



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Happy February, Teacher Preparation Community,

As we celebrate Mardi Gras in Louisiana, we at the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) are also celebrating meaningful progress in strengthening clinical practice through deepened collaboration with educator preparation programs across the state. United by a shared commitment to high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) and alignment to the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER), this work reflects Louisiana's continued leadership in preparing aspiring teachers for success in real classrooms.

Over the past year, the state has built strong momentum through monthly High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) webinars, generating enthusiasm, engagement, and shared ownership among preparation providers. This growing collaboration led to the launch of the Teacher Preparation Workforce Group, representing public and private preparation programs, grow-your-own district pathways, higher education partners, and statewide organizations. With grant funding supporting travel and professional learning, the group convened for its inaugural meeting in January 2026, marking an exciting milestone in this collective effort.

As the work progresses, the Advisory Workgroup will meet regularly to co-develop strategies for incorporating high-quality professional learning into instructional practice, review instructional materials, and provide valuable feedback on the Teacher Preparation Quality Review System (TPQRS). The state is also gathering data on HQIM use and LAER implementation during clinical practice, ensuring that future steps are informed, strategic, and grounded in provider experience. Together, these efforts signal a strong, collaborative path forward for elevating teacher preparation across Louisiana. We look forward to working with the Teacher Preparation Workforce Group and sharing the progress throughout the year with all of our stakeholders.

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 Dates & Events

February 9: [Teacher Leader Summit Early Bird Registration](#)

February 19: [LAER-LER Coaching Support Session, Louisiana State University Alexandria](#)

February 27: Louisiana State University at Alexandria Regional Event

February 27: [Nicholls Regional Event](#)

March 4: [Bayou Bridges Office Hour](#)

March 11: [LAER-LER Coaching Support Session, Nicholls State University](#)

March 13: [Pre-Educator State Conference at LCU](#)

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.

Pre-Educator Regional Events



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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
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 expect a variety of activities, including keynote speakers, exhibitors, and breakout sessions featuring panels, presentations, and interactive activities designed for aspiring and current educators and their supporters. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact education@lcuniversity.edu with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Updates

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

Early-bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit (TLS) 2026 is now open! Early-bird registration will remain open from **February 9 to March 15**.

Registration must be completed on the [TLS 2026 event site](#). All registrations include full access to sessions, an official TLS 2026 t-shirt, and lunch on May 26 and May 27. Once capacity is reached, additional registrants will be added to a waitlist. No onsite registration will be available.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

LDOE Teacher Preparation Training

Educator Preparation, in partnership with the Academic Content team, is offering the following opportunity:

- Computer Science Competencies **March 4, 2026 10 a.m.**



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- Please [sign up](#) and share the [sign-up link](#) with faculty and staff who will benefit from these courses.
- A calendar invite with the Zoom links will be sent once the sign-up form is completed.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

2024-2025 Teacher Prep Provider Performance Profile Verification

The window to verify 2024-2025 TPP completer rosters for Performance Profiles and to upload completer consent forms is open through **March 2, 2026**, in the File Transfer Portal (FTP). An email with instructions was sent on **January 15**.

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

High-Need School and High-Need Certification Lists

The 2026-2030 [high-need school](#) and high-need certification lists are now available.

Per [Bulletin 996](#), these lists are updated every four years, with high-need certification areas defined as those with the highest percentage of classes taught by out-of-field or uncertified teachers statewide. The high-need certification areas for 2026-2030 are as follows:

- Mathematics (4-8, 6-12);
- Science (4-8, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Environmental Science, General Science, Physics);
- Social Studies (4-8, 6-12);
- World Language (Chinese K-12, 6-12, French K-12, 6-12, German K-12, 6-2, Italian K-12, 6-12, Latin K-12, 6-12, Spanish K-12, 6-12).

These lists will be used for the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Performance Profile Scores beginning with the 2026-2027 residency cohorts.

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.



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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

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. and will cover topics such as LAER-to-LER connections, lesson observations, post-observation feedback, and coaching plans. Feel free to share this information with your partnering school systems and invite them to attend.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

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 **March 4 at 3:15 p.m.**, the office hour will focus on Teacher Moves with the Teacher Guide. It will also provide an opportunity to address any questions regarding [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: **March 4 at 3:15 p.m.**
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>
- Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799
- Meeting ID#: 974 3607 5546

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.



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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.
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.