



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

As Louisiana continues its efforts to strengthen teacher preparation, the importance of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) in educator preparation programs (EPPs) cannot be overstated. A recent [article](#) from the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) highlights how embedding HQIM into EPP coursework and field experiences equips aspiring teachers to meet the demands of today's classrooms with confidence, clarity, and content knowledge.

NIET's work in Arkansas has shown that when EPP faculty are trained to model HQIM-aligned practices, aspiring teachers are better prepared to deliver instruction that meets the needs of diverse learners. This approach emphasizes the need for EPPs to "go first" by building internal capacity, aligning training with state standards, and bridging the gap between theory and classroom practice.

In Louisiana, we have taken similar steps to provide access to HQIM and targeted professional learning for preparation providers. However, participation remains low. We encourage EPPs to take full advantage of the year-round support and training offered by the LDOE's academic content team, as well as the modules on the [Professional Learning Platform](#). These opportunities are designed to strengthen instruction, better align programs with K-12 priorities, and ultimately support our shared goal of preparing effective teachers from day one.

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

August 18: [Certification Monthly call](#)

August 27: [Preparation Provider Monthly call](#)

### 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

### Mentor and Content Leader Provider Data Needed

The LDOE is requesting that all Mentor and Content Leader Providers submit their [Data Enrollment Reporting Templates](#) from August 2022 - July 2023 AND August 2023 - July 2024 to [MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov](mailto:MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov) as soon as possible. Even if this data has been previously submitted, please resend the templates. This data must be included in the BESE Mentor and Content Leader Training Provider Effectiveness Report.

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

### Mentor Credential Waiver Portal is OPEN

Since September 2020, every teacher who serves as the mentor of an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate candidate must hold the Mentor Certificate or the Provisional Mentor Ancillary Certificate. Prompted by a shortage of credentialed Mentor Teachers willing to host residents specifically in certain content areas, BESE has allowed a waiver of the Mentor Credential since the 2020-2021 school year.

This application process will be completed by system leads, mentors, principals and in the case of the Alternate Mentor Waiver, education preparation providers.

The portals for [Traditional Mentor Waivers](#) and [Alternate Mentor Waivers](#) opened on August 7, 2025.

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



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## Mentor and Resident Funding Overview Call

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the data collection for Mentor compensation will take place using a similar process to what was used in 2024-2025. Join the Fall 2025 Mentor and Resident Funding call to review the funding eligibility and process.

- Webinar Date and Time: August 21 at 1 p.m..
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97982936667>
- Meeting ID: 979 8293 6667
- Passcode: 839221
- Phone: 312 626 6799

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

## EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### 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.

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



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## Fall LAER Training

Training on the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) will be held this upcoming school year. Training dates are as follows:

- [September 11-12, 2025](#), Louisiana Tech University (Ruston)
- [January 15-16, 2026](#), University of Louisiana at Monroe
- February TBD

Please share the registration links with residency/placement coordinators, university supervisors, or those responsible for observing and evaluating residency students.

Should providers wish to include faculty members who are not the residency or placement coordinators or university supervisors, please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## Fall LAER Recertification

The LAER [Annual Recertification](#) window is open in [EE PASS](#). Recertification is required to continue evaluating aspiring educators. Recertification will be available in NIET's [EE PASS](#) from **July 7, 2025, until September 18, 2025**.

To complete the recertification assessment:

- Sign in to your [EE PASS](#) account.
- Refer to the Navigating [EE PASS 2.0 Teacher Evaluator Certification Assessment](#) document for guidance on accessing the LAER certification assessment.
- Once you have successfully passed the LAER recertification, download and save your Certificate of Completion for your records.

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

## Specialized Dyslexia Training

A free dyslexia course is available that would fulfill the "specialized training" outlined in [Bulletin 996](#) for instructors teaching the dyslexia coursework.

Enrollment in Coursera's [Overcoming Dyslexia](#) is currently free and includes nine modules. These modules will focus on advancements in dyslexia research, federal statutes, and pedagogical methods for teaching students with dyslexia.

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

## Act 260 Numeracy Training



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Preparation providers are highly encouraged to complete the [Numeracy Professional Learning courses](#) aligned to [Act 260](#) as a guide when enhancing coursework to align with 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](mailto:STEM@la.gov).

## CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING

### Educator Background Credentialing

#### Certification Application System Verifies Fingerprint Clearance Automatically

The Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) system, accessible through the [Louisiana Educator Portal \(LEP\)](#), launched on July 28, now streamlines the criminal background check (CBC) process for certification applicants. In the past, providers and teacher candidates had to either look up a “Clear Credential” manually on [www.teachlouisiana.net](http://www.teachlouisiana.net) or find out a background check was missing only after a certification application was returned unprocessed. Under the new system, that step is automated from the start.

Before an applicant can view or access certification applications, the LEC Portal checks for a valid “Clear Credential” or a CBC on file that is less than five years old. If the applicant has not yet been cleared, the only available option will be the **"Fingerprint Clearance Required Before Proceeding"** application.

Applicants should select that application type and follow the guided steps, which include:

- Verifying demographic information
- Answering professional conduct questions
- Uploading a valid photo ID and Social Security card
- Downloading the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#)
- Completing the no-fee application checkout

This process ensures the candidate's information is correctly entered into the Teacher Certification Management System (TCMS). Once the candidate completes their fingerprinting appointment, the Clear Credential will typically be issued within a day or two. At that point, candidates can return to the LEC Portal and access all certification applications available to their account.

LEC User Guides are available on the [www.teachlouisiana.net](http://www.teachlouisiana.net) homepage.

Certification and Background Credentialing questions are submitted in the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#).



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## 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), and within [TeachLALive!](#). These resources include user guides and video recordings designed to assist with navigating the LEC 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 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.

August 18, at 10:30 a.m.	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.
February 23, at 10:30 a.m.	March 16, at 10:30 a.m.	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.