apart and put it back together in a way that deeply expresses their understanding of the world around them, we know that real learning is happening.” - *Emily Howell, Teacher, Lincoln Parish*

In the News

- [Can We Measure Reading Comprehension Separately From Knowledge?](#) (Forbes)
- [In Case You Missed It: Louisiana's Innovative Assessment Pilot, School Turnaround Efforts Continue To Gain National Attention](#) (Louisiana Believes)
- [Louisiana Awarded \\$3 Million Federal Grant From Us Department Of Education For Innovative Assessments](#) (Louisiana Believes)
- [Louisiana ESSA Innovative Assessment Pilot First to Receive Federal Approval](#) (Louisiana Believes)
- [States Don't Measure What Kids Actually Know-That Needs to Change](#) (The Hill)
- [Overhauling Student Assessments: A View From the Pilot Seat](#) (Education Week)

WHO TO CONTACT?
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