



***U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, Southeastern University Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Paula Calderon (right), and first year teacher Payton Bryant (left)***

Five universities were selected to meet as one [US PREP Coalition](#) with U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to advocate for university-based teacher education programs. There are seven inaugural partners of the US PREP Coalition with Southeastern Louisiana University being the only Coalition member in Louisiana. Payton Bryant, a May 2018 graduate of the elementary education program and 2018 Resident Student Teacher of the Year, is in her first year of teaching at Luling Elementary School in St. Charles Parish. She advocated for rigorous university-based programs and has been considered more experienced than a traditional first-year teacher because of her four-year program with a culminating year-long residency.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- February 25: On-Site Review Q&A Conference Call
- March 12: BESE Educator Effectiveness Committee Meeting
- March 13: BESE Meeting

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

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- **February 14:** Deadline to complete preparation provider [data verification process](#)
- **February 15:** Deadline to complete preparation provider [faculty survey](#)
- **February 21:** Deadline to complete the [onsite-review feedback survey](#)
- **February 28:** Deadline for preparation providers to identify any corrections that need to be made in the [Title II system](#) (email about this process will be forthcoming).

## BELIEVE AND PREPARE UPDATES

### **STATE-APPROVED MENTOR TEACHER AND CONTENT LEADER TRAININGS**

In October 2018, [BESE approved regulations to establish new state credentials for classroom teachers](#) who serve as mentors to aspiring teachers and as curriculum experts within their schools. The credentials, Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Certificates, are ancillary certificates and count toward requirements to obtain the certificate needed to become an assistant principal or principal.

**The mentor teacher certificate will be required for teachers who mentor undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents beginning in September 2020**, eventually replacing the previously required Supervisor of Student Teaching credential.

**To earn the certificates, candidates must:**

- complete a state-approved training program, and
- complete the Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series or the Louisiana Content Leader Assessment Series, specially designed [licensure assessments](#) unique to each role.

Beginning in fall 2017, the Department has offered Mentor Teacher and Content Leader trainings and will continue to offer these trainings through 2019-2020.

**Beginning in 2019, the Department will approve universities, school systems, and other organizations to offer Content Leader and Mentor Teacher trainings.**

To transition from state-provided trainings to state-approved trainings, **the Department released an RFA on January 16** to support new providers' development of these programs. The Department received 16 applications from interested providers. Applications are currently being reviewed and selected providers will be announced in early March.

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

## **PREPARATION PROVIDER FACULTY SURVEY**

Instructional materials are one of the most important tools educators use in the classroom to enhance student learning. The Department is committed to ensuring that every classroom has access to a high-quality curriculum. In Louisiana all school systems are able to purchase instructional materials that are best for their local communities, since those closest to students are best positioned to decide which instructional materials are appropriate for their school systems and classrooms.

The first place that teachers learn about high-quality curriculum materials is in their teacher preparation programs. The Department is administering a [survey](#), which will help the Department gain a better understanding of faculty's use of high-quality curriculum materials in teacher preparation coursework. Information gathered through this survey will help the Department determine appropriate resources and supports to offer to preparation providers and school systems around the curriculum materials that K-12 educators most frequently use.

If you are a faculty member of a teacher preparation provider program, we ask that you complete the [survey](#) by **Friday, February 15**.

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

## **TEACHER AND LEADER PIPELINE**

### **MENTOR TEACHER AND CONTENT LEADER NOMINATION PROCESS**

Beginning in early March, the Department will launch the nomination process for the last year of state-provided Mentor Teacher and Content Leader trainings.

Similar to last year's process, there will be one nomination template with separate tabs for both mentor teacher and content leader nominees. The nomination template will be posted in both the [Mentor Teacher](#) and [Content Leader](#) libraries. The deadline to submit the nomination template will be **April 18**.

School systems and charter schools are responsible for submitting nominees. **Preparation provider faculty should work closely with school system partners to determine nominees for Mentor Teacher training.**

The Department will hold a webinar on **March 15 at 3:30 p.m.** to provide additional guidance around mentor teacher and content leader nominations. Pre-registration is not required.

Topic: Mentor Teacher & Content Leader Nomination Webinar  
Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/719247319>  
Webinar Phone Numbers: 669-900-6833 OR 408-638-0968  
Meeting ID#: 719 247 319

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

## TEACHER PREPARATION ACCOUNTABILITY

### DATA VERIFICATION PROCESS

All preparation providers will be required to complete a data verification process in order to verify that their 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 program completion data in the [Louisiana Data Review portal](#) is accurate and consistent with provider records. This data will be used to create the performance profiles and for the data exchange.

The data verification portal opened on **January 21** and will close on **February 14 (please note that this date has been pushed back from the original closing date of February 7)**. **Providers should complete this process by February 14 to ensure that the data that will be used to calculate the performance profiles are accurate.**

All deans/department heads received an email prior to January 21 containing their username and guidance on how to access the data verification portal. Deans/department heads can also request usernames for additional employees at their institution to access the portal by sending an email to [robert.markle@la.gov](mailto:robert.markle@la.gov) with the following information: (1) employee's first name, (2) employee's last name, and (3) employee's email address.

To assist providers with the completion of the data verification process, the Department has developed a [user guide](#) that explains how to access the data verification portal and complete the process. The user guide is posted in the [Preparation Library](#) on the [Department's website](#).

In addition to this guide, the Department has posted a [tutorial webinar](#) that will explain how to use the data verification portal.

Providers who would like additional technical assistance should access this [link](#) to schedule an appointment for an individual technical assistance call. After selecting an appointment, providers will receive a follow-up email to verify the contact information for the call.

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

### ON-SITE REVIEW Q&A CONFERENCE CALL

In 2018, the Department announced a competitive proposal process to select a vendor who will conduct the on-site reviews beginning in fall 2019. This on-site review contract has been awarded to Class Measures, Inc., which has nearly two decades of experience conducting on-site reviews for schools, state departments, and other educational organizations. This selection means that the on-site reviews that will be conducted beginning in fall 2019 will be conducted by Class Measures.

In light of this information, the Department will hold a conference call on **Monday, February 25, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** to allow providers to (1) ask questions about the on-site review process and (2) provide feedback that will inform the agenda for the on-site review workgroup that will begin in the spring.

Topic: On-Site Review Q&A Conference Call  
Conference Line: 605-468-8759  
Meeting ID#: 203169

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

## **ON-SITE REVIEW FEEDBACK SURVEY**

The Department will reconvene the on-site review workgroup in spring 2019 to discuss potential shifts to the on-site review framework and process. To inform the specific topics that will be discussed in the workgroup meetings, the Department has created a [survey](#) for teacher preparation providers. The purpose of this survey is to obtain feedback about specific aspects of the on-site review framework and to gauge interest in participating in the workgroup.

If you are a teacher preparation provider, please complete the [survey](#) by EOD on February 21.

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

## **TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL**

### **REQUESTS TO OFFER NEW PROGRAMS**

Preparation providers seeking approval to offer new programs that result in initial certification must follow the process outlined below. Preparation providers must first submit a [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI), and once that is received, the Department will send a link to the application.

Current and new providers may access resources available on the [Department's website](#) via the [Preparation Library](#).

Notice of Intent Submitted By	Application Submission Deadline	Evaluation Period	Notification of Evaluation Results	BESE Considers (if recommended for approval)
11/16/2018	12/14/2018	1/4/2019-3/15/2019	3/18/2019	4/17/2019
7/1/2019	8/1/2019	8/1/2019-9/13/2019	9/13/2019	10/15/2019

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## **NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW EDUCATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

The Department is excited to announce the [launch of Classroom Chronicles](#), a monthly blog series that highlights the inspiring everyday work of Louisiana educators. Each month, the blog will spotlight an educator who is taking that extra step to make an impact on the lives of their students, school and community. *Classroom Chronicles* will be promoted on the [Department's website](#), in its newsletters, and through social media.

The [January edition](#) of *Classroom Chronicles*, "Caught Being Kind," features Kathryn Ferguson, the 2019 Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year from Caddo parish. In the post, Kathryn tells the story of how she is helping to promote kindness in her school through the "Spartan Kindness Check" initiative.

Do you know an educator who is making an impact in your community? If so, nominate them for an upcoming edition of *Classroom Chronicles* by completing this quick [form](#). If the educator you have nominated is selected, a member of the Department's communication team will be in touch.

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