



State of Louisiana
Department of Health
Office of Public Health

June 1, 2018

Circulation to: High School EMS Instructors

Re: Licensing/Credentialing Changes

Fellow Educators:

Thank you for your service and welcome to the world of EMS education. As we begin the traditional summer vacation period for Louisiana high schools, we hope that you find time to rest, relax, and recharge in preparation for the school year ahead. As you begin to prepare for the 2018-2019 school year, we want you to be aware of the recent adoption of the *High School EMS Education Program Guide*. The guide can be found on the Louisiana Bureau of EMS website (<http://ldh.la.gov/ems>). The purpose of the guide was to provide guidance relative to the EMS courses currently being offered. Most of the guide does not contain new policy, in fact, it provides clarity by placing existing policies into a single document for reference. However, in the course of the program guide's development, it was necessary to review existing policies and update them accordingly. One such change relates to the requirements for EMS Instructors to be certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

The Louisiana Bureau of EMS (BEMS) is proud to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Education in order to offer Industry Based Certifications (IBC's) for EMS via the JumpStart Pathway. We believe that this program offers great opportunities for our students and the potential occasion for residents to receive quality on scene care. In May of this year, BEMS licensed over 3,600 Emergency Medical Responders! This is truly a gift to the citizens of Louisiana. While we are proud of this remarkable growth in the program, upon further reflection, the decision was made to focus on improving the quality of EMS instruction and not focus on the mere quantity of students being licensed.

We are certain that you will agree that as professional educators, we must serve as an example for our students. This is especially true for educators preparing students in the areas of Career and Technical Education. If we strive to hold our students to a high standard, we as educators must also be willing to hold ourselves accountable to the same standard. While professional EMS Instructors in Louisiana have been required to maintain NREMT certification, an exception had been in place for high school instructors. However, in order to better serve our students and to better ensure quality EMS education programs, we will now require that upon the renewal of all EMS Instructor licenses, high school instructors must also become NREMT certified.

We recognize that any change, no matter how minute, has consequences and can be burdensome. This concern was weighed in the making of the decision. Nevertheless, the opportunity to provide higher quality programs for the benefit of our students was determined to be paramount. We trust that as a professional, you will agree that the benefit to our students should always be our top priority.

The *High School EMS Program Guide* is to take effect on July 1, 2018. Please note that high school instructors DO NOT have to earn NREMT by this date. The expectation is that as current licenses expire, instructors will earn their NREMT certification to relicense. Many high school instructors are already NREMT certified and will not be impacted by this policy change. Depending on the expiration date of their current license, some instructors may not need to become certified for two years. Please review your license status and prepare accordingly.

On behalf of the Bureau of EMS, we again thank you for your service. If we can be of assistance in the future, please let us know.

With Warm Regards,



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Director



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