



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

We hope you had a relaxing Thanksgiving Holiday and are excited to continue the innovative work across our great state.

This month, we would like to highlight a partnership between Southern University's School of Education and [BSCS Science Learning](#). This initiative aims to enhance the expertise of pre-service and in-service educators through specialized OpenSciEd professional learning, focusing on introductory professional learning for the [Grade 8 OpenSciEd](#) unit, which is one of Louisiana's identified [High-Quality Instructional Materials for Science](#) (HQIM). The goal was to ensure educators are fully equipped to implement this rigorous, inquiry-based curriculum effectively.

The professional learning was highly immersive and practical, allowing participants, including pre-service teachers and graduate-level educators, to engage directly with the OpenSciEd curriculum as learners. This process familiarized them with the Grade 8 unit's content and deepened their understanding of core pedagogical approaches underpinning all strong HQIM, such as three-dimensional learning, using phenomena to drive student inquiry, and instructional strategies for facilitating student-led investigations.

By exploring the OpenSciEd materials, participants gained critical insights into:

- **Pedagogical Approaches:** Understanding the shift to student-centered, inquiry-based teaching models;
- **Content Knowledge:** Reinforcing and broadening their understanding of embedded science concepts; and
- **Instructional Strategies:** Acquiring a toolkit of effective techniques for lesson design, classroom management in an inquiry setting, and integrated formative assessment.

This intensive collaboration provided educators with immediately applicable, practical skills. It offers pre-service teachers a distinct advantage, preparing them to implement HQIM from day one, and represents a crucial opportunity for in-service and graduate-level educators to refine instructional practices to meet Louisiana's high standards.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) recognizes the profound value of this initiative and extends its sincere gratitude for this impactful partnership. The LDOE commends Southern University for its unwavering commitment to preparing highly effective teachers ready to lead with excellence, purpose, and a deep understanding of high-quality instructional practices. These efforts are central to improving science achievement and ensuring learning opportunities for all students across the state.

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 Information

December 17: [Preparation Provider Monthly call](#)

January 7: [Bayou Bridges Office Hour](#)

January 15-16: [LAER Training at ULM](#)

January 29-30: [LAER Training at ULL](#)

February 19: LAER-LER Coaching Support Session, Louisiana State University Alexandria

March 11: LAER-LER Coaching Support Session, Nicholls State University

March 13: LAER- LER Coaching Support Session, Southern University, Baton Rouge

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

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 enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the state's postsecondary institutions approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Funding is also available to students attending alternative teacher preparation programs approved by BESE.

Students may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover tuition, fees, textbooks, and other instructional materials required for enrollment. Billing dates for the fall semester/term are **November 1**; for the spring semester/term, **May 1**; and for the summer semester/term, **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 with questions.



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Pre-Educator Regional Events

Save the dates. Various universities will be hosting regional events for Louisiana Aspiring Educators across the state. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including competitions, interactive presentations, and campus tours. Students will also connect with keynote speakers and other Aspiring Educators. These events will help prepare students for the state and the national conferences.

Location	Dates
McNeese Unlock Education Event	December 9
Northwestern's Regional Event	January 21
Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge) Regional Event	January 28
University of Louisiana at Lafayette Regional Event	February 6
Louisiana State University at Alexandria Regional Event*	February 27
Nicholls Regional Event*	February 27
University of Louisiana at Monroe Regional Event*	TBA

*Registration link will be published at a later date

Pre-Educator State Conference

Louisiana Christian University will host the 2026 Louisiana Educators Rising State Conference on Friday, **March 13, 2026**. The day's events will take place from approximately 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities, including keynote speakers, exhibitors, and breakout sessions featuring panels, presentations, and interactive sessions designed for aspiring and current educators and their supporters. Registration link coming soon.

Please contact edrising@louisiana.edu with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Updates

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Early-bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit (TLS) 2026 opens on **February 16, 2026**. School systems may prefer to submit TLS 2026 registration payments for large groups by check. To ensure a smooth process, school systems must complete the [Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Registration Check Submission Request form](#) to obtain **pre-approval** for submitting a system-level check. Forms are due by **January 9, 2026**.



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For full guidance, visit the [website](#).

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Teacher Preparation Quality Rating Performance Profiles

Teacher Preparation Performance Profiles are ready for review. Deans and directors will receive an email with information regarding profile release and meeting options for this year.

2023-2024 TPQRS Performance Profiles will be released in November, and the LDOE will email instructions on how to access the Performance Profiles and schedule debriefing meetings. Providers who have effective ratings or higher in both pathways will not require a debrief session. Debrief sessions are tailored to each provider and will provide insight into 2023-2024 Quality Rating Scores, as well as support programs that score Needs Improvement in one or more pathways. The TPQRS Performance Profiles will be released publicly to the Louisiana Believes Preparation Library in **January 2026**.

If you have any questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

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. The document will be updated in the coming months to reflect the August BESE policy changes.

If you have any questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

Spring 2026 Program Approval Cycle

The [new program application window](#) opened on **September 1** for the spring cycle for teacher preparation programs, mentor teacher, content leader, and early childhood ancillary certificates. All applications are due by **December 10**. A notice of intent must have been received by **October 1** for an application to be considered for program approval.



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Cycle	<u>Application Window Opens</u>	Notice of Intent Due	<u>Full Application Due</u>	Round 1 Evaluation Period Begins	Notification of Pending Decisions	Round 2 Evaluation and Notification (as needed)	<u>BESE</u> Consideration
Fall	September 1	October 1	December 10	December 11	February 15	TBD	April TBD

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Program Approval Reminders

When considering a change to a program, email believeandprepare@la.gov. The preparation team will meet to determine whether the change is minor or major. If the change is minor, the change must be noted on the letterhead and signed by the dean. If the change is major, the provider must undergo the program approval process to obtain approval for the change. This process is crucial for candidates to obtain certification upon completing their coursework.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Winter LAER Training

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

- [January 15-16, 2026](#), University of Louisiana at Monroe
- [January 29-30, 2026](#), University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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.

LAER as a Coaching Tool

The [Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric \(LAER\) as a Coaching Tool](#) module is now available on the Professional Learning Platform. This module is designed to support preparation providers, mentor teachers, and school leaders who work with new teachers who have been trained on the LER to utilize the LAER as a coaching tool. This does not replace the in-person training for the LAER certification.

Course Code: 35299E95



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Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

LAER-LER Partnership Support Sessions

Save the date for the upcoming LAER-LER Partnership Support Sessions, Empowering Louisiana's Future Teachers Through Aligned Coaching. These sessions are designed to assist preparation providers and school systems in aligning evaluation and coaching to effectively support and prepare teacher candidates. There will be three opportunities to attend these support sessions throughout the state:

- **February 19, 2026**, at Louisiana State University at Alexandria
- **March 11, 2026**, at Nicholls State University
- **March 13, 2026**, at Southern University, Baton Rouge

Sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information on these sessions will be released in January 2026.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Specialized Dyslexia Training

Preparation providers are invited to take part in one of the following trainings to fulfill the “special training” outlined in [Bulletin 996](#) for instructors teaching the dyslexia coursework.

Bulletin 996 states, “... taught by a faculty member who has been provided specialized training in instructing teacher candidates on pedagogical methods for teaching students with dyslexia.”

Options for the instructor's specialized training are as follows:

- Complete the [Overcoming Dyslexia](#) course from Coursera.
- Outsource the course to the speech department.
- Complete a dyslexia certification.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with any questions or for more information.

Bayou Bridges Office Hours

Preparation Providers are invited to join the LDOE for the fourth social studies office hours of the 2025–2026 school year. Scheduled for **January 7 at 3:15 p.m.**, the office hour will focus on Skills and Practices: Reasoning Processes. It will also offer an opportunity to address any questions related to [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Join the session using the link provided below, or by accessing the [Social Studies Office Hours Flyer](#) located on the K-12 Social Studies Planning webpage.

- Webinar Date and Time: **January 7 at 3:15 p.m.**
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>



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- Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799
- Meeting ID#: 974 3607 5546

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Act 260 Numeracy Training

Preparation providers are invited to use the [Numeracy Professional Learning courses](#) aligned to [Act 260](#) as a guide when enhancing coursework to align with the current [Louisiana Mathematics Teacher Competencies](#).

The [information](#) provided may be used to enroll in provider-specific courses on the [LDOE Professional Learning Platform](#).

Courses specific to Educator Preparation Providers are published and should only be used by instructors of these programs. Courses specific to [teacher candidates](#) are published and may be shared.

Please contact math@la.gov with any questions or for more information.

CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATOR BACKGROUND CREDENTIALING

Louisiana Educator Certification Portal (LEC)

To support systems with the transition to LEC, training materials are available on www.teachlouisiana.net. 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.

Praxis Free After Three

Beginning **October 1, 2025**, Praxis offers free retakes for test takers who have completed three attempts on the same Praxis test. Please see the [frequently asked questions](#) one-pager for additional information.

Certification and Background Credentialing Monthly Calls

Calls will be held on the following dates for the 2025-2026 school year. The link has been updated on the [school system planning calendar](#); the 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.



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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.