



January 26, 2017

Dear partners in teacher preparation,

Thank you for taking a moment to read this first edition of the monthly Believe and Prepare newsletter. Over the past year, preparation partners have asked for streamlined, accessible updates from Department and information about grant opportunities, meetings, and partnership tools, which is what this newsletter will provide.

Educator preparation programs in Louisiana are [leading the nation](#) in developing classroom-based programs for aspiring teachers. By July 2018, teacher preparation programs in Louisiana will ensure that all aspiring teachers complete a yearlong residency alongside an experienced mentor teacher.

In making this shift, Louisiana is following the path of many academically high-achieving nations that have made significant changes to the education profession by professionalizing teacher preparation. Soon, all teachers will prepare for their career as physicians, architects, and engineers do, under the close mentorship of a trained expert.

When BESE approved these program design shifts, they also approved a set of financial supports. In the weeks ahead, the state will make the first round of grants to institutions of higher learning and to the districts that host yearlong undergraduate residents and mentors. BESE approved these [grants](#) in their meeting this week.

Educators across the state have [expressed support](#) for these shifts in local and national news media, and in focus groups and public meetings held over the past three years.

On February 13, preparation providers and their district partners will gather in Baton Rouge for a Believe and Prepare community meeting. The meeting will be led by U.S. PREP National Center, a nationwide leader in teacher preparation, and will focus on structures to support strong school system and preparation provider partnerships. I hope that you will join us.

Thank you for your commitment to preparing the next generation of Louisiana's teachers.

John

John White
State Superintendent of Education

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES FOR SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND PREPARATION PROVIDERS

In this edition, you will find information about the following important events:

- Jan 30 Preparation Program Provider Webinar
- Jan 30 [High-Cost Needs Pool Application](#) due
- Feb 13 Winter Believe and Prepare Community Meeting ([RSVP](#) by February 3)
- Feb 23 Believe and Prepare Newsletter

For more information contact BelieveandPrepare@la.gov.

EDUCATOR HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to these educators and preparation leaders who are making national headlines:

- Four Louisiana educators were featured in the [Education Week "Career Corner" blog](#), citing the benefits of yearlong residencies for aspiring teachers.
- Jon Bogard, Mentor Teacher, Collegiate Academies: [Professional Reflections of a Mentor Teacher](#)
- Chandler W. Smith, Principal, Plaquemine High School: [A Principal's Challenge](#)
- Shavonda Washington, Teacher, Cypress Springs Elementary: [My Residency Experience: Paying it Forward](#)
- Serena White, Curriculum Supervisor, Monroe City Schools: [Teacher Preparation is Evolving](#)

During the week of October 24, 2016, the Milken Family Foundation awarded two Louisiana educators with the Milken Educator Award and a \$25,000 cash prize. Congratulations to [Catherine Randall](#), a graduate of the University of New Orleans and Our Lady of Holy Cross, who is currently a teacher at Joseph J. Davies Elementary School in St. Bernard Parish and adjunct faculty at University of Holy Cross, and [Devon Willis-Jones](#), a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, who is currently the principal of Jeanerette Elementary School in Iberia Parish.



Catherine Randall with students

Louisiana Tech University has been selected to host the 2017 National Field Experience Conference (NFES). This is an opportunity to share information, practices, policies and research pertaining to teacher candidates' field experiences with colleagues across the nation. For more information, visit the [NFES website](#).

BELIEVE AND PREPARE UPDATES

BELIEVE AND PREPARE COMMUNICATIONS

Structure	Purpose
Believe and Prepare Newsletter <i>Released the last Thursday of each month.</i>	The Believe and Prepare newsletter provides preparation program leadership and faculty and district leaders with information about grant opportunities, meetings, and partnership tools.

Believe and Prepare Educator Preparation Provider Webinar	Facilitated by Department staff, this monthly webinar provides education preparation updates to deans, directors, and their designees.
Tomorrow's Teacher: A Believe and Prepare Educator Blog <i>Updated the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month beginning in February.</i>	Written by Louisiana educators, these bi-monthly blog posts offer an educator's perspective on teaching and learning inside Believe and Prepare preparation programs.

For more information, please contact BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov.

BELIEVE AND PREPARE JANUARY EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER WEBINAR

Monthly educator preparation program webinars will resume on Monday, **January 30** at 2:00 p.m. You and your faculty members are invited to participate.

- **Webinar Login Information**
- Meeting Name: Teacher Preparation
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/teacherpreparation/>
- Audio access via phone bridge: **1-855-240-2575**; enter the participant code **91287604** when prompted.

For more information, please contact BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov.

COMING SOON: UPDATED TEACHER PREPARATION TRANSITION GUIDE

The Teacher Preparation Transition Guide will be updated to include the partnership tools to support:

- Establishing a new school system-teacher preparation provider partnership
- Developing governance meeting protocols
- Planning for and facilitating governance meetings

Please attend the February 13 [Believe and Prepare community meeting](#) for detailed information.

FORMULA FUNDS TO BE RELEASED

At their January meeting, BESE approved the following formula funding allocations. These allocations allow districts to distribute funds to yearlong undergraduate residents and their mentor teachers. The funds will also support transition costs at universities.

Universities	\$1,007,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support staff costs related to the transition of preparation programs
18 School Districts	\$593,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,000 stipend for 233 teacher candidates completing yearlong residencies • \$1,000 stipend for 228 mentor teachers hosting yearlong residents

Note: Stipend amounts have been prorated for some residents and mentors based on program completion dates and mentor teacher assignment.

For more information, please click [here](#).

HIGH-COST NEEDS POOL APPLICATION

Any BESE approved provider; including institutions that applied for formula funding, may be eligible for supplemental funding of up to \$50,000 to support the following activities:

- Accelerated design, approval, and/or launch of aligned programs

- Essential, unique, high-cost needs that must be met in order to successfully transition programs and obtain BESE approval

Please see the [Teacher Preparation Transition Guide](#) (pages 8-9) for detailed information.

[High-Cost Needs Pool Applications](#) are due on **January 30, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**

LOUISIANA TEACHER PREPARATION COMPETENCIES

The Louisiana competencies for initial teacher certification define what a teacher candidate must know and be able to do in order to be eligible for certification upon completion of a BESE-approved teacher preparation program. BESE approved these competencies in October.

They are available [here](#).

ON-SITE REVIEW PILOT MATERIALS

The on-site review model is designed to provide teacher preparation providers with meaningful feedback on the quality of coursework and practice experiences. Louisiana's on-site reviews are based on the inspectorate model, which has been in place in the United Kingdom since 1984. A Louisiana-specific on-site review model has been developed in partnership with several preparation leaders and will be piloted in 2016-2017.

The following on-site review resources are now available in the [preparation library](#):

- [On-Site Review Handbook](#), including framework, glossaries, and stakeholder interview question guide
- [Self-Assessment Report Guide](#)
- [Pre-Visit Checklist](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document, including [sample visit schedule](#) and sample [final report](#)

Please email Jaime.Finane@la.gov with questions or feedback.

WINTER BELIEVE AND PREPARE COMMUNITY MEETING - FEBRUARY 13

During the winter meeting, preparation provider leaders and their district partners **should attend together** to learn about updated tools and resources available to support partnership development, and to learn from teacher preparation experts about:

- Establishing a formal partnership, including a memorandum of understanding (MOU)
- Developing governance meeting protocols

Date: February 13, 2017

Location: [Claiborne Building](#), 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA

Room: Thomas Jefferson

Southeast Region Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Northern, Central, and Southwest Regions Meeting Time: 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Registration: Click here to [RSVP](#) by February 3.

For more information, please contact BelieveAndPrepare@LA.gov.

2017 WORKFORCE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

The District Educator Workforce Report, an internal report released directly to each district, provides a field of data to inform district leaders' educator workforce decisions.

The 2016-2017 District Educator Workforce Report will be released in March after Superintendent and Principal reports are released.

Data in the District Educator Workforce Report may be used to inform decisions related to:

- **Recruiting and hiring**
- **Evaluating results**
- **Compensating teachers and school leaders**
- **Retaining teachers and granting tenure**

The 2016-2017 Regional Educator Workforce Report will also be released in April, following the release of the District Educator Workforce Report.

The regional reports build upon the district workforce reports by providing a field of data at the regional and state levels. These reports will support district leaders and preparation program providers in analyzing educator workforce trends relative to teacher recruitment and hiring, certification status, effectiveness, and departures.

Email Sara.Strickland@LA.gov with any questions.

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SUPERVISOR COLLABORATION EVENT

Registration for the January and February 2017 Supervisor Collaborations is now open in [CourseWhere](#). **Participants should register by today, January 26, 2017. The dates and locations for these events are:**

- January 31 in Harvey
- February 2 in Baton Rouge
- February 7 in Ruston
- February 9 in Lafayette

The Supervisor Collaboration will kick off the 2017-2018 district planning process. Please refer to the [Supervisor Collaboration Overview](#) for additional information about this event.

Key preparation **provider leaders and faculty leading design efforts** are invited to attend the following recommended sessions with their school district partners:

- 2017-2018 Vision for Compass
- Curriculum & Instruction: Math, Science, or Social Studies
- ESSA Plan with Superintendent White
- ELL and Special Education

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions about this event.

NATIONAL FIELD EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE

[National Field Experience Conference proposals due February 1, 2017.](#)

This is an opportunity to share information, practices, and policies and research pertaining to teacher candidates' experiences in school settings with colleagues across the nation. All Believe and Prepare governance team members, school system leaders who coordinate with teacher preparation providers on residency development, and clinical faculty should attend.

Date: April 5-7, 2017

Location: Louisiana Tech University

Presented by: Louisiana Tech University and University of Northern Colorado

Proposals are now being accepted. Submissions will be received until February 1, 2017.

For more information, visit the NFES website at <http://www.unco.edu/cebs/nfec/>.

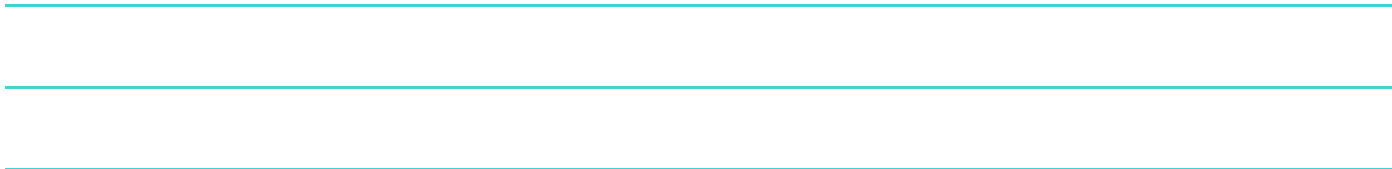
READ THE PUBLIC COMMENT FROM SCIENCE STANDARDS REVIEW

The public comment period for the science standards review process has closed. A [summary of the public comments](#) can be accessed on the the LDOE [Louisiana Student Standards Review](#) web page. The complete set of raw data, including emails sent to LouisianaStandards@la.gov, are located in the [Standards Review Materials and Resources](#).

Considering this public feedback, the science standards workgroups reconvened this week to revise the draft science standards. The second draft was submitted to the science standards committee and discussed at a public meeting on January 25, 2017. If needed, the draft will go back to the workgroup for revisions prior to being considered by the committee on February 13, 2017 for submission to BESE for approval in March 2017.

Detailed information on the standards review process can be found on the LDOE [Louisiana Student Standards Review web page](#).

Email louisianastandardsreview@la.gov with questions.



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