

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) announced last week the 67 educators who are one step closer to being named the state's best. The LDOE named its 2025 Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists, 2025 Louisiana Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists, and 2024 Louisiana New Teacher of the Year Finalists.

"It is an honor to celebrate the significance of the education profession and those who choose to serve the next generation," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. "These remarkable teachers and leaders are making a profound impact on the lives of students and the future of Louisiana."

Honorees by Preparation Provider

Preparation Provider	Honorees	Preparation Provider	Honorees
Holy Cross College	Christina McCarta (TOY)	Louisiana State University	Raven Cole, Morgan Green, and Jodie T. Melancon (TOY) Kelley Stein (POY)
iTeach	Hannah Talley Sanders and Racquell Archangel (TOY)	Louisiana State University Shreveport	Robert Middleton (POY)
Louisiana Christian University	Christian Harrington (TOY)	Louisiana Tech	Samantha Valentine (NTOY)
McNeese State University	Elise Boutin and Jessica "Joy" Stalnaker (TOY) Shonna Anderson, Amanda Austin, and S.Chad Schulz, (POY)	Northwestern State University	William Foley (NTOY) Micah Coleman, Casey Comeaux, Donya Tatum, and Rebecca Warren (POY)
Nicholls State University	Annette Blanchard, Rebecca Nguyen, and Leah Voisin (TOY)	Southeastern Louisiana University	Ashlie Clouatre and Braxton Michel (NTOY) Carra "Beth" Melton

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	Decina Rodriguez (POY)		(TOY) Anne "Beth" Jones (POY)
Southern University	Tongelia McCray-Rowan (POY)	University of Louisiana at Monroe	Jennifer Callender and Susan Shrader (TOY) Anna Tarver (POY)
TNTP Academy	Adrienne Dykes (TOY)	University of New Orleans	Kara Lawson (POY)
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Morgan Toups (NTOY)	Xavier University	Jazmyne Darby and Dawn LaFargue-Armelin (TOY)

All semi-finalists and finalists will be honored at the 18th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which will be held at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans on the evening of July 27. This exciting event is co-sponsored by Dream Teachers.

These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those teachers and leaders who are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's education profession.

We encourage you to highlight the success of your alumni on your own websites and social media outlets. Congrats to all of our honorees!

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

UPCOMING DEADLINES

April 30: Instructional Program Report Card ([IPRC](#)) due to [Title II](#)
April 30: Literacy Coursework Submissions Due

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15: Certification Monthly [call](#)
April 24: Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)
May 1: Application Window Opens for [new program applications](#)

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NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, April 24.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 24, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/440246097>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 440 246 097

Please contact rebecca.stephenson@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

The 12th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held May 28-30, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on "Leading the Next Level." Registration for this event is currently SOLD OUT! Please use the [registration link](#) to be added to the waitlist. The waitlisted attendees will be notified of acceptance as space becomes available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The deans of all prep providers should have received an email with instructions on how to complete registration using their Teacher Leader Summit complimentary registration. If you are unable to attend, please email events@emergentmethod.com by **April 19, 2024**.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

System Leads, Teacher Leaders, and Postsecondary Teacher Preparation Partners are invited to attend a Learning Visit for a day of learning and community building. During Learning Visits, participants will have an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their system or preparation program. Please use this [registration link](#) to sign up for a visit.

- Bossier Parish- April 16

Please contact believeandprepare@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.

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Please share this date with your graduating seniors. Registration information is forthcoming. Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Teacher Preparation: Computer Science (5652) Praxis Exam

The LDOE has partnered with the Northshore Regional STEM Center to offer a free Computer Science Praxis preparation course to all public and public charter 6-12 teachers. The training will help teachers prepare for the Computer Science (5652) Praxis exam to add a certification to their teaching license. Please share this information with your students.

Four cohorts will be offered as 100% virtual training, with a fifth cohort offered in person at Southeastern Louisiana University in June. [Registration](#) is now open for the [Energize Project](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with 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 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 navigate the curriculum, to better understand its key components, and to 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.

2024-2025 LEADS Learning Year Evaluator Training

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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.

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](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Literacy Coursework Submission

The LDOE is collecting comprehensive course descriptions for all updated [Science of Reading](#) courses, including the dyslexia course.

As a reminder, per policy:

- Beginning **September 1, 2024**, completers must earn the required number of semester hours or contact hour equivalent in the teaching of reading and literacy in alignment with the science of reading competencies for certification.
- Beginning with the **2024-2025 school year**, for all certification areas, candidates must spend three credit hours within the existing credit hour requirements engaged in coursework regarding teaching students with dyslexia.

The timeline for review is as follows.

- April 5-30: Coursework submission in Survey Monkey
- May 1-31: LDOE reviews submissions and provides feedback

Literacy Coursework submission process and directions can be found in the [submission portal](#).

Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

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TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

2023-2024 Program Approval Fall Cycle

[New program applications](#) window will open **May 1** for the fall cycle. Applications are reviewed to ensure applicants meet all policy requirements to obtain approval. A [guide](#) for teacher preparation providers applying for initial program approval is available in the [Preparation Library](#) on Louisiana Believes.

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
Spring	September 1	October 1	December 10	December 11	February 15	TBD	April 9
Fall	May 1	June 1	July 10	July 11	August 26	TBD	October TBD

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. There will be no on-site reviews this fall. The RFP for the on-site review vendor is currently posted and a selection will be made soon.

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.

CERTIFICATION

Certification Reminders

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.

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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. 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 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.



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Certification Monthly Call

The Certification Office conducts a monthly call devoted solely to certification. 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, April 15**.

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

Meeting ID: 978 0104 5748

Passcode: 959091

Please contact Arthur.Joffrion@la.gov or Christy.Bellue@la.gov with questions.