

At its October meeting, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) took several actions that directly impact the activities of or are significant interest to local education agencies. A summary is provided below. For more information or questions, please contact [Ryan Gremillion](#).

Approval of revisions to Bulletin 741: Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Bulletin 746: Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel, and Bulletin 996: Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs, regarding mentoring requirements for candidates completing an alternate certification program

In June 2017, BESE directed the LDE to study the program requirements for alternate preparation programs, as outlined in Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*. Current policy requires 80 hours of pre-service practice and four observations during the year in which the candidate applies for certification. Based upon the results of pilots and on researched best practices, BESE approved policy revisions which replace the 80-hour pre-residency practice requirement with an assurance from the employing school systems that alternate program candidates receive mentoring that includes co-teaching, collaborative planning, observation, and feedback session requirements for a minimum of 15 percent of instructional time, or 5 hours per week, in the first year of teaching.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741: *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*. [Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 746: *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*. [Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 996: *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*.

Approval of the Pre-Educator Jump Start TOPS Tech Graduation Pathway proposal, submitted by the University of Louisiana at Monroe

Graduation pathways outline the graduation requirements for students to earn a Jump Start TOPS Tech diploma, as well as courses needed for attaining industry based credentials relevant to an industry sector. Graduation pathways approved by the Panel are forwarded to the State Superintendent of Education for consideration. Once approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the graduation pathway can be adapted and adopted by other Jump Start regional teams.

BESE approved the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) Pre-Educator pathway, which provides a K-12 pre-education program for high school students pursuing both the TOPS University and TOPS Tech diploma who intend to pursue a career in the field of education. The ultimate mission of the pathway is to cultivate highly skilled cyber literate educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished educators, beginning in high school, extending through college, and leading to a career in the education profession. The blended curriculum provides strong foundational academic knowledge, skills, and education-focused coursework that build understanding of diverse learners and the learning environment.

[Click here](#) to view the ULM Pre-Educator Pathway briefing document.

Approval of Allocations

The Board approved several allocations of funding to local school systems at last week's meeting, including funding to support the implementation of high-quality curriculum and the CLASS tool, funding to provide supports for pre-service teachers and opportunities for teacher leaders to serve in mentor positions, and funding to support the launch of the Get Ready Cohort, which will comprise of lead agencies interested in becoming a Ready Start Network.

[Click here](#) to view the list of allocations approved at the October BESE meeting.