

# Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Teacher Preparation Partners,

As Louisiana looks toward the future of education, the work of teacher preparation providers has never been more critical, or more aligned to a clear, statewide strategy. We are experiencing a meaningful shift in how educators are recruited, trained, and retained, and your programs are central to this transformation.

Several key developments highlight our shared progress.

- The Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER), developed in collaboration with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), now guides preparation statewide.
- “Grow Your Own” efforts continue to expand, with the Pre-Educator Pathway now reaching more than 100 schools and over 2,000 students. This growth is building a stronger, more diverse pool of future educators entering preparation programs.
- The Teacher Preparation Advisory Workgroup ensures providers have a direct voice in shaping policy, including the ongoing refinement of the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System (TPQRS). This collaboration keeps state strategy grounded in classroom reality.
- Preparation programs are driving rapid alignment to the Science of Reading and new numeracy competencies, equipping future teachers with evidence-based practices that improve student outcomes.

Recent findings from the [Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research \(CALDER\)](#) reinforce the importance of this work. Workforce challenges are not simply about teacher shortages; they also reflect the quality of preparation, hiring practices, and retention. For providers, this means that increasing the number of candidates is not enough. Ensuring candidates are classroom-ready and prepared to remain in the profession is essential. Clinically rich experiences, including hands-on practice, coaching, and feedback, play a key role in building both effectiveness and long-term retention.

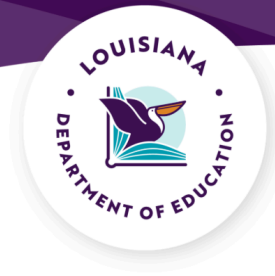
The research also highlights ongoing teacher distribution, particularly in high-need schools. Preparation providers can help address this by strengthening partnerships with these schools, aligning training to their contexts, and encouraging candidates to serve where they are most needed.

Finally, Louisiana’s decentralized hiring system presents an opportunity for stronger collaboration between providers and school systems. Aligning program design with workforce needs can improve placement, strengthen pipelines, and better support new teachers as they enter the profession.

Louisiana’s preparation providers are uniquely positioned to lead a balanced approach, one that strengthens both the quantity and quality of new teachers. By continuing to refine programs, deepen clinical practice, and build strong partnerships, you are not only preparing educators but also shaping the future of education across the state. Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence and to Louisiana’s students.

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 Dates & Events

April 20: [Certification Monthly Call](#)

April 29: [Preparation Provider Monthly Call](#)

April 30: [IPRC Deadline for Title II Reporting](#)

May 1: [Notice of Intent Opens for Fall Program Approval](#)

May 6: [Bayou Bridges Office Hours](#)

May 20: [Preparation Provider Monthly Call](#)

May 26-28: Teacher Leader Summit

### 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.

## EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT

### Geaux Teach Scholarship Program

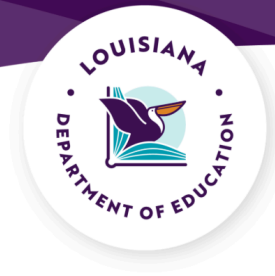
[Act 463](#) of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established the [Geaux Teach Program](#), which provides scholarships to students enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the state's postsecondary institutions approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).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

Students may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover tuition, fees, textbooks, and other instructional materials required for enrollment. Billing dates are November 1 for the fall semester/term, May 1 for the spring semester/term, and July 1 for the summer semester/term, 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](mailto:deborah.paul@la.gov) with questions.

### Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Updates



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Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is scheduled for **May 26-28** at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

Registration must be completed on the [TLS 2026 event site](#). All registrations include full access to sessions, an official TLS 2026 t-shirt, and lunch on **May 26** and **May 27**. Registration will close on **April 12**, or once capacity is reached, additional registrants will be added to a waitlist. No onsite registration will be available.

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

## Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Portfolio Assessment Vendor Application Open

LDOE is seeking applications from qualified vendors to score portfolio assessments for the Mentor Teacher and Content Leader programs. Selected vendors will evaluate the portfolios of educators who complete an approved course of study, using LDOE-approved rubrics.

Scope of Work:

- Vendors may apply to assess Mentor Teacher Portfolios, Content Leader Portfolios, or both.
- Portfolios must be scored using the approved LDOE rubrics, following a required training provided/approved by LDOE to ensure fidelity, alignment, and inter-rater reliability.

The [application](#), which includes a list of required responsibilities, is due by **April 23**, and selected vendors will be notified by **May 1**.

Please contact [mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov](mailto:mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

[Applications](#) are now open for the one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience. Open to 100 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 13-17** at Louisiana State University.

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with any questions.

## EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### 2025-2026 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 Intents (NOIs) are due by **May 1**. Full applications are due by **July 10**.



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Cycle	<u>Application Window Opens</u>	Notice of Intent Due	<u>Full Application Due</u>	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](#). If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## Numeracy Coursework Review

The LDOE will begin collecting course descriptions for updated numeracy coursework, starting with a webinar on **April 30 at 10 a.m.** Please sign up for the webinar using the [Professional Learning Form](#) by **April 28**. The Zoom meeting invite will be sent to the provided email address on **April 29**.

If you have any questions, please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## Title II IPRC Data Collection

The Title II Institution/Program Report Card (IPRC) data collection is now open. Please log in to [Title II](#) and complete the IPRC report for academic year 24-25 by the deadline, **April 30, 2026**.

If you have any questions, please contact [Title2@trewon.com](mailto:Title2@trewon.com).

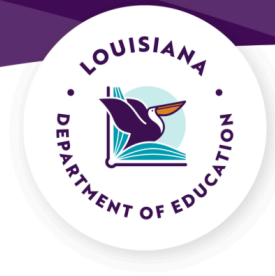
## Policy Implementation Timeline Guide

To navigate key policy changes affecting Louisiana's teacher preparation community, a [Policy Implementation Timeline Guide](#) has been developed. This resource outlines updates in literacy, dyslexia, numeracy, computer science, and English learners. The document will be updated in the coming months to reflect the August BESE policy changes.

If you have any questions, please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## LAER as a Coaching Tool

The [Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric \(LAER\) as a Coaching Tool](#) module is now available on the Professional Learning Platform. This module is designed to support preparation providers, mentor teachers, and school leaders who work with new teachers trained on the LER in using the LAER as a coaching tool. This



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does not replace the in-person training for the LAER certification.

**Course Code: 35299E95**

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with any questions.

## Bayou Bridges Office Hours

Preparation Providers are invited to join the LDOE for the fourth social studies office hours of the 2025–2026 school year. Scheduled for **May 6 at 3:15 p.m.**, the office hour will focus on the Teacher Leader Summit Overview. It will also provide an opportunity to address any questions regarding [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Join the session using the link provided below, or by accessing the [Social Studies Office Hours Flyer](#) located on the K–12 Social Studies Planning webpage.

- Webinar Date and Time: **May 6 at 3:15 p.m.**
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>
- Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799
- Meeting ID#: 974 3607 5546

Please contact [socialstudies@la.gov](mailto:socialstudies@la.gov) with questions.

## Act 260 Numeracy Training

Preparation providers are invited to use the [Numeracy Professional Learning courses](#) aligned to [Act 260](#) as a guide when enhancing coursework to align with the current [Louisiana Mathematics Teacher Competencies](#).

The [information](#) provided may be used to enroll in provider-specific courses on the [LDOE Professional Learning Platform](#).

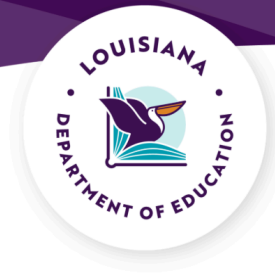
Courses specific to Educator Preparation Providers are published and should only be used by instructors of these programs. Courses specific to [teacher candidates](#) are published and may be shared.

Please contact [math@la.gov](mailto:math@la.gov) with any questions or for more information.

## CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATOR BACKGROUND CREDENTIALING

### Louisiana Educator Certification Portal (LEC)

To support systems with the transition to LEC, training materials are available on [www.teachlouisiana.net](http://www.teachlouisiana.net). These resources include user guides and video recordings designed to assist with navigating the LEC



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platform. Materials are available for each user role, including: applicants, public and non-public schools, preparation providers, and early childhood centers.

Please contact the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#) with any questions.

## Certification and Background Credentialing Monthly Calls

Calls will be held on the following dates for the 2025-2026 school year. The link has been updated on the [school system planning calendar](#); the link and reminder may be added to individual calendars for the entire series.

<del>August 18, at 10:30 a.m.</del>	September 15, at 10:30 a.m.	October 20, at 10:30 a.m.
November 17, at 10:30 a.m.	December 15, at 10:30 a.m.	January 26, at 10:30 a.m.
<del>February 23, at 10:30 a.m.</del>	March 16, at 10:30 a.m. (Canceled)	April 20, at 10:30 a.m.
May 18, at 10:30 a.m.	June 15, at 10:30 a.m.	July 20, at 10:30 a.m.