



## Introduction to the Essential Elements Cards

Teachers have the challenge of teaching multiple students who are all at different levels of understanding on a specific topic. For the specialist teacher of students with significant disabilities, there is the added undertaking of planning for students across multiple settings. The Essential Elements Cards are available to assist educators with individualizing instruction for students with significant disabilities both in inclusive and self-contained environments.

These cards promote understanding of how students move toward the Louisiana Student Standards. Each contains one or more Louisiana Connector. The Essential Elements cards are ordered first by strand (e.g., literature, informational text; measurement, data and probability), then by grade span for ELA (e.g. K-2, 3-5) and individual grades for mathematics (e.g., 6, 7), and finally by the aligned standards and Connectors (e.g. 1, 2, 3).

While there are not yet Essential Elements Cards for every Louisiana Connector, there are resources associated with all strands and grade levels. To find a specific Essential Elements Card, select a file from the appropriate strand in your content area (e.g., Informational Text; Geometry). In ELA, select the grade band (e.g., 9-10) for which you are planning and open the .pdf document; in math, simply open the grade (e.g., 6 or 7) or subject-appropriate (e.g., Algebra I, Algebra II) file. Once there, do a search for either the Louisiana Student Standards or the Louisiana Connector you seek.

Within each Essential Elements Card (EEC) are features specific to each content area. Both begin by listing the Louisiana Student Standard and aligned Louisiana Connector. For mathematics, each EEC starts by identifying concrete understandings and representations that include measurable and observable content that is challenging, yet attainable. Then, for both ELA and mathematics, each EEC offers suggested instructional strategies to guide teacher planning and implementation. Each then provides suggested supports for students so that they can demonstrate what they know. The EECs are intended to assist teachers in developing instructional lessons that support all students in accessing grade-level material.

*We are indebted to the work of the National Center and State Collaborative for the contents contained in this document. Please see NCSC's Element Cards for further information.*