



Preparation Provider Newsletter

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Happy New Year, Believe and Prepare Community,

As we welcome the new year, the Believe and Prepare community continues its focus on high-quality preparation as the foundation for strong instruction. Effective lesson preparation is central to strong instruction. Research shows that clearly defined lesson objectives aligned to unit goals improve student achievement by creating a coherent learning trajectory and clarifying the purpose of learning for students (Marzano, 2007). Effective planning requires instructional decisions grounded in student needs and a clear understanding of unit design.

To support high-quality lesson and unit planning, LDOE has developed planning tools across core content areas:

English Language Arts (ELA)

- K-2 [Skills & Knowledge](#) Unit Tools
- K-2 [Skills and Knowledge](#) Lesson Preparation Resources
- [3-12 Unit Study Tool](#)
- [3-12 Lesson Preparation Protocol](#)

Mathematics

- [Unit Study Tool](#)
- [Lesson Preparation Protocol](#)

Science

- [Planning Guide for Science Instruction](#)

Social Studies

- [Unit Study Tool](#)
- [Lesson Preparation Protocol](#)

These tools strengthen coherence from unit goals to daily instruction by helping teams consider how skills build over time and how assessments inform planning. Quality preparation begins with unit end goals, identifies essential skills and knowledge, sequences instruction intentionally, and uses collaboration to anticipate student needs and misconceptions, resulting in instruction that is both intentional and responsive.

Teacher preparation providers play a critical role in developing these instructional habits before educators enter the classroom. To align preparation experiences with statewide priorities, providers are encouraged to integrate LDOE unit and lesson preparation tools into coursework and clinical experiences; support candidates in aligning lessons to unit goals, standards, and student outcomes; and model collaborative planning practices that emphasize sequencing, high-quality curriculum use, and anticipation of misconceptions.

By embedding research-aligned planning practices into preparation programs, providers help ensure new educators enter classrooms ready to deliver coherent, high-quality instruction for all learners.

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

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

January 28: [Louisiana State University \(Baton Rouge\) Regional Event](#)

January 28: [Preparation Provider Monthly call](#)

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

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

February 6: [University of Louisiana at Lafayette Regional Event](#)

February 16: [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 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](#).



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Please contact deborah.paul@la.gov with questions.

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
<u>Northwestern's Regional Event</u>	January 21
<u>Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge) Regional Event</u>	January 28
<u>University of Louisiana at Lafayette Regional Event</u>	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](#) and [Call for Proposals](#) are 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 opens on **February 16, 2026**.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.



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EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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 across the state. 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.

2024-2025 Teacher Preparation Provider Performance Profile Verification

The window to verify 2024-2025 TPP completer rosters for Performance Profiles and upload completer consent forms will open on **February 2, 2026**, in the File Transfer Portal (FTP). An email with instructions will be sent on **January 30**.

Providers may attend an optional office hour to receive support:

- Date and time: **February 2 at 1 p.m.**
- Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93867215146?>
- Meeting ID: 938 6721 5146
- Passcode: 551894

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.



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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 submitted applications will receive notice by **February 15**.

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

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 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

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.



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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 **February 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: **February 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.

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.



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

Annual Teacher Exit Survey Released

The 2024-2025 Teacher Exit Survey was released at the December BESE meeting. Teacher preparation providers can use this information to reinforce positive messaging, validate alignment with district needs, focus retention efforts where they matter most, and make data-informed decisions that strengthen both preparation quality and workforce stability across Louisiana.

This past year saw the following improvements:

- Fewer teachers are citing “accepting a position outside of the field of education” as their primary reason for exiting.
- Fewer teachers cited “accepted a teaching or leadership position outside of Louisiana” as their primary reason for exiting.
- Fewer teachers cited “Resigned - dissatisfaction with school or district policies” as their stated reason for exiting.
- The number of candidates who completed a Louisiana teacher preparation program has increased for the second consecutive year.
- Over the last three years, about 32% of exits have been due to personal circumstances and 2% due to dissatisfaction or anticipated termination, showing no significant increase in negative sentiment among teachers.

The [2024-2025 Teacher Exit Survey](#) is available in the [Workforce Attributes Library](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

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



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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.