



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

We're excited to share some important updates and opportunities this month — starting with a reminder that [registration](#) for the [2025 Teacher Leader Summit](#) (TLS) is closing soon! This year's event promises to be one of the most impactful yet, offering valuable professional learning for educators across the state. Be sure to register by **May 4**, as this is the final day to secure your spot.

In May, you'll be able to explore the full list of TLS sessions and build your schedule in Cvent. However, we want to give you an early preview of a few standout sessions to help you plan ahead:

- Over 20 Math Sessions featuring topics such as:
 - Lesson Internalization in Widely Implemented Curricula
 - Translating Act 260 Learning into Practice
 - Supporting Implementation for School and System Leaders
- Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program Series
- Bridging the Gap: Promoting Academic Success for Newcomer and Long-term English Learners
- Navigating Language Development Standards: Supporting English Learners in Meeting State Benchmarks
- District-Based Teacher Preparation Programs: A Panel to Discuss Grow Your Own Strategies
- Individualizing Supports for Aspiring and Early Career Teachers
- LEADS to Success: Strategies for Effective Educator Growth and Development
- Explicit Instruction Sessions by Dr. Anita Archer
- Guidance for Teachers, School Leaders, and System Leaders Implementing the Louisiana Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support
- Defining Unit Unpacking and Assessment Analysis to Make the Most of HQIM
- A Central Focus on Text Complexity
- Defining High Quality in an ELA Walkthrough
- Elevating Literacy Small Group Instruction Beyond Intervention

We look forward to seeing you at TLS and sharing more tools and strategies to support teacher preparation across Louisiana!

Best regards,

Arthur M. Joffrion, Jr., Ed.D.

Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development
Louisiana Department of Education



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NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Events

April 28: Certification Monthly [call](#)

April 30: Preparation Provider Monthly [call](#)

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, April 30.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 30, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92623197552?pwd=AYoMqiVyfYDYokaCbcfmk8glcxLntE.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 926 2319 7552

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Preparation Provider Spotlight Form

We want to share your good news! We invite all of our providers to complete the [provider spotlight Jotform](#) so that the amazing things happening throughout our teacher preparation provider community can be shared across our great state. Please include information regarding new grant opportunities, innovative initiatives, research/case studies around the advancement of your program(s), or faculty and residency student highlights.

We are excited to hear about all the things you are doing well to grow educators who will grow students.



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EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

[Student](#) and [Academy Staff](#) Applications are now open for the one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp, and professional learning experience. Open to high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators. The Academy will be held July 14-18 at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Please contact mwillis@lsua.edu with any 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. Billing dates for the fall semester/term is November 1, the spring semester/term is May 1, and the summer semester/term is July 1, when applicable.

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.

Act 260 Training

Consider using the [Numeracy Professional Learning courses](#) aligned to [Act 260](#) as a guide when enhancing coursework to align to the current Louisiana Mathematics Teacher Competencies. Providers should utilize the [information](#) provided to join provider-specific courses in the LDOE professional learning platform, [Canopy. Courses](#) specific to teacher candidates are published and may be shared at the provider's discretion.

For more information regarding [Act 260](#), please contact STEM@la.gov.



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EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

LAER Menu of Support Registration

[Registration](#) is now open for providers to sign up to attend support opportunities around deep understanding and implementation of the LAER rubric.

The training sessions are designed to help providers understand how to use the LAER for professional growth, implement HQIM, and improve instructional practices. We encourage all providers to register to attend. Additional information about topics, modalities, and logistics is provided in the [registration link](#).

2024-2025 Program Approval Fall Cycle

The [new program application](#) window will open on May 1 for the fall cycle for [teacher preparation programs](#), [mentor teacher](#), [content leader](#), and [ECAC](#). All Notice of Intent (NOIs) are due by May 1. Full applications are due by July 10.

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 TBD
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 regarding this process, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov

2023 Title II Institution and Program Report Card (IPRC) Data Collection

The Title II 2025 IPRC window for reporting 2023-2024 Academic Year (AY) enrollment and completion data is now open to providers.



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All active educator preparation programs were emailed on March 13, 2025, with account information and instructions on how to complete the IPRC. Pass rates will be uploaded on April 1, 2025.

Institutional data should be submitted by **April 30, 2025**.

Data Verification 2023-2024 Teacher Preparation Provider Performance Profiles

The window to verify 2023-2024 teacher preparation provider's complete rosters in [MMCS](#) is now open until April 11, 2025. Please verify all data and make any necessary corrections on or before **April 11, 2025**.

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

Save the Date: EL Teacher Symposium

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) invites educator preparation providers to the EL Teacher Symposium on **September 22, 2025**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA. This professional learning event will feature workshops, expert sessions, and collaborative discussions on supporting English learners' language development and academic success.

Each provider may send three representatives, preferably faculty or program leaders. To participate, complete the [interest survey](#) by **April 30, 2025**. After submission, the contact person will receive a confirmation email with session registration details.

For any questions or updates, please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov.

Bayou Bridges Office Hours

Join the LDOE social studies team on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month to get additional support with the [Bayou Bridges Curriculum](#). Use the office hours to receive information on the following topics:

- Using the Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks
- Using the LEAP assessment rubric with HQIM
- Using the Bayou Bridges alternative pacing guides
- Using the Bayou Bridges online resources

The [Bayou Bridges Office Hours Flyer](#) contains information such as the dates, times, topics, and links.



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K-12 Science Planning with HQIM Professional Learning Opportunity

Preparation providers are invited to [register](#) for a two-day professional learning workshop focused on planning with HQIM to support high-quality science instruction. The workshop will introduce the science instructional model and support teachers in identifying elements of this model within their HQIM. Examples from OpenSciEd will primarily be used; however, other science HQIM may also be utilized as examples.

This professional learning opportunity has three options that providers can choose from to attend

- Option 1: July 10-11, Ruston
- Option 2: July 22-23, Leesville
- Option 3: July 28-29, Baton Rouge

For more information, please refer to the [overview](#) or email STEM@la.gov.

Supporting High-Quality Planning for Science Instruction

Preparation providers are invited to [register](#) for a one-day professional learning workshop focused on supporting school and system leaders in planning coherent and sustainable structures to improve science teaching and learning. Leaders will explore the LDOE Science Instructional Model and identify elements within high-quality science instructional materials that support this model. Examples from OpenSciEd will primarily be used; however, other science HQIM may also be utilized as examples.

This professional learning opportunity has two options for participants to attend: **July 14** or **July 18**. Both sessions will be held at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA.

For more information, please refer to the [overview](#) or email STEM@la.gov.

CERTIFICATION

Educator Background Credentialing

Clear Credential Facts & Tips

January 1, 2025, brought a new law to better protect Louisiana's students and schools. LA R.S. 17:8.9 requires a criminal background check to be completed for certification, bringing Louisiana in alignment with what many other states around the country are doing and building the public's trust in our education system. A criminal background check completed for professional educator licensure is consistent with many other professional licenses, such as those in law, medicine, and finance. Applying this same standard elevates the profession and reinforces the importance of ethical and legal responsibility in education. [Explore all of the benefits of a CBC for Certification.](#)



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In the past, school systems alone were required to do a criminal background check for employment purposes under LA R.S. 17:15. For many years, LDOE was provided copies of those CBCs which were used for certification, but due to a finding during an FBI audit of the LA State Police, LDOE was informed that the practice of using the CBC that was run for employment must cease. Legislation was put in place that directs and permits LDOE's Certification & Background Credentialing team to send individuals seeking issuance, renewal, or modification of a certificate for a criminal background check. This practice puts the CBC before the certification, which is a practice that has been in place for years in other states.

Having educators undergo a CBC for certification ensures LDOE will receive rapbacks if an educator has any subsequent activity appearing on the CBC. Because of the rapbacks, once an educator is fingerprinted for certification, it is typically a one-time requirement.

After an individual has been fingerprinted for certification under LDOE's service code, 27N5HQ, the CBC is transmitted to LDOE within hours. Transmission time varies based on a number of factors, such as whether the applicant is from another country, has multiple aliases, or has a lengthy history. Background Credentialing specialists retrieve and review the CBC. If no [disqualifying convictions](#) are present, the "Clear Credential" record is issued or added to an existing certification record.

This "Clear Credential" indicator does not expire because LDOE will receive rapbacks. Keep in mind that it is not a "certificate" since it does not validate educational eligibility to teach, lead, or serve in Louisiana schools, but it does serve as an indicator that the individual has obtained the "golden standard" in CBCs for certification.

Individuals do not have to wait to apply for certification issuance, renewal, or modification to obtain the "Clear Credential". Any individual may use the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#) to schedule fingerprinting, and typically, within a day or two of fingerprinting, the "Clear Credential" will appear on the person's certification record. Many of the staff in the Education Talent & Workforce Development office have gone through the process and now hold the "Clear Credential" designation, viewable on www.teachlouisiana.net. "Clear Credentials," along with any certification sanctions such as denials, suspensions, revocations, reinstatements, can be viewed online in the same way one verifies certification.

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with any questions.

Certification Policy Updates

Policy Updates

BESE adopted the following items at the October 2024 meeting and were effective February 20, 2025:

- Changes to Educational Leader Certification
- Changes to Out-of-State Administrator certification
- Addition of Computer Science and STEM Grades 1-5 Endorsement
- Update to Computer Science
- Updates to Montessori Teacher Certification



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- Updates to Temporary Employment Permit
- Adoption of new Praxis

Educational Leader Certification Updates

The changes to the Educational Leader certification include several key updates. Bulletin 146 has been adopted to replace Bulletin 125. New Performance Expectations now cover: School Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goal Setting, Instructional Leadership, Capacity Building, School and Community Environment, Professionalism and Integrity, and School Operations/Management.

Portfolios submitted for [Educational Leader: Alternate Path 2 \(240 Clock Hours\)](#) after the policy changes will be evaluated based on alignment with these updated Performance Expectations.

Additionally, Alternate Pathway 4 has been revised by replacing the requirement for a master's degree with a *graduate* degree in designated areas. This pathway offers a five-year, **non-renewable** certificate for serving as a School Level Leader only. Leaders certified through this pathway who lack the three years of teaching experience required for EDL2 certification may still be advanced after meeting the standards of effectiveness for five years as a school leader.

Out-of-State Administrator Updates

The updates to the [Out-of-State Principal \(OSP1\)](#) certification include several changes. Applicants with a valid out-of-state certificate to serve as a principal or a comparable certificate may now be issued OSP1, with **experience** as a principal **no longer** being a **requirement**. If the out-of-state certificate is **not valid**, applicants can still be issued an OSP1 with verification of at least one year of successful service as an assistant principal or principal within the five years immediately preceding their first employment in Louisiana. Applicants who **do not** have this verified experience may be issued a one-year, non-renewable OSP certificate. To transition to the five-year OSP1, leaders issued the one-year OSP certificate must earn an effective evaluation within the one-year validity period.

For [Out-of-State Principal \(OSP2\)](#), applicants will need to verify at least three years of successful experience as a principal or assistant principal, in addition to **passing** the adopted Louisiana leadership Praxis [exam](#). Educators with a minimum of four years of verified successful experience as a principal in another state **may be exempt** from the exam requirement and will meet the experience requirement for OSP2.

The [Out-of-State Superintendent \(OSS\)](#) certification now requires a **passing score** on the Louisiana Superintendent [Praxis](#) exam, in addition to the previous requirements, in order to align with state law.

Computer Science and STEM Grades K-5

To add this area of certification, applicants must hold a valid Out-of-State, Level 1, Type C, or higher certification. Additionally, they must meet one of the following requirements: complete the K-5 Computer Science and STEM Praxis, earn 21 semester hours in computer science and STEM content (with at least 3



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semester hours in computer science or educational technology), or complete a BESE-approved micro-credential Computer Science and STEM Grades K-5 training program. Training programs are not expected until the Fall of 2025.

Applicants must also achieve a passing score on the Principles of Learning and Teaching K-6 exam, complete 9 semester hours of reading coursework or one of the approved literacy options, and have a passing score for the Teaching of Reading Elementary exam.

Computer Science 6-12 Endorsement

Educators now have **three** options to fulfill the content requirements for certification: completing a BESE-approved micro-credential Computer Science Grades 6-12 training program (new), earning 21 semester hours in the content area, or passing the Computer Science Praxis exam.

Additionally, educators must meet a requirement of three semester hours in the teaching of reading and literacy, complete [BESE-approved literacy foundations training](#), or pass the adopted Teaching of Reading [Praxis](#) exam.

Montessori Teacher Certification

The changes to the [Ancillary Montessori Teacher](#) and [Montessori Teacher](#) endorsement include the removal of the term “Nonpublic” from the Ancillary certificate, which now authorizes educators to serve in any Louisiana-approved Montessori school. Approved training programs have been updated to include **any** program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). Montessori levels will now be reflected on certificates to align with the corresponding training program levels. In addition, literacy requirements have been added for all levels to comply with state law. The requirements are as follows:

- Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood, and Elementary I: **9** semester hours
- Elementary II: **6** semester hours
- Secondary I and Secondary II (12-18): **3** semester hours
- Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood/Primary, and Elementary I (to age 9):
Earn a **passing score on Teaching of Reading: Elementary exam**

Temporary Employment Permit (TEP)

Changes to the TEP are around renewal requirements. Previous renewal requirements stated an educator was required to successfully meet the standards of effectiveness “at the level of highly effective or effective proficient.”

The policy was updated to remove “at the level of highly effective or effective proficient” and replaced with “successfully meet the standards of effectiveness” in accordance with [Bulletin 130](#).



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Certification Reminders

Office Hours

Beginning February 1, 2025, the LDOE added several certification specialists to the Office Hours rotation. Please answer any unknown number during the designated time, as calls will come from area codes 225, 318, 504, 337, and 985. As a reminder, make sure to follow **all five** steps outlined in the '[scheduling office hours](#)' link.

Practitioner License Processing Update

The number of teacher candidates transferring between programs has increased, leading to a variety of scenarios and questions. While some of the scenarios and questions can only be answered with policy, the LDOE has updated the procedures to accommodate the issues while remaining in alignment or compliance with policy. Therefore, as of **January 1, 2025**, all alternate certification program changes require a program **withdrawal** letter from the provider, with the **acknowledging signature of the teacher candidate**. The letter should include:

- University or Provider letterhead
- Candidate name and certificate number
- Program originally enrolled in (i.e. Certification only, Secondary Math)
- Program withdrawal date
- Program Dean (or designee) signature
- Teacher candidate signature

Please schedule and submit the letter via an office hours question and call.

Additionally, the changes to processing protocols below have been implemented as resolutions to the issues seen with applicants changing programs:

- When an applicant **changes the program area or provider**, these will be treated as **initial** Practitioner License (PL) applications.
 - This **will not require mentoring** (or program progress) to change and be issued the new PL but will require the withdrawal letter mentioned above.
- All years on the PL **will count** toward the total allowable years on a PL. (*This is a policy requirement.*)
- When **changing certification areas, or program providers**, the residency year will have to be **restarted**. (*This is also to align with policy language.*)
- When changing program types *within a provider*, PLs will be considered on a case-by-case basis for eligibility for residency continuing through the change.

Phase 1 of the New System



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The Teacher Certification Online portal, question, and application system is being implemented in phases. Phase 1 included the updating of the question submission system. Implementation occurred on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, after business hours.

Users need:

- [MyLa account](#)
- EdLink Security access (HR/Prep user roles only)
 - [Human Resources users](#)
 - [Preparation Provider users](#)
- Access to the Teacher Certification ZenDesk Help Center
- Accounts using generic emails will have to transition to individual accounts

There are various security options to access the new system. All users will need a MyLa account; some users will also need an EdLink Security request and will need to request access to the Teacher Cert ZenDesk Help Center. Educator end users only need a MyLa account. The instructions for [creating a MyLA User ID and Account](#) can be found on TeachLouisiana.net. HR & Prep need the EdLink Security role. Users that were authenticated HR & Prep users before implementation were 'batch uploaded' with access to the new system. Since the system has gone live, the LDOE needs assistance in 'testing' to ensure appropriate access has been granted. Be sure to use the same email address to log in to the Office Hours portal as used to log in to TeachLALive!. Any user using a generic email address to log in will be provided temporary access to the HR/Preparation level access. Instructions for new users to request Office Hours access through EdLink Security have been added on TeachLALive! when logged in to an authenticated HR or Prep account.

Phase 2 of the New System

Phase 2 of the certification system will be the Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) portal. It will be a part of the larger Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP) that houses evaluation data. Phase 2 includes the application submission portion of the certification process. Development is ongoing. The anticipated launch is in the first quarter or early second quarter of 2025. Users will need:

- [MyLa account](#) (All users)
- EdLink Security access (HR & Prep users) - More information on requesting access will be provided closer to implementation

Certification Monthly Calls

There is a [new Zoom link](#) for the 2024-2025 certification monthly call. Calls will be held on the following dates for the new school year. The link has been updated on the [school system planning calendar](#); the new link and reminder may be added to individual calendars for the entire series.



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August 26, at 10:30 a.m.	September 16, at 10:30 a.m.	October 21, at 10:30 a.m.
November 18, at 10:30 a.m.	December 16, at 10:30 a.m.	January 27, at 10:30 a.m.
February 24, at 10:30 a.m.	March 17, at 10:30 a.m.	April 28, at 10:30 a.m.
May 19, at 10:30 a.m.	June 16, at 10:30 a.m.	July 21, at 10:30 a.m.