



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

Seasons Greetings! As we move forward through this holiday season, we wanted to highlight our first preparation provider in the spotlight- Southeastern University. The National Council on Teacher Quality has recognized the undergraduate teacher preparation program at Southeastern Louisiana University for its pioneering efforts in supporting aspiring teachers as they complete their clinical practice experiences, also known as teaching residency.

The Southeastern case study, featured in [NCTQ's new Clinical Practice Action Guide](#), details how Southeastern has built strong partnerships with local school districts to improve the clinical practice experience for aspiring teachers. It also illustrates how Southeastern has incorporated high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) and data throughout the program to enhance aspiring teachers' instructional impact.

As stated in the [featured article](#), "Southeastern Louisiana University is an excellent example of a teacher prep program getting clinical practice right," said NCTQ President Heather Peske. "As a national leader on this front, Southeastern is helping to strengthen the teacher pipeline in Louisiana and improve teacher preparation."

NCTQ used a variety of sources to identify the prep programs, districts, and states to feature in the case studies included in the action guide. We know that NCTQ made a great selection as Southeastern has been making great advances in developing aspiring teachers. Southeastern was one of two programs that worked closely with NIET and were instrumental in the development of NIET's Aspiring Teacher's Rubric (ATR), which directly impacts the work that was done to develop the Louisiana Aspiring Educators Rubric (LAER). In addition to helping create the ATR rubric, Southeastern's faculty and amazing residency teachers are featured in our LAER training session videos.

Cheers to Southeastern University for making this holiday shout-out warm and bright and for working so diligently to develop stronger teachers in a new light.

Wishing all of our preparation provider community a wonderful holiday season,

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

Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development



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## NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Events

**December 16:** Certification Monthly [call](#)

**December 11:** Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)

### Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, December 11.

#### Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 11, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:**  
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92623197552?pwd=AYoMqjVyfYDYokaCbcfmk8glcxLntE.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 926 2319 7552

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

### 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

### Teacher Leader Summit

Presenter Applications Are Now Open! We encourage you to submit your best ideas and strategies that promote excellence in education. Join us in shaping the future and empowering Louisiana's students to achieve their highest potential. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2025.



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If you're interested in sharing your knowledge with Louisiana educators from across the state, refer to the [Presenter Submission Guide](#) for directions on completing [applications](#) now through January 31.

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

## Teacher Leader Summit Exhibitor Webinar

Please join an informational webinar to learn more about the application process and serving as an exhibitor at TLS 2025.

### Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 16 at 10:00 a.m. OR at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [10:00 a.m. webinar link](#) OR [3:00 p.m. webinar link](#)
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 967 9008 0920 at 10:00 a.m.; 956 1445 0094 at 3:00 p.m.

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

## Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

System leads, teacher leaders, and postsecondary teacher preparation partners are invited to attend a learning visit for a day of learning and community building. During learning visits, participants will have an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their system. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend.

- McNeese State University, Unlock Education Event - January 23, 2025

## 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.



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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.

## Act 260 Training

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 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).

## 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.nasdtec.net/page/Membership>.

NASDTEC looks forward to welcoming you to our community of education leaders committed to excellence in teacher licensure, preparation, and ethics.



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Please contact [support@nasdtec.org](mailto:support@nasdtec.org) with any questions.

## EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### 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) were due by October 1. All applications that submitted a notice of intent have been reviewed and moved to the full application stage. Full applications for all new programs are due **December 10**.

Cycle	<a href="#">Application Window Opens</a>	Notice of Intent Due	Full <a href="#">Application Due</a>	Round 1 Evaluation Period Begins	Notification of Pending Decisions	Round 2 Evaluation and Notification (as needed)	<a href="#">BESE Consideration</a>
Spring	September 1	October 1	December 10	December 11	February 15	TBD	April TBD
Fall	May 1	June 1	July 10	July 11	August 26	TBD	October 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](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

### EL Focus Groups

Educators are required to provide instruction that meets the learning needs of all students. Effectively teaching ELs requires teachers who have undergone specific training in the skills and knowledge necessary to teach and support students who are learning English in tandem with content. With the proper training, teachers can foster a supportive learning environment that enables them to provide effective instruction while also addressing language acquisition.



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To help us better understand how the implementation of EL language acquisition across all programs can be implemented in tandem with the work that is currently being done across our prep provider community, LDOE is seeking preparation provider leaders or faculty representatives who may be interested in serving on the ESL focus group.

Please [register](#) to participate in the focus group or forward the link to a representative at your university who could provide insight into the collaboration.

## Updated Teacher Competency Link

The LDOE has updated the [Louisiana Teacher Competencies document](#) to reflect current policy competency requirements for math. The [Numeracy Crosswalk](#) will remain posted for reference.

Please visit the [Preparation Library](#) to access that resource or other resources you may find helpful as you continue to grow and improve your programs.

## New LAER Training Dates

We are excited to announce that the LDOE has partnered with NIET to extend two additional LAER training sessions to accommodate faculty members who could not attend the training sessions in August. The two additional sessions will be virtual and will take place on **December 11-12** and **January 15-16**. To participate in the upcoming LAER virtual training sessions, please register using the links below

- [December 11-12](#)
- [January 15-16](#)

Similar to the in-person training sessions in August, each virtual training session is over the course of two days, with Day 3 being asynchronous work that must be completed through LDOE's online professional development platform, Canopy.

Participants must attend both days of the virtual training session to gain access to Day 3 asynchronous materials in Canopy. Only those participants who have successfully completed Day 3 materials in Canopy will gain access to NIET's EE-PASS certification portal to take the LAER certification assessment.

Those providers who are already trained or have been using the Aspiring Teacher's Rubric (ATR) only have to attend Day 2 (December 12 or January 16) of the two-day training in order to take the certification assessment for the LAER rubric.



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Access to the NIET certification portal is granted by NIET. LDOE will submit the names of those participants who have successfully completed Day 3 materials to NIET, and NIET will reach out to participants with further instructions on how to access the certification portal.

## Upcoming LAER Support Opportunities

The LDOE is proud to partner with NIET to offer additional support opportunities around the deep understanding and implementation usage of the LAER rubric.

Based on the results from the survey of support options, the following topics have been selected and finalized to provide additional support to our prep provider community:

Training	Topics	Description
<b>LAER &amp; Professional Growth</b>	Calibration	Participants will develop a shared understanding of performance expectations and practice scoring classroom instruction by collecting high-quality evidence. Discussions will include reducing subjectivity and bias in aspiring educator evaluations.
	Pre-Observation, Observation, Post-Observation Coaching (POP Cycle)	Participants will learn to utilize the POP Cycle as a framework for coaching and self-reflection. The emphasis will be on creating purposeful cycles of support that address the specific needs of aspiring educators.
<b>LAER &amp; HQIM</b>	High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)	Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the Instructional Plans and Assessment Indicators while making connections to HQIM. The focus will be on how to support aspiring teachers to make intentional instructional decisions using HQIM.
	Course Mapping	Participants will engage in purposeful course mapping using the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) to ensure aspiring educators acquire the skills needed for success in their clinical experiences. The alignment between course objectives and rubric indicators will also be examined.
<b>LAER &amp; Instructional Practice</b>	Theory to Practice	With coaching and support, educator preparation programs will work alongside NIET to transfer and apply the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) instructional practices from coursework and seminars into clinical experiences.



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	Rubric Internalization	Participants will engage in activities that enhance their understanding of the rubric and explore how they can embed and model these instructional practices into their teaching and learning environments.
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More information regarding dates for the additional support opportunities will be forthcoming. We are excited to offer this opportunity to our preparation provider community.

Please contact [believeandpreare@la.gov](mailto:believeandpreare@la.gov) for additional questions.

## OpenSciEd Elementary Pilot Professional Learning Opportunity

Preparation providers are invited to attend a professional learning (PL) opportunity for the OpenSciEd elementary pilot. This is a curriculum-specific PL for the last of the four pilot units, including Launch and Storylining. This will take place in Vernon Parish **February 18-19**. Please email [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) to register and obtain more information.

## CERTIFICATION UPDATES

### Practitioner License Processing Update

The number of teacher candidates transferring between programs has increased, leading to a variety of scenarios and questions. To address these changes while ensuring compliance with policy, updated procedures will take effect on **January 1, 2025**. All alternate certification program changes will require a **program withdrawal letter** from the provider, with acknowledging signature of the teacher candidate. The letter should include the following:

- University or provider letterhead
- Candidate name and certificate number
- Original program enrolled (e.g., Certification-only, Secondary Math)
- Program withdrawal date
- Program Dean (or designee) signature
- Teacher candidate signature

Additionally, the changes to certification processing protocols below will also be implemented as resolutions to the issues being seen with applicants changing programs:

- When an applicant changes the program area or provider, these will be treated as an initial Practitioner License (PL) application
  - This **will not** require mentoring (or program progress) to change and be issued the new PL, but will require the withdrawal letter.
- **All** years on the PL **will count** toward total allowable years on a PL. (*This is a policy*)





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requirement)

- When changing **certification areas, or program provider**, the residency year will have to be **restarted**. (This is also to align with policy language.)
- When changing program types **within a provider**, PLs will be considered on a case-by-case basis for eligibility of residency continuing through the change.

## Literacy Exam

As the January 1, 2025, literacy exam deadline approaches, questions regarding compliance and exemptions have increased. Following consultation with the legal department, the following guidelines clarify requirements:

Exemptions from the Teaching of Reading Exam:

- Initial applicants in in-state preparation programs who began their **year-long residency** and held a **Practitioner License (PL) or Resident (R)** credential **prior to January 1, 2025**, are not required to take the Teaching of Reading exam.
- Applicants must provide proof of residency enrollment and PL or R credential issuance prior to January 1, 2025, to qualify for this exemption.

Application Submission Recommendations:

- To ensure timely processing, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit **complete applications by December 10, 2024**.
- Applications received after December 10, 2024, **may not be processed** by the January 1, 2025, deadline, despite prioritization efforts.

Expedited processing options remain available during office hours for applications submitted after December 10, 2024. When scheduling, please note that approximately one or two applications may be processed during each 15-minute office hour session.

Submitting early ensures timely certification processing. Applications submitted after the recommended date carry a risk of delay.

## Literacy Exam Requirements

As the January deadline approaches, more and more questions are still being asked about the Teaching of Reading exam. As mentioned previously, the **Teaching of Reading** exam is considered a **content** exam; therefore:

- Successful passage is required **prior to enrollment** in a post-baccalaureate program.
- Successful passage is required **prior to issuance** of a practitioner's license.



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- Accepted exams for **K-3 or special education areas** are:
  - 5205 or 7002

## Certification Reminders

### Phase 1 of New System

The Teacher Certification Online portal, question, and application system will be implemented in phases. Phase 1 includes updating our question submission system. Implementation occurred on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, after business hours.

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, although current users have been 'batch uploaded' to the new system. Since the system is live, users will need to 'test' their accounts to ensure appropriate access has been granted. Any user using a generic email address to log-in will be provided temporary access to the HR/Preparation level of access. Additional instructions will be provided after initial live testing to any user with a generic email address on the necessary steps and timeline for requesting a new access/account.

### 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 your calendar for the entire series.

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.

## EDUCATOR BACKGROUND CREDENTIALING

### Credential Clearance with a Criminal Background Check (CBC) for Certification

Effective **January 1, 2025**, Louisiana law ([R.S. 17:8.9](#)) requires criminal background checks (CBCs) for **credentialing**. This law is much more comprehensive than what has historically been in place where the CBC was requested and required for employment ([R.S. 17:15](#)).



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- A CBC will be required **before** a credential can be issued if LDOE does not have one on file less than five years old.
- If a person has already been issued a credential before the implementation of this new law, and the LDOE **does not have a cleared CBC** for that person, the credentialed individual will be required to complete the CBC process at the time of applying for renewal, advancement, or modification.

Certification applications **submitted before January 1, 2025**, will be processed without sending the applicant to be fingerprinted.

For applications **submitted on and after January 1, 2025**, the applicant will [check the certification website](#) to see if the individual already has a background check on file with LDOE under five years old. If none exists or if the applicant has no certification file, the applicant will be directed to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet, where the individual will schedule fingerprinting with [IdentoGO](#) BEFORE certification can be processed. Certification applications are being updated with a new Professional Conduct form, the link to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet, and other documents addressing certification clearance and how to determine if one exists or if the applicant will be subject to a new background check for certification.

For more information, please join our [Educator Background Credentialing Call scheduled for December 18 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

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