



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Teacher Preparation Partners,

Louisiana continues to demonstrate national leadership in literacy instruction, and a recently released 2026 report from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) provides further evidence that the state's long-term investments in teacher preparation are making a difference.

In its latest Teacher Prep Review: [Decoding Progress in Reading Preparation](#), NCTQ found that teacher preparation programs across the country have made significant progress in aligning coursework with scientifically based reading instruction, commonly known as the Science of Reading. Nationally, the percentage of programs earning an "A+ and A" for reading preparation more than doubled since 2023, increasing from 26 percent to 53 percent. Yet nearly half of all programs nationwide still fail to adequately prepare future teachers to teach reading.

Louisiana stands apart from many states because every teacher preparation program included in NCTQ's review participated in the study. In fact, Louisiana was one of only a handful of states nationwide where all programs provided materials for review, reflecting a strong culture of transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Louisiana's teacher preparation providers also deserve recognition for their commitment to excellence in literacy instruction. Several Louisiana programs earned strong ratings in the NCTQ review, reflecting years of intentional work to align coursework, clinical experiences, and candidate assessments with the science of reading. These results are a testament to the leadership of deans, faculty, and program directors who have embraced continuous improvement and partnered closely with schools and districts to ensure teacher candidates are prepared to teach reading effectively. Their efforts are helping to strengthen Louisiana's educator workforce and, most importantly, improve literacy outcomes for students across the state.

We extend **special congratulations** to the Louisiana preparation programs that earned **A+ and A ratings** in this year's review. Their success demonstrates that rigorous preparation grounded in evidence-based literacy practices is both achievable and impactful, providing a model for educator preparation programs nationwide. **(Undergraduate Programs:** Louisiana State University, Louisiana State University Alexandria, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Southern University and A&M College, University of Louisiana at Monroe, University of New Orleans)
(Graduate programs: University of New Orleans)

This achievement is the result of years of intentional policy and programmatic work. Louisiana has embedded the Science of Reading into teacher preparation requirements, educator competencies, certification expectations, and program approval processes. Teacher candidates pursuing early childhood and elementary certification complete substantial coursework in reading and literacy instruction, while preparation programs are held accountable for ensuring candidates demonstrate mastery of evidence-based literacy practices. Louisiana's commitment extends beyond initial preparation. The state has invested in high-quality instructional materials, literacy professional learning, teacher leader development, and ongoing support for educators across all grade levels. These efforts ensure that new teachers enter classrooms equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to teach foundational reading effectively.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



The NCTQ report also reinforces an important lesson: strong state policy matters. States that establish clear expectations, rigorously review preparation programs, and maintain accountability systems are seeing meaningful improvements in the quality of teacher preparation. Louisiana's comprehensive approach reflects these principles and positions future educators for success from day one in the classroom.

As Louisiana continues to strengthen educator preparation, this national recognition highlights the impact of collaboration among teacher preparation providers, school systems, policymakers, and educators. Together, they are ensuring that every aspiring teacher is prepared to help every child become a successful reader.

Preparing excellent teachers is one of the most powerful investments a state can make, and Louisiana is proving that a commitment to evidence-based literacy instruction can produce results recognized nationwide.

Best regards,

Arthur M. Joffrion, Jr., Ed.D.
Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development
Louisiana Department of Education



Preparation Provider Newsletter



NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Dates & Events

July 10: [Program Approval Applications Due](#)

June 14: [K-12 Math Standards Institute, Lafayette Parish](#)

July 13-17: [Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy](#) at Louisiana State University

July 24: [New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off](#)

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 PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2025-2026 Program Approval Fall Cycle

The [new program application window](#) opened on **May 1** for the fall cycle for teacher preparation programs, mentor teacher, content leader, and ECAC. All applications are due by **July 10** for those who turned in a Notice of Intent.

Program Approval Fall Cycle Dates							
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	May 1	June 1	July 10	July 11	August 26	TBD	October TBD

Information for teacher preparation providers applying for initial program approval is available in the [Preparation Library](#). If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact



Preparation Provider Newsletter



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.

Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) as a Coaching Tool

The [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 trained on the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER) in using 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.

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.

ELA Standards Institute

Prepare to implement the revised K-12 Louisiana Student Standards in the 2027-2028 school year by joining the [ELA Standards Institutes](#) this summer. Registration is now open. Participants will review the updated standards, explore the Standards Reference Guide, and take a deep dive into their high-quality instructional materials to analyze how the assessments align with the standards, supporting faculty in preparing



Preparation Provider Newsletter



candidates for ELA implementation in the classroom.

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

Math Standards Institute

Registration is open for the [2026 Math Standards Institute](#). This institute will support educators and leaders in implementing the revised K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics. The standards institutes will be six-hour professional learning sessions where math leaders and educators will learn about key updates to the standards, including updated domain titles, updated standard language and examples, and resources that support deep understanding and implementation of the standards. **Registration is limited. Sign up today!**

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

CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATOR BACKGROUND CREDENTIALING

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.

Certification and Background Credentialing Monthly Call Dates and Times		
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. (Canceled)	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.

Pre-Practitioner's License

Effective **October 20, 2026**, teacher preparation providers may provisionally admit candidates who have not yet earned a passing score on the required Praxis content examination. Provisionally admitted candidates may complete no more than twelve credit hours, or equivalent contact hours, of coursework prior to earning a passing score on the required content examination. Coursework completed during provisional admission shall be limited to content exam preparation and classroom readiness. The Pre-Practitioner's License is valid for one year and can be renewed up to one additional year.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



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 BESE-approved alternative teacher preparation programs.

Students may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover tuition, fees, textbooks, and other instructional materials required for enrollment. Billing dates are November 1 for the fall semester/term, May 1 for the spring semester/term, **and July 1** for the summer semester/term, 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 [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance \(LOSFA\) website](#).

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

The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off Registration is OPEN

The LDOE will host the [New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off](#) on July 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Baton Rouge for 400 new teachers.

The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience
- Engage in professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers

The Summer Kick-Off will take place at the Lod Cook Alumni Center in Baton Rouge, located at 3838 W. Lakeshore Drive. [Registration](#) is now open and will close **July 16** or once capacity is reached, whichever comes first. This event is a great opportunity for new teachers. Please share with recent graduates. Registration includes lunch and a tote bag with lots of start-of-the-year goodies.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

[Applications](#) are now open for the one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience. Open to 100 high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators. The Academy will be held **July 13-17** at Louisiana State University.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Certified Mentor List

To assist preparation providers in the placement of residents, the LDOE has recently uploaded a list of all certified mentors to the [FTP](#). This list contains system, school site, and certification information for all credentialed mentors across the state.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Mentor Teacher Waivers

[Mentor waiver applications](#) for the 2025-2026 school year closed on **June 1**. A list of each system's approved waivers will be emailed to each system's human resources department. Waivers for the 2026-2027 academic year will open on **June 15**. Please note that mentor waivers must be submitted annually.

Please contact mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov with any questions.