



Jeremy Davis, a 2018-2019 ELA Content Leader from Lawrence D. Crocker College Prep in New Orleans leads instruction with his students.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 11: BESE Committee Meetings
- December 12: BESE Board Meeting and BESE/BoR Joint Meeting
- January 1: [Child Care Criminal Background Check Fee Increases](#)
- January 14: [Webinar](#) on yearlong resident and mentor data corrections process
- January 17: Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Regional Meeting (Natchitoches)
- January 18: Data Verification Technical Assistance webinar
- January 22: BESE Committee Meetings
- January 22: Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Regional Meeting (Baton Rouge)
- January 23: BESE Board Meeting
- January 23: Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Regional Meeting (New Orleans)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- **December 15:** Deadline to submit budget applications in eGMS for 2018-2019 formula funding and Impact Collaborative funding
- **January 30:** Deadline to submit corrections to yearlong resident and mentor data
- **February 7:** Deadline to complete preparation provider data verification process

BELIEVE AND PREPARE UPDATES

SUPER APP

In November 2018, the Department launched the 'Super App,' which allows school systems to **access their federal formula and competitive dollars through one application, on one timeline.**

One component of the Super App requires school systems to describe their plan for addressing workforce needs in struggling schools, including [CIR and UIR schools](#). This component is born out of a federal requirement in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires school systems to develop improvement strategies for their struggling schools and to submit those strategies to the state.

We strongly encourage preparation provider partners and school systems to work collaboratively to create this plan as a component of the Super App, which may include the development of MOUs that structure partnerships between providers and school systems. There will be a session offered at the January collaboratives, which will allow school systems and preparation providers to discuss these partnerships.

For information about developing MOUs, please review the Department's [sample MOU](#), which is accessible in the [Preparation Library](#).

Please visit [School System Planning in Louisiana](#) for more information about the Super App and technical support with the application.

BELIEVE AND PREPARE FUNDING

The deadline to submit budgets for Believe and Prepare formula funds and Believe and Prepare Impact Collaborative is this Saturday, **December 15**. BESE approved formula fund allocations for undergraduate resident and mentor stipends for 2018-2019 on October 16. These funds were allocated directly to school system partners. School systems and preparation providers should work collaboratively to ensure that mentor and resident stipends are paid out appropriately. The Department will conduct a data collection process in January to correct any issues with resident and mentor stipends.

Please contact Nicole.Bono@la.gov with questions regarding Believe and Prepare funding.

JANUARY REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES

The next round of regional collaboratives will take place between late-January and early-February, and offer sessions relevant to preparation provider work, as well as opportunities for preparation providers and school system leaders to collaborate. Topics include support tools for Mentor Teachers and Content Leaders, as well as discussions relative to the use of workforce reports to identify workforce needs and establish effective MOUs between school systems and preparation provider partners. **Mark your calendar to attend one of the following events.** Final logistical details will be included in the January Believe and Prepare newsletter, but sessions for preparation providers and school system level administrators will be offered in the morning.

- January 28: Baton Rouge
- January 31: Jefferson Parish School Board Building, Harvey
- February 5: Trinity United Methodist Church, Ruston
- February 7: Calcasieu Parish Assessment Building, Lake Charles

Please contact Nicole Bono at nicole.bono@la.gov with any questions.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FEE INCREASE

Beginning January 1, 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will increase their criminal record search fee by \$1.25. The current fee for the FBI portion is \$12.00. With the increase, **the criminal record search fee will be \$13.25 total starting January 1, 2019.**

As a result of the criminal record search fee increase, there will also be an increase in the total amount of Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) fingerprint fees through the fingerprint vendor. The total fingerprint fee (excluding the Department and DCFS fee) is currently \$48.00. **Starting January 1, 2019 the fingerprint fees will total \$49.25.**

Please contact Valerie.Black@la.gov with any questions.

TEACHER AND LEADER PIPELINE

MENTOR TEACHER AND CONTENT LEADER TRAINING

The Department has and is offering Mentor Teacher and Content Leader training from 2017-2020. Beyond 2019-2020, the Department will approve programs to offer Content Leader and Mentor Teacher training. In preparation for the final year of training, the Department strongly encourages preparation providers and partnering school systems to work together to identify the strongest nominees to participate in the last year of state-led training. Nominees should have a strong record of making academic gains with students, effective communication skills, strong organizational skills, and a willingness to support and coach other teachers.

The nomination process will kick off in March 2019. CIR schools will be required to send someone to Mentor Teacher training, ELA Content Leader training, and math Content Leader training.

In order to transition from state-provided training to state-approved trainings, the Department will release an RFA in mid-January to pilot other providers offering this training during the 2019-2020 school year. Look for more information about the RFA release in the January Believe and Prepare newsletter.

Please contact Nicole.Bono@la.gov with questions regarding Mentor Teacher or Content Leader training.

YEARLONG RESIDENT AND MENTOR DATA COLLECTION

In January, the Department will facilitate a data collection process to make corrections to the 2018-2019 yearlong resident and mentor data. This data was originally collected in August 2018, and allocations were approved by BESE in October 2018. The purpose of this data collection is to make corrections to the data collected in August. Corrections could include deleting residents who have dropped, adding residents who were accidentally left off of the August collection, or noting changes in mentors. **Data templates must be submitted by school systems no later than January 31, 2019.**

A webinar will be held on **Monday, January 14, 2019, from 1:00-2:00 pm** to provide guidance to preparation providers and school systems about the data collection process. All school systems and preparation providers with yearlong residents should join this webinar.

- Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/100441367>
- Dial in +16468769923,,100441367#

TEACHER PREPARATION ACCOUNTABILITY

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM REGIONAL MEETINGS

In June 2017, BESE approved the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System. The purpose of the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System is to provide teacher preparation providers with meaningful information for improvement, identify programs of excellence and programs in need of improvement, and reward programs for meeting Louisiana's educator workforce needs. This system is being phased in over a five-year period. The 2018-2019 school year is the first year of the two-year learning phase. In spring 2019, preparation providers will receive performance profiles for their programs. These profiles will not be made public during the learning phase.

In preparation for releasing the performance profiles, the Department would like to hold regional meetings in January 2019, to receive feedback from preparation providers on the draft performance profiles, review the data verification process, and receive further feedback on the Teacher Quality proposal that BESE will consider in March. These meetings will be held at the locations below on the following dates:

- Natchitoches: January 17, 2019, from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm at Northwestern State University (Room TBD)
- Baton Rouge: January 22, 2019, from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the Department (Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room A)
- New Orleans: January 23, 2019, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm (Location TBD)

At the November Supervisor Collaborations, TPI-US facilitated a session relative to the on-site review process. Please visit the [link](#) to access the slides from their presentation.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

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 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 will open on **January 14** and will close on **February 7**. **Providers should complete this process by February 7, at the latest, to ensure that the data that will be used to calculate the performance profiles are accurate.**

To assist providers with the completion of the data verification process, the Department will hold technical assistance webinars on the following dates:

- Friday, January 18, 2019, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.
- Friday, February 1, 2019, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Providers who are not able to attend the webinars on the above dates or who would like additional technical assistance can schedule an individual technical assistance call with Rob Markle, Director of Program Approval.

To make an appointment, please visit the following link to select an appointment time: <https://doodle.com/poll/5dtdmpf52xqghg2y>. After selecting an appointment, providers will receive a follow-up email to verify the contact information for the call.

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.

In January, the Department will conduct a survey of preparation provider faculty to gain a better understanding of faculty's use of high-quality curriculum materials in teacher preparation coursework. The survey will be sent directly to faculty members. Please encourage all faculty to complete the survey.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

APPROVED EXTENSION REQUESTS

During the January 2019 BESE Committee Meeting, BESE will receive updates from providers who received teacher preparation program alignment extensions. These reports are currently being drafted, and the Department will reach out to providers individually with any clarifying questions.

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 Louisiana Believes via the [Preparation Library](#).

Notice of Intent Submitted By	Application Submission Deadline	Evaluation Period	Notification of Evaluation Results	BESE Considers (<i>if recommended for approval</i>)
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

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

REPORT RELEASE ON MENTORING IN POST-BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS

In Louisiana, there are [two pathways to teaching](#), undergraduate and post-baccalaureate.

Teaching candidates prepared through undergraduate programs participate in [yearlong, classroom-based teaching residencies](#) with ample time for practice with a mentor teacher.

Post-baccalaureate candidates, who make up roughly half of all teachers in Louisiana, are prepared through “alternate certification” training programs that require significantly less pre-service practice under the tutelage of a mentor teacher, compared to undergraduate residents, before serving as a teacher of record.

Research shows that structured support from and practice with a strong mentor teacher has a significant impact on teacher success and student growth. Therefore, during the 2018-2019 school year, the Department is supporting a pilot community of rural school systems that are implementing innovative approaches to post-baccalaureate preparation, which include:

- strategic partnerships with teacher preparation providers,
- extensive time for practice throughout the school year, and
- mentoring by expert teachers at each school site.

On December 6, the Department released a [report](#) highlighting important lessons learned from these pilots thus far, including the impact of increasing the amount of mentoring required as part of a post-baccalaureate program.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

The Teacher and Principal of the Year application process for the 2018-2019 school year is now open. All applications, materials, and timelines are now available in the [Award Programs Library](#), which can be accessed on the [Award's page](#).

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. Please help reach the goal of 100 percent school system participation.

State-level applications are due by **January 23, 2019**.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.