

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

As you know, the LDOE is moving to a new evaluation system called Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS). During the April BESE meeting, the board voted to approve funding for the addition of the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (AER) to our new LEADS evaluation system. The 2024-2025 school year will serve as a learning year to become more acquainted with the rubric indicators and expectations.

NIET and LDOE have worked collaboratively to ensure the new evaluation rubrics are aligned with Louisiana's standards of teacher effectiveness. By clearly defining effective teaching and student-centered instruction, each rubric provides educators with a roadmap for strengthening their practice, facilitating high-quality coaching, and fostering collaboration around instructional best practices.

To help LDOE align the Aspiring Educator Rubric (AER) with the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER), I am pleased to introduce Dr. Ruhi Khan, to our prep provider community. Dr. Khan has been essential in this process. As a collaborative thought partner, Dr. Khan leads the development of new teacher induction services and expands educator preparation and content materials to meet the diverse needs of individuals who are entering the profession as the Director of Educator Pipeline at NIET. Dr. Khan's expertise includes training and coaching to enhance educator effectiveness that leads to student and educator growth. She has been an educator for over 25 years and has experience in both K - 12 and higher education, including the creation and implementation of mentor training programs in teacher preparation and school district levels to ensure participants receive high-quality coaching and mentoring assistance.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Khan to our prep provider community. For each program implementing the AER, she will provide ongoing support to assist with the transition into the new LEADS evaluation system.

Arthur M. Joffrion, Jr., Ed.D.
Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development

UPCOMING DEADLINES

July 10: [Full Applications](#) Due for Program Approval

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17: Certification Monthly [call](#)

June 26: Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)

July 24: New Teacher Experience Kick-Off

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, June 26.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 26, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/440246097>

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- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 440 246 097

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Summer Literacy Tour

The Literacy and ELA Divisions will be traveling the state for the 3rd Annual [Louisiana Literacy Regional PD Tour](#).

- June 17 - Harahan
- June 18 - Lake Charles
- June 21 - Baton Rouge
- July 8 - West Monroe
- July 9 - Bossier City
- July 11 - Alexandria

Contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with any questions.

Adolescent Literacy Professional Learning

The Literacy Divisions is offering free, virtual adolescent literacy trainings.

- Keys to Adolescent Literacy is a full-day course offered **8 a.m. - 3 p.m.** with availability for **June 14, 24, 25, and 26.**

To register for any of these sessions, please fill out the [Google Form](#) indicating the dates preferred.

Contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with any questions.

New Teacher Experience Kick-Off: Save the Date

The Louisiana Department of Education will host the Summer Kick-off for the New Teacher Experience on **July 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.** in Baton Rouge for 500 new teachers. The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession,
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience,
- Engage in high-quality professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers, and
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers.

Please share this date with your graduating seniors. [Registration](#) is now open for the first 500 teachers. Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Bayou Bridges Curriculum Guide

The LDOE has published a new [curriculum guide](#) to support teachers and instructional leaders as they implement Bayou Bridges materials. The guide provides in-depth information on the program's guiding



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principles, design, key components and resources, unit and lesson study tools, along with sample lesson annotations.

Teachers and leaders should use this resource to help them navigate the curriculum, better understand its key components, and effectively plan and implement Bayou Bridges lessons.

This guide will continue to be updated as additional units are published.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Geaux Teach Scholarship Program

[Act 463](#) of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established the Geaux Teach Program, which provides scholarships to students who are enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the state's postsecondary institutions that are approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Funding is also available to students attending certified alternative teacher preparation programs approved by BESE.

Students may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover the cost of tuition fees, textbooks, and instructional materials required for enrollment.

Additional information about the Geaux Teach Program, including eligibility requirements, the [Geaux Teach Application](#), and answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) may be accessed on the [LOSFA website](#).

Please contact deborah.paul@la.gov with questions.

Literacy Coursework Submission

The LDOE is currently reviewing course descriptions for all updated Science of Reading courses, including the dyslexia course. Providers should expect feedback by the end of June.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov or certification@la.gov with questions.

Math Competencies

[Act 347](#) of the 2023 Regular Session states that BESE shall revise teacher certification requirements and the requirements of teacher education programs to require instruction on foundational numeracy skills standards for candidates seeking certification to teach students no later than December 31, 2023.

[Bulletin 746 §507.B.12](#) Beginning September 1, 2028, an applicant for initial certification must have earned coursework or equivalent contact hours in alignment with the adopted foundational numeracy competencies.

The [competency crosswalk](#) document can be found in the [Preparation Library](#).

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Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

High-Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) Update

The LDOE has been granted an extension in funding to order High-Quality Instructional Materials. The deliverables for the June 30th deadline are currently being prioritized. Orders from vendors who cannot make the June 30th deadline will be placed at the beginning of the fiscal year in July.

The planning phase of High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) for the HQIM purchased is tentatively scheduled for the fall.

More details regarding all HQIM and HQPL will be disclosed as details are finalized throughout the summer.

Should you have any questions regarding upcoming HQPL training sessions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

2024-2025 LEADS Learning Year Evaluator Training

In addition to the upcoming pre-service rubric training this fall, preparation providers are encouraged to attend the summer evaluation training for both the Educator Rubric and the Leader Rubric so that the processes and components can be incorporated into coursework. Please visit the [registration landing page](#) to sign up for a training session in your region.

When registering, enter.

- Job title: Other
- School System: Provider Name
- School: Provider Name

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (AER) Training

Training on the new Aspiring Educator Rubric (AER) will be held in August and will be expanded across four regional areas. Training dates are as follows:

- August 1-2 at Tulane University (*New Orleans*)
- August 13-14 at Northwestern University (*Natchitoches*)
- August 22-23 at ULM (*Monroe*)
- August 27-28 at University View (*Baton Rouge*)

Each provider will receive an email with the link to register for training closest to their respective region. Due to space constraints, each provider will be allotted a certain number of participants. The targeted audience of participants includes the residency/placement coordinators and university supervisors or those responsible for observing and evaluating residency students.

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If you have any questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

NASDTEC

The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) offers a reliable resource for comprehensive teacher licensure information across all 50 states.

NASDTEC invites your organization to become a member and gain exclusive access to our NASDTEC KnowledgeBase. This invaluable tool provides detailed insights into teacher licensure requirements from every state in the US, empowering you with the knowledge needed to navigate the complex landscape of teacher licensure seamlessly and assist you in meeting both the requirements of the USDOE related to occupational licensure notification and the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) to teacher candidates.

As a member of NASDTEC, you'll enjoy a multitude of benefits, including:

- Twenty-five (25) user accounts with full access to all NASDTEC resources in the Online Community.
- Access to the NASDTEC KnowledgeBase: Gain unparalleled access to comprehensive teacher licensure information from all 50 states, ensuring you stay informed and prepared.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with education professionals and policymakers nationwide, fostering collaborations and sharing best practices.
- Professional Learning Resources: Access exclusive resources, webinars, and training opportunities designed to help prepare teacher candidates and those already in the field.
- Advocacy and Support: Join a community dedicated to advocating for the highest standards in teacher preparation and licensure, with access to guidance and support.

Associate membership for an educator preparation provider is only \$500 annually and as stated above, allows your organization to have 25 user accounts. For more information on membership benefits and to join, visit our website at <https://www.nasdtec.net/page/Membership>.

NASDTEC looks forward to welcoming you to our community of education leaders committed to excellence in teacher licensure, preparation, and ethics.

Please contact support@nasdtec.org with any questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

2024-2025 Program Approval Fall Cycle

The [new program application](#) window opened on May 1 for the fall cycle for [teacher preparation programs](#), [mentor teacher](#), [content leader](#), and [ECAC](#). All Notice of Intents were due by June 1. Applications will be reviewed to ensure applicants meet all policy requirements to obtain approval before being moved to the application phase. **Full applications for all new programs are due July 10.**

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Cycle	Application Window Opens	Notice of Intent Due	Full Application Due	Round 1 Evaluation Period Begins	Notification of Pending Decisions	Round 2 Evaluation and Notification (as needed)	BESE Consideration
Fall	May 1	June 1	July 10	July 11	August 26	TBD	October TBD

A [guide](#) for teacher preparation providers applying for initial program approval is available in the [Preparation Library](#) on Louisiana Believes.

If you have any questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

On-Site Review Updates

The Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System (TPQRS) includes Preparation Program Experience as one of the domains. An on-site review by a third party is conducted to understand the program's quality once at least every four years. The RFP for the on-site review vendor has been selected and approved. On-site reviews are scheduled to begin in late fall. Providers who have been selected for an on-site review this fall have been notified.

Each provider received their on-site review timeframe during the performance profile debriefing calls. If your assigned on-site review interferes with any other accreditation timeframe, please email believeandprepare@la.gov to request a change.

2022-2023 Teacher Preparation Quality Rating Performance Profiles

The 2022-2023 Teacher Preparation Quality Rating Calculations are in the final calculation stages. Providers should expect to receive emails sent directly to the deans/ program directors this summer to schedule performance profile reviews.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Louisianateacherprep.com

The LDOE is no longer hosting preparation information on louisianateacherprep.com. All performance profiles can be found in the [Preparation Library](#). Additional information can be found on teachlouisiana.net.

If you have any questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

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CERTIFICATION REMINDERS

Document Alteration

The LDOE has recently seen an increase in the submission of altered documents. Documents submitted are legal documents and submitted as evidence for certification. Sections of documents or applications that are already signed by the educator should not be altered in any way after signatures are obtained. Documents that clearly indicate an alteration after a signature **will not** be accepted.

Examples of this include but are not limited to: changing the date on the educator's professional conduct form, filling out the professional conduct form for the educator, altering the out-of-state attestation form, etc.

Office Hours Protocol

The Certification Team offers [office hours](#) each week for human resource offices and program providers. Office hours are held Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in 15-minute increments. This service is offered to **HR office personnel and program providers only**. **Individuals** with questions should submit them through the online portal.

Office hours are staffed by a Senior Specialist and a novice Specialist. As of **April 1, 2024** the following has been implemented for office hours:

- Submission of an office hours question is **required**. This office hours question is the mechanism through which our staff responds in writing to summarize the discussion held during office hours. The corresponding office hours question should be submitted prior to even scheduling the appointment; however, if an office hours question is not submitted to coincide with the appointment at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled call, the office hours appointment will be **canceled**.
- If application processing time is **15 days or less**, justification for expediting is **required at the time of reservation** for consideration. This means the certification office must have the justification at least 24 hours in advance of the call for expediting to be considered.
- Expediting requests may be denied and are at the discretion of the LDOE.

We ask that the following steps be followed to schedule an [office hours](#) call:

- Login to HR account in online teacher certification portal, TeachLA Live!
- Use the **"Ask a Question"** feature along the top ribbon of the page
- Choose "HR/Prep Provider Office Hours" in the drop-down menu
- Indicate certification questions, cases, candidates, and details around certification questions
- Submit the question case and **receive case #**
- Use **online scheduler** and indicate the "office hours" question case number in the reservation

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[Step-by-Step Demonstration](#)

New Applications. In response to the newly adopted policy coming off of Notice of Intent around May 20, **all applications** will be updated. The expected timeline for all applications to be updated is **June 1, 2024**. Some applications will be posted prior to this date with a June 1 revision date.

Beginning **July 1, 2024**, all applications are **required** to be the **June 1, 2024** version for processing.

Literacy Exam Requirements. Beginning **January 1, 2024**, **Out-of-State** applicants authorized to teach grades K-3 and not meeting exam requirements with experience will need to take the Teaching of Reading exam in addition to content and pedagogy exams. **Initial applicants** completing **in-state** preparation programs already enrolled in the year-long residency and holding either the PL or R credential **prior to January 1, 2025**, are not subject to taking the Teaching of Reading exam. **Add-on** policy is effective **September 1, 2024**. Keep in mind if an applicant is applying for initial certification **with an add-on**, if the add-on area requires the exam, the Certification Office will be looking for the exam effective 9/1/2024.

New Literacy Exam Option. BESE adopted the Louisiana Elementary Multiple-Subjects exam, which includes as a part of the English Language Arts subtest, the Teaching of Reading exam. It :

- Allows for an option with the same number of exams as currently required
- Includes grades K-3 (PK-3, 1-5, Special Education areas)

The passing score increases over time to gradually increase Science of Reading skill mastery for teacher candidates. The current Teaching of Reading exam (5205/5206) is not being phased out; neither is the current Elementary Multiple subjects exam (5001). Effective June 1, 2024, the newly adopted test will be available through ETS.

Add-On Literacy Requirements (General). For add-on purposes, general reading and literacy hours may be fulfilled with the indicated semester hours, equivalent contact hours, or passing the adopted Teaching of Reading exam. Successful completion of the BESE-approved literacy foundations training may be accepted for the number of hours approved per program. Anyone using LTRS training will need to submit all LTRS certificates of completion to LouisianaLiteracy@la.gov for verification. The email verification from LouisianaLiteracy@La.gov must be included with the add-on application to receive credit for the training for add-on purposes.

Add-On Literacy Requirements (Grades K-3, Special Education). Effective 9/1/2024, teachers wishing to add-on certification areas granting authorization to teach grades K-3 and Special Education add-on areas will require the general literacy semester or contact hours AND Teaching of Reading Elementary exam. For add-on purposes, 5205/7002 cannot satisfy both the literacy hours requirement and the Teaching of Reading exam requirement. Please use the [Literacy Exam and Coursework Guidance for Preparation Providers](#) guidance document for additional information.

Foreign Equivalency Transcripts. New foreign equivalency transcript requirements include that a



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credentialing agency must be an endorsed member in good standing with either:

- [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#)
- [Association of International Credential Evaluators \(AICE\)](#).

The adopted policy is effective **May 20**. Updated information is available on teachlouisiana.net.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

Certification and Credentialing Monthly Call

The Certification Office conducts a monthly call devoted solely to certification and now credentialing. Participants for this call should include individuals responsible for the implementation of certification policy in teacher preparation programs and school systems. Topics include legislative and policy updates, certification processing updates, and frequently asked questions. It will generally fall on the third **Monday** of each month at **10:30 a.m.** Any changes due to BESE meetings or holidays will be included on the [school system support calendar](#). The next call is **Monday, June 17**.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWIDU1gvNnNYQk40Wjl3YmpxUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 0104 5748

Passcode: 959091

Please contact Christy.Bellue@la.gov with questions.