



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

We hope you have enjoyed the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit and gained valuable information to use during the upcoming academic year. In preparing for the upcoming academic year, we wanted to spotlight a teacher preparation partnership that has developed recently. This partnership has proven beneficial for stakeholders involved in both programs. Program leaders from Jefferson Parish EMBARK journeyed to meet with their counterparts at Teach Ascension, engaging in discussions centered on program growth, adaptation to evolving educational landscapes, and the shared challenges inherent in navigating alternative certification pathways. These conversations revealed notable similarities in their respective journeys, further emphasizing the value of such cross-institutional dialogue.

Central to their discussions was the intricate nature of managing in-house alternative certification programs. The leaders exchanged insights on overcoming common hurdles and innovative approaches to program administration, facilitating a rich exchange of ideas. A key component of the visit was the observation of a school cluster meeting at Teach Ascension. This meeting, which included both alternative certification candidates and experienced, career teachers, provided Jefferson Parish EMBARK representatives with a firsthand look at how Teach Ascension integrates its cluster model within preparation practices. This was particularly insightful given that Jefferson Parish EMBARK also utilizes a cluster model, offering a comparative perspective on implementation and effectiveness.

Teach Ascension Academy, in turn, gained valuable knowledge from the Jefferson Parish EMBARK team regarding specific aspects of their program. This included methods for preparing candidates for the Praxis exams. Additionally, Teach Ascension learned about the meticulous prioritization and weighting system used by Jefferson Parish EMBARK in their application process, and efficient techniques for delivering constructive feedback to candidates and their affiliated schools. The exchange proved mutually beneficial, solidifying a foundation for ongoing collaboration and resource sharing.

Ultimately, the site visit provided both programs with actionable insights and fresh perspectives. The established connection promises to strengthen the network of educators dedicated to alternative certification, fostering a community of shared learning and support. By identifying common challenges and exchanging best practices, Jefferson Parish EMBARK and Teach Ascension Academy have paved the way for continued growth and innovation in their respective programs.

We hope these types of collaborative efforts will inspire you all to develop partnerships within the teacher preparation community.

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 Events

June 16: Certification Monthly [call](#)

June 25: Preparation Provider Monthly [call](#)

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

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

[Student](#) and [academy staff](#) applications will close soon for the one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience. Open to 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 14-18 at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Please contact mwillis@lsua.edu with any questions.

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 with questions.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Fall LAER Training

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

- [August 11-12](#) University View Academy (Baton Rouge)
- [September 11-12](#) Louisiana Tech University (Ruston)
- January TBD
- February TBD

Registration links for the Fall LAER trainings are now live. Please share the 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.

Should you have any questions regarding the upcoming LAER training sessions or webinars, or if you would like to host the January or February LAER sessions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

LAER Evaluator Recertification for 2025-2026 Academic Year

Annual recertification for the LAER is required in order to evaluate aspiring educators. This will be available in NIET's [EEPASS](#) beginning **July 7, 2025**. More information on this process will be released soon.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

K-12 Science Planning with HQIM Professional Learning Opportunity

Preparation providers are invited to attend a two-day professional learning workshop focused on planning with HQIM to support high-quality science instruction. The workshop will introduce the science instructional model and support teachers in identifying elements of this model within their HQIM. Examples from OpenSciEd will primarily be used; however, other science HQIM may also be utilized as examples.

This [professional learning opportunity](#) has [three options](#) that providers can choose from to attend- North (Ruston), Central, LA (Leesville), and South (Baton Rouge). [All sessions](#) will be held this summer in July.



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Please contact STEM@la.gov for more information.

Supporting School and System Leaders in Supporting High-Quality Planning for Science Instruction

Preparation providers are invited to attend a one-day professional learning workshop focused on supporting school and system leaders in planning coherent and sustainable structures to improve science teaching and learning. Leaders will explore the LDOE Science Instructional Model and identify elements within high-quality science instructional materials that support this model. Examples from OpenSciEd will primarily be used; however, other science HQIM may also be utilized as examples.

This [professional learning opportunity](#) has [two options](#) that will take place in Baton Rouge during the month of July.

Please contact STEM@la.gov for more information.

Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program

This [half-day workshop](#) will provide curriculum-based opportunities to identify and utilize the design principles and key components of Foundations of Freedom; annotate and adapt lessons utilizing the HQIM in Foundations of Freedom; build capacity to plan and utilize the performance task; and create pacing guides to ensure lesson structures are coherent, aligned to standards, and organized to meet students' needs.

This workshop has [six options](#) that will take place in various parts of the state during the month of July.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov for more information.

Numeracy Professional Learning Access

This curriculum-agnostic, asynchronous course is available through the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) and offers 25 content-rich modules designed to support teachers in deepening their understanding of the mathematical concepts students encounter as they progress through the grades. Each module includes learning experiences and application tasks focused on the strategies and models students use at various grade levels.

In addition to content modules, the course features three dedicated modules that emphasize the development of productive dispositions in mathematics, helping educators foster positive mathematical mindsets in their students.

Please contact STEM@la.gov for more information.



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Using Zearn alongside all HQIM

In these [virtual sessions](#), participants will study Zearn's approach to curriculum design, digital learning, and implementation. They will also explore the curriculum's instructional components and elements of a typical Zearn lesson. The session will overview how to execute each part of the math lesson and methods for monitoring student engagement and learning.

This workshop has one option left that will be held virtually on **June 20, 2025**. Please see the [registration flyer](#) for more details.

Please contact STEM@la.gov for more information.

Specialized Dyslexia Training

There is a free dyslexia course available that would fulfill the "specialized training" outlined in [Bulletin 996](#) for instructors teaching the dyslexia coursework.

Enrollment for Coursera's [Overcoming Dyslexia](#) is currently free and includes nine modules. These modules will focus on advancements in dyslexia research, federal statutes, and pedagogical methods for teaching students with dyslexia.

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

Act 260 Numeracy Training

Preparation providers are highly encouraged to complete the [Numeracy Professional Learning courses](#) aligned to [Act 260](#) as a guide when enhancing coursework to align with 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.

CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING

Educator Background Credentialing

Fingerprint Scheduling with IdentoGO for Credentialing



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As part of the certification process for obtaining a [“Clear Credential”](#), all [applicants must complete a criminal background check \(CBC\)](#) through IdentoGO, following the instructions provided in the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

When scheduling a fingerprinting appointment, applicants must use the correct service code for LDOE’s Certification & Background Credentialing office to receive the CBC. Service code **27N5HQ** is used when scheduling on the [IdentoGO website](#) to be fingerprinted for certification/credentialing. This ensures the CBC is processed specifically for LDOE’s Certification & Background Credentialing office.

Tips for successful and efficient fingerprinting:

- Schedule fingerprinting using the correct service code
 - If being fingerprinted for employment, the applicant should use the employer’s service code
 - If being fingerprinted for certification, the applicant should use service code **27N5HQ**. School systems with an Enroll-Your-Own (EYO) workstation may fingerprint applicants for employment as well as certification. The applicant must schedule two separate appointments under the two distinct service codes - [see steps 3 and 7 in the Educator Fingerprinting Packet for scheduling directions](#).
- Applicants are encouraged to schedule fingerprinting in Louisiana to reduce their fingerprinting fees. If applicants cannot schedule fingerprinting with an IdentoGO location, there is an alternative mail-in option. Please email EducatorClearance@la.gov for details if needed.
- Applicants are encouraged to provide their Social Security Number at the time of scheduling and fingerprinting so that the CBC may be associated with any existing certification records quickly.
- Applicants should avoid entering a mailing address that exceeds 30 characters; abbreviate as needed to keep the address below 30 characters. Applicants should avoid using apostrophes or special characters in their addresses.
- Schedule fingerprinting using a working email address.
- Typically, CBCs are securely, electronically transmitted to LDOE within just a few hours following fingerprinting, but if an applicant does not see the “Clear Credential” notation on their certification record in three weeks, the applicant should email EducatorClearance@la.gov.

A CBC is required only once for certification. The LDOE continuously receives state “rap backs” (updated criminal history notifications), eliminating the need for repeated fingerprinting in most cases when maintaining certification.

For additional guidance, refer to the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#) or contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

Certification Policy Updates

Policy Updates

At the April BESE, the Department proposed policy revisions to Bulletins 130, 746, and 996, and the changes were approved. Beginning with the 2030-2031 school year, all certification areas will require coursework or



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contact hours that include instruction on teaching students computer science. These can be included in current coursework.

Also at April BESE, the Department updated policy around English learners. Beginning with the 2031-2032 school year, for all certification areas, an applicant for initial certification must have earned coursework or equivalent contact hours that include instruction on teaching language acquisition strategies to support English Learners, which may be incorporated into an existing course of study.

In addition, the Department is removing the literacy requirement to any non-core secondary speciality content area for educators seeking to add to their standard certificate. The anticipated date this will be adopted into policy is September 2025.

Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) Portal Updates

With the anticipated rollout of our new online portal, there will be a few changes to the documentation required when issuing both Practitioner's License (PL) and Resident (R) certificates. For the PL, the Intent to Employ form, completed by the educator's human resources office, will now require the name of the assigned mentor, as well as the mentor's credentials, showing either the appropriate mentor endorsement or verification of a mentor teacher waiver. A request to change the provider or program area must be made with the initial PL application and must include a withdrawal letter from the previous provider or area. A request to change the program type within the same provider and area may be submitted with the PL renewal application.

The Resident application will now require verification from the hosting school system, which will be completed by the hosting human resources office. As with the PL application, we will be asking for verification of the assigned classroom-based mentor's name and a copy of their mentor credential or waiver. Resident applications will now also require a plan of study. The plan of study will need to reflect the educator's name and program area(s).

Lastly, any educator electing to serve as a Resident while enrolled in an alternate-certification program, that educator's application will need to include verification of program admission requirements similar to the PL.

No changes to the current application and/or application process will need to be made at this time. These changes will go into effect once LEC is launched.

Certification Reminders

Office Hours

Beginning in June, the LDOE will implement adjustments to the Office Hours schedule:



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- **Week of June 2–6:** Office Hours will be available on **Monday** and **Tuesday** only.
- **Week of June 9–13:** Office Hours will take place at the **Teacher Leader Summit**, and will **not** be offered through our regular system.
- **Week of June 16–20:** Office Hours will be available on **Wednesday** and **Thursday** only.

For the months of July and August, availability on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will be reduced to four appointments in the morning on Tuesday and four in the afternoon on Wednesday. Monday and Thursday's availability will remain unchanged.

We appreciate your understanding as we make these temporary adjustments.

Phase 1 of the New System

The Teacher Certification Online portal, question, and application system is being implemented in phases. Phase 1 included the updating of the question submission system. Implementation occurred on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, after business hours.

Users need:

- [MyLa account](#)
- EdLink Security access (HR/Prep user roles only)
 - [Human Resources users](#)
 - [Preparation Provider users](#)
- Access to the Teacher Certification ZenDesk Help Center
- Accounts using generic emails will have to transition to individual accounts

There are various security options to access the new system. All users will need a MyLa account; some users will also need an EdLink Security request and will need to request access to the Teacher Cert ZenDesk Help Center. Educator end users only need a MyLa account. The instructions for [creating a MyLA User ID and Account](#) can be found on TeachLouisiana.net. HR & Prep need the EdLink Security role. Users who were authenticated HR & Prep users before implementation were 'batch uploaded' with access to the new system. Be sure to use the same email address to log in to the Office Hours portal as used to log in to TeachLALive!. Instructions for new users to request Office Hours access through EdLink Security have been added on TeachLALive! when logged in to an authenticated HR or Prep account.

Phase 2 of the New System

Phase 2 of the certification system will be the Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) portal. It will be a part of the larger Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP) that houses evaluation data. Phase 2 includes the application submission portion of the certification process. Development is ongoing. The anticipated launch is late July 2025. Users will need:

- [MyLa account](#) (All users)
- EdLink Security access (HR & Prep users) - More information on requesting access will be provided closer to implementation



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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 individual calendars 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.