



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Teacher Preparation Partners,

Even though it's summer, we continue working to strengthen Louisiana's educator workforce. We are often encouraged by examples across the state that demonstrate what is possible when institutions invest deeply in teacher preparation, student support, and long-term educator success. One recent example comes from Louisiana State University's Lutrill & Pearl Payne School of Education, where faculty leaders, Ashley Clayton, PhD, and Stan Barrera, PhD, were awarded a five-year, \$1.3 million federal [TRIO Student Support Services Teacher Preparation grant](#) designed to support aspiring educators throughout their preparation journey.

The initiative reflects many of the priorities shared across Louisiana's educator preparation community: expanding access to the profession, supporting candidates through program completion, and ensuring future teachers are equipped to successfully enter and remain in the classroom. The program will provide individualized advising, tutoring, peer mentoring, financial literacy support, PRAXIS preparation, and targeted academic assistance for teacher candidates who may face additional barriers to persistence and completion.

Importantly, this work reinforces a growing understanding nationwide that strong teacher preparation extends beyond coursework alone. Research consistently demonstrates that candidates are more likely to succeed when preparation programs intentionally build systems of academic support, community connection, mentorship, and contextually responsive practice into the educator pipeline.

LSU's efforts through the Tiger Teacher Corps and the TRIO Teacher Preparation initiative also highlight the importance of creating coherent pathways into the profession, from recruitment and residency experiences to certification support and early-career retention. As educator preparation providers across Louisiana continue to innovate to meet workforce needs, these collaborative, student-centered approaches help strengthen both candidate outcomes and the long-term stability of our schools and communities.

We are grateful for the continued leadership of preparation providers across the state who are working to expand opportunity, improve program quality, and prepare highly effective educators for Louisiana students. Your partnership and commitment remain essential as we continue advancing a stronger, more sustainable educator pipeline together.

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

June 15: 2026-2027 [Mentor Teacher Waiver Application Opens](#)
June 15: [Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning Registration](#) Deadline
June 15: [K-12 ELA Standards Institute, St. Bernard Parish](#)
June 16: [K-12 ELA Standards Institute, Ouachita Parish](#)
June 16: [K-12 Math Standards Institute, Bossier Parish](#)
June 22: [K-12 Math Standards Institute East Baton Rouge Parish](#)
June 16: [K-12 Math Standards Institute, Rapides Parish](#)
June 24: [Preparation Provider Monthly Call](#)
June 25: [K-12 ELA Standards Institute Calcasieu Parish](#)
June 25: [K-12 ELA Standards Institute, Rapides Parish](#)
June 30: [Social Studies Summer Professional Learning Registration](#) Deadline
July 1: [K-12 Math Standards Institute, Ouachita Parish](#)
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 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.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



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 Louisiana Department of Education (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.

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.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Mentor Teacher Waivers

[Mentor waiver applications](#) for the 2025-2026 school year closed **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.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Louisiana Educator Preparation Provider Survey: English Learner Preparation

The LDOE is conducting a [survey](#) to gather information from educator preparation providers to better understand how English Learner (EL) content is embedded within teacher preparation programs, including the implementation of Louisiana's EL Teacher Competencies. This information will be used to strengthen alignment between preparation programs and classroom expectations, inform state-level supports, and identify areas for collaboration. **Please complete the survey by July 1.**

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

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.

Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning

Join the social studies team to support the initial implementation of Land of Liberty: The History of the United States. These half-day sessions will take place in St. Tammany and Ouachita Parishes from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The LDOE is hosting in-person, regional professional learning opportunities this summer at no registration cost to systems. **Registration deadline is June 15.**



Preparation Provider Newsletter



See the [Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning flyer](#) for dates, locations, and registration [form](#).

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

K-2 Social Studies Summer Professional Learning

To support K-2 social studies instruction and the initial implementation of the K-2 Knowledge Building Cards, the LDOE is hosting in-person, regional professional learning opportunities this summer at no registration costs to systems. These trainings will take place at five sites across the state from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Each participant will receive a free grade-level set of K-2 Knowledge Building Cards.

See the [K-12 Social Studies Planning webpage](#) for dates, locations, and [registration form](#). **Registration ends June 30.**

Please contact socialstudies@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 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



Preparation Provider Newsletter



[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.