



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

We are thrilled to announce that Etio (formerly Class Measures), through a Request for Procurement (RFP) process, was approved at the August BESE meeting to serve as the external vendor who will conduct the on-site reviews for our teacher preparation programs.

Etio played a crucial role in working with LDOE to revise the rubric as well as worked closely with LDOE to develop a handbook to provide guidance around the on-site review process. Both resource tools that were developed are being used across our prep provider community. Etio's role will be twofold:

1. Etio will partner with Louisiana teacher preparation providers to conduct on-site reviews as part of the Preparation Program Experience domain of the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System. The Etio team will gather data and provide final reports and ratings for each teacher preparation provider.
2. Etio will ensure that the review processes are based on the high-quality collection of reliable, triangulated evidence. This includes emphasizing that effective evidence collation is built from review trails tested through at least three evidence collection points within the Preparation Program Experience domain and sub-criteria(s) within that domain.

Ms. Angela Prince, a long-time consultant with Etio, will serve as the Project Lead for the Etio Teacher Preparation Provider (TPP) Review Teams. Angela brings a wealth of experience to the project, having served as Lead on many reviews during the last review cycle. Angela also worked with LDOE to create the TPP On-Site Review Handbook and put the RFP deliverables into action.

Again, we are excited to introduce Angela and the Etio team to our prep provider community as they partner with LDOE to continue this most essential work. We look forward to seeing and hearing about all the amazing work our programs are doing to grow educators who grow students.

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

Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16: Certification Monthly [call](#)

September 25: Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)

October 1: Spring Program Approval Notice of Intent Due

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, September 25.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 25, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92623197552?pwd=AYoMqjVvfYDYokaCbcfmk8glcxLntE.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 926 2319 7552



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Please contact believeandprepare@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 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. Billing dates for fall semester/term is November 1; spring semester/term is May 1; and 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.

Literacy Coursework Submission

Round II literacy coursework submissions have recently been released to the literacy team for a second round of reviews. Providers were given an opportunity to resubmit course descriptions to ensure each course aligned to the science of reading competencies and to ensure each course met the required hours of literacy needed based on the area of certification teacher candidates are seeking. Feedback from the second round of reviews should be provided to providers no later than September 30.

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

Math Competencies and Act 260 Training



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[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](#).

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 for teacher candidates are published and may be shared at the provider's discretion. For more information regarding [Act 260](#), please contact STEM@la.gov.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

High-Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) Update

Materials are currently being shipped to providers from vendors. Providers who asked for digital access will be contacted directly by the vendor they requested digital access from. We are asking all providers to sign each packing slip received from each vendor you have received materials from, and email the signed slips to believeandprepare@la.gov.

The planning phase of High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) for the HQIM purchased is tentatively scheduled for late fall. HQPL around the foundational use of HQIM will be provided by Deans for Impact and HQPL around unpacking HQIM materials and doing a deep dive with content specific lessons will be provided by vendors that were commonly purchased from across our provider community.

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

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

Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) Training

Training on the new Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) was a success across each of the four training locations. We are excited to see how our preparation programs plan to implement the LAER rubric across all programs to establish common language and instructional best practices for all teacher candidates.

The [LAER rubric is a valid and reliable tool](#) which will allow teacher candidates with the ability to receive support and coaching to increase their capacity as an effective educator.

The LDOE is working closely with NIET to develop additional support and training sessions. Webinars will



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be offered to those providers who are already NIET, ATR, and/or LER trained (system-based providers only).

The focus of the webinar series is to highlight the alignment between the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER) and the Louisiana Aspiring Educators Rubric (LAER) as highlighted in the crosswalk chart included with the rubric. More information regarding the webinars and any additional levels of support or training will be forthcoming as details are finalized.

For questions regarding additional support around the use of the LAER rubric, training sessions or webinars, 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.nasdtfec.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@nasdtfec.org with any questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL



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2024-2025 Program Approval Spring Cycle

The [new program application](#) window opened on September 1 for the spring cycle for [teacher preparation programs](#), [mentor teacher](#), [content leader](#), and [ECAC](#). All Notice of Intents (NOIs) are due by **October 1**. All applications that submit a notice of intent will undergo a review process to determine if their application is aligned to policy before being moved to the full application stage. Full applications for all new programs are due December 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

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 the 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. Etio, formerly Class Measures, is the external vendor who will be conducting all on-site reviews with our teacher preparation providers.

Sign-up for those providers participating in the fall on-site review process has been completed. Providers who are scheduled for the spring on-site review cycle, will be notified no later than September 30. A follow-up email will be sent to providers with instructions on how to sign up for the preferred week to conduct reviews via the Teacher Preparation Provider (TPP) online support portal [PickTime](#).

If the assigned on-site review interferes with any other accreditation timeframe, please email believeandprepare@la.gov to request a change. This request must be on official letterhead signed by the dean or director

CERTIFICATION UPDATES & REMINDERS



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Mentor Teacher Policy Update

Effective **August 20**, the following has been updated in Bulletin 746 regarding mentor teacher certification:

- The provisional mentor teacher certificate will now be issued as a two year certificate.
- The Louisiana Educator Evaluator certificate is now a pathway for adding this endorsement (similar to the NIET pathway). The Louisiana Leader Evaluator certificate cannot be accepted for this endorsement; only the Louisiana Educator Evaluator certificate.
- Post-baccalaureate, Practitioner Licensed (PL) candidates can be mentored by a school-system based mentor teacher. Previously, a school-site based mentor could only be used.

Phase 1 of New System

The Teacher Certification Online portal, question and application system will be implemented in phases. Phase 1 includes the updating of our question submission system. The testing window occurred June 17 through July 19. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to test the system. Full implementation is set for the end of July/beginning of August.

Users will need:

- [MyLa account](#)
- EdLink Security access (HR/Prep user roles only)
- Access to the Teacher Certification ZenDesk Help Center

End users will only need a MyLa account (instructions are linked above). Human Resource and Preparation Providers need the EdLink Security role; instructions on how to request this role will come later. At the moment, we are trying to transfer those who have the current role in a batch to the new system and this has not been fully tested. If the batch transition does not work properly, we will provide instruction on how to request this role in additional communications.

Certification Monthly Calls

Beginning with the August Certification Monthly Call, there will be a [new zoom link](#) for the 2024-2025 school year. Calls will be held on the following dates for the new school year. The link has been updated on the [school system planning calendar](#) if you wish to add the new link for the entire series to your calendar.

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.

Application Submission Deadline



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To be eligible for associated funding and stipends, **resident teacher, practitioner teacher, and mentor teacher** certifications must be issued by **October 1**. To guarantee the issuance of the appropriate certificate, the required **complete application** must be **submitted** in the online certification portal by **September 1**.

These applications will be prioritized during the month of September to ensure they are processed and issued by October 1. Any **incomplete** applications or applications not submitted by September 1 **may not** be processed and issued in time for the October 1 deadline. This deadline applies to candidates who also need the mentor waiver. MT candidates who don't hold the credential and need the waiver, need to have the MT waiver **approved by October 1** to be eligible for stipend funding. Mentor Teacher Waiver questions should be submitted to believeandprepare@la.gov.

New Applications

All applications are **required** to be the June 1, 2024 version for processing. The new version is on the new LDOE branding; therefore the difference between the versions is much easier to determine. Any application **not** on this version will be “kicked back” unprocessed.

Literacy Coursework Requirements

Candidates completing Louisiana teacher preparation programs on or after **September 1** are required to have completed literacy coursework semester hours or equivalent contact hours for initial certification.

- **3** semester hours for Secondary or All-level general education areas
- **6** semester hours for Middle School 4-8 general education areas
- **9** semester hours for Birth to Kindergarten, PreK-3rd Grade, Elementary 1-5, and **all** Special Education areas, including integrated-to-merged Mild/Moderate programs
- A Teaching of Reading exam **CANNOT** be accepted in place of literacy coursework for initial certification candidates completing after 9/1/2024

Literacy Exam Requirements

Beginning **January 1, 2024**, **Out-of-State** applicants authorized to teach grades K-3 and Special education areas, not meeting exam requirements with experience will need to take the Teaching of Reading exam **in addition** to content and pedagogy exams. The exam is required for the add-on policy which is effective **September 1**.

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. If an applicant is applying for initial certification with an add-on **after September 1**, if the add-on area requires the exam, the Certification Office will be looking for the exam.

New Literacy Exam Option

BESE adopted the Louisiana Elementary Multiple-Subjects [Praxis exam \(7001\)](#), which includes the Teaching of Reading exam, as a part of the English Language Arts subtest. This new exam:



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

The 5205 is **not interchangeable** with the 7002. The 7002 includes the ELA portion of the multiple subjects exam **and** the Teaching of Reading exam. The 5205 is only the Teaching of Reading Elementary exam. It does not include the ELA portion of the Elementary Multiple Subjects exam. Teacher candidates in the elementary grades need both the ELA portion and a Teaching of Reading portion. Therefore, candidates can take the 5002 **plus** the 5205, or the 7002 to meet these requirements.

The LDOE was made aware that the 7001 was not available or showing up on the ETS website on June 1 as it should. However, after many communications with ETS, the 7001 should now be available for Louisiana students to register on the ETS website.

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 documented with the completion certificate (application cannot be processed without documentation). Anyone using LETRS training will need to submit all LETRS 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)

For add-ons in certification areas **authorized to teach grades K-3 and special education**, educators must meet:

- General literacy contact or semester hour equivalent requirements

AND

- Teaching of Reading exam requirements (Elementary)

These changes will be effective **September 1**. Add-on Literacy requirements **cannot** be fulfilled with two exams. Please be aware that 5205/7002 **cannot** satisfy both the exam and the semester hours requirement.

Please contact certification@la.gov with any questions.