

BENJAMIN ANDERSEN

ELA CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT

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PROFILE

Educator and department chair with 15+ years in education and six years in professional journalism. Develops ELA curriculum, selected-response items, and teacher-facing learning materials. Brings editorial judgment, standards analysis, and collaborative review to practical instructional products.

CORE EXPERTISE

B.E.S.T./FAST-informed assessment design • Item writing and review • Curriculum development • Evidence and distractor analysis • Editorial quality assurance • Teacher learning and data review

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lexington Middle School | Fort Myers, FL | 2014-Present

ELA Teacher | Language Arts and Gifted Department Chair

- Lead collaborative instructional planning, assessment review, data interpretation, and teacher support.
- Developed a two-session Grade 7 interim ELA assessment: 29 numbered items across multiple-choice, multiselect, EBSR, matching/table, and matrix formats; assembled the assessment in StudySync and coordinated delivery and review.
- Participated in department assessment-and-reteaching work as aggregate grade groups moved from 51% proficient in Grade 6 to 55% in Grade 7, and from 50% in Grade 7 to 57% in Grade 8. These are collective outcomes, not an isolated PM 2.5 effect or matched-student growth study.
- Develop repeatable reading, student-discussion, and independent-assessment protocols, including a Grade 8 Call of the Wild sequence.
- Use AI-supported drafting with human review of sources, alignment, answer logic, response options, and appropriateness.

Selected professional learning and publishing work

Built Rise 360 courses on student data and educator terminology; created a Storyline skills sample and Google Sites onboarding hub. Developed a Grade 6-8 Classic Literature Reader series with text selection, annotation, editing, and print production.

Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School | Baltimore, MD | 2010-2014

Teacher; designed secondary instruction and assessments and supported technology-focused professional learning.

Earlier career | Newspaper journalism | Six years

Writer, editor, and page designer; reported, edited, fact-checked, and produced content under deadlines.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

M.S., Educational Leadership - Nova Southeastern University

B.A., History & International Relations - University of Delaware, 2004

Florida credentials: ELA 6-12; Reading K-12; Social Sciences 6-12; Educational Leadership; Gifted Endorsement; Civics Seal of Excellence

RECOGNITION

Florida High Impact Teacher, 2023-24 and 2024-25 • Golden Apple finalist • Teacher of Distinction