

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

During the 2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year, school systems will be given the option to transition to the new Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS) or remain in the COMPASS evaluation system. Additional information about each option is available on the [2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year Options Guidance](#). As of March 4, 2024, 49 school systems have chosen to move to the full implementation model for the 2024 - 2025 school year. The 2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year will include extensive options for training and ongoing support through this summer and the next school year.

School systems opting to transition to the LEADS evaluation system may [register](#) for summer training.

- School system-level leaders and school leaders will complete a two-day Louisiana Leader Evaluation Training and pass a certification assessment before evaluating leaders with the Louisiana Leader Evaluation System.
- System-level leaders, school-level leaders, and designated observers will complete a three-day Louisiana Educator Evaluation Training and pass a certification assessment before observing with the Louisiana Educator Rubric.
- Training will be available in the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform in August for all teachers.

Our division is bringing a contract amendment to BESE in April which aims to support our preparation programs in training and implementation of an Aspiring Educator Rubric for pre-service teachers. Once approved, registration for preparation providers will open in late spring. The training will take place in late summer.

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

UPCOMING DEADLINES

March 15: [Teacher Leader Summit registration](#) deadline

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18: Certification Monthly [call](#)

March 27: Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, March 27.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 27, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/440246097>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 440 246 097

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Please contact rebecca.stephenson@la.gov with questions.

High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and Professional Learning

Thank you to our providers who submitted their HQIM requests. We are beginning the ordering process and will reach out for further information and clarification if needed. We will communicate professional learning opportunities once those are scheduled.

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

Teacher Leader Summit

We're counting down the days until the annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) being held May 28th through May 30th! Join us in New Orleans for our annual professional learning conference, bringing together Louisiana's birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. [Registration](#) is open and will close March 15, or at sellout. Join Louisiana educators as we begin "Leading the Next Level" and preparing for the 2024-2025 school year.

The deans of all prep providers should have received an email with instructions on how to register using their Teacher Leader Summit complimentary registration.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

System Leads, Teacher Leaders, and Postsecondary Teacher Preparation Partners are invited to attend a Learning Visit for a day of learning and community building. During Learning Visits, participants will have an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their system or preparation program. Please use this [registration link](#) to sign up for a visit.

- Bossier Parish- April 16

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

New Teacher Experience Kick-Off: Save the Date

The Louisiana Department of Education will host the Summer Kick-off for the New Teacher Experience on July 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Baton Rouge for 500 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 high-quality professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers

Please share this date with your graduating seniors! Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.



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Teacher Preparation: Computer Science (5652) Praxis Exam

The LDOE has partnered with the Northshore Regional STEM Center to offer a free Computer Science Praxis preparation course to all public and public charter 6-12 teachers. The training will help teachers prepare for the Computer Science (5652) Praxis exam to add a certification to their teaching license. Please share this information with your students.

Four cohorts will be offered as 100% virtual training, with a fifth cohort offered in person at Southeastern Louisiana University in June. [Registration](#) is now open for the [Energize Project](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Curriculum Guide

The LDOE has published a new [curriculum guide](#) to support teachers and instructional leaders as they implement Bayou Bridges materials. The guide provides in-depth information on the program's guiding principles, design, key components and resources, unit and lesson study tools, along with sample lesson annotations.

Teachers and leaders should use this resource to help navigate the curriculum, to better understand its key components, and to effectively plan and implement Bayou Bridges lessons.

This guide will continue to be updated as additional units are published.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP assessment in June to:

- review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and bias or sensitivity concerns (Science); and
- develop expectations for the scoring of field-tested LEAP constructed-response items and extended-response tasks (Science, Math, and Social Studies)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for the links to apply to participate in specific committees and additional information.

Applications are due **March 24**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with 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.

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Students may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover the cost of tuition fees, textbooks, and instructional materials required for enrollment.

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.

Literacy Coursework Submission

The LDOE will be reaching out next month to begin the process of collecting course descriptions for all updated [Science of Reading](#) courses, including the dyslexia course.

As a reminder, per policy

- Beginning **September 1, 2024**, completers must earn the required number of semester hours or contact hour equivalent in the teaching of reading and literacy in alignment with the science of reading competencies for certification.
- Beginning with the **2024-2025 school year**, for all certification areas, candidates must spend three credit hours within the existing credit hour requirements engaged in coursework regarding teaching students with dyslexia.

The timeline for review is as follows.

- March: Release coursework submission application
- April: Coursework submission window closes
- May: LDOE reviews submissions and provides feedback

Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Certification Reminders

Literacy Exam Requirements. Beginning **January 1, 2024**, **Out-of-State** applicants authorized to teach grades K-3 and not meeting exam requirements with experience will need to take the Teaching of Reading exam **in addition** to content and pedagogy exams. **Initial applicants** completing **in-state** preparation programs already enrolled in the year-long residency and holding either the PL or R credential prior to **January 1, 2025**, are not subject to taking the Teaching of Reading exam. **Add-on policy** is effective **September 1, 2024**. Keep in mind if an applicant is applying for initial certification **with an add-on**, if the add-on area requires the exam, the Certification Office will be looking for the exam effective 9/1/2024.

New Literacy Exam Option. BESE adopted the Louisiana Elementary Multiple-Subjects exam, which includes as a part of the English Language Arts subtest, the Teaching of Reading exam. It :

- Allows for an option with the same number of exams as currently required
- Includes grades K-3 (PK-3, 1-5, Special Education areas)

The passing score increases over time to gradually increase Science of Reading skill mastery for teacher

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candidates. The current Teaching of Reading exam (5205/5206) is not being phased out; neither is the current Elementary Multiple subjects exam (5001). Effective June 1, 2024, the newly adopted test will be available through ETS.

Add-On Literacy Requirements. For add-on purposes, general reading and literacy hours may be fulfilled with the indicated semester hours, equivalent contact hours, or passing the adopted Teaching of Reading exam. Successful completion of the BESE-approved literacy foundations training *may* be accepted for the number of hours approved per program. Anyone using LTRS training will need to submit all LTRS certificates of completion to LouisianaLiteracy@la.gov for verification. The email verification from LouisianaLiteracy@La.gov must be included with the add-on application to receive credit for the training for add-on purposes. Effective 9/1/2024, teachers wishing to add-on certification areas granting authorization to teach grades K-3 and Special Education add-on areas will require the general literacy semester or contact hours AND Teaching of Reading Elementary exam. For add-on purposes, 5205/7002 cannot satisfy both the literacy hours requirement and the Teaching of Reading exam requirement. Please use the [Literacy Exam and Coursework Guidance for Preparation Providers](#) guidance document for additional information.

Foreign Equivalency Transcripts. New foreign equivalency transcript requirements include that a credentialing agency must be an endorsed member in good standing with either:

- [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#)
- [Association of International Credential Evaluators \(AICE\)](#).

The adopted policy is effective **May 20**. Updated information is available on teachlouisiana.net.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

Certification Monthly Call

The Certification Office conducts a monthly call devoted solely to certification. Participants for this call should include individuals responsible for the implementation of certification policy in teacher preparation programs and school systems. Topics include legislative and policy updates, certification processing updates, and frequently asked questions. It will generally fall on the third **Monday** of each month at **10:30 a.m.** Any changes due to BESE meetings or holidays will be included on the [school system support calendar](#). The next call is **Monday, March 18**.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWIDU1gvNnNYQk40WjI3YmpxUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 0104 5748

Passcode: 959091

Please contact Arthur.Joffrion@la.gov or Christy.Bellue@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

2023-2024 Program Approval Fall Cycle

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[New program applications](#) window will open **May 1** for the fall cycle. Applications are reviewed to ensure applicants meet all policy requirements to obtain approval. A [guide](#) for teacher preparation providers applying for initial program approval is available in the [Preparation Library](#) on Louisiana Believes.

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
Spring	September 1	October 1	December 10	December 11	February 15	TBD	April 16
Fall	May 1	June 1	July 10	July 11	August 26	TBD	October TBD

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

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

2022-2023 Completer Rosters Final Verification

The window to complete final verification of the 2022-2023 TPP completer rosters for Performance Profiles will tentatively open on March 15, 2024. An email with further information will be sent out later this month. If you have not yet uploaded completer disclosure forms for the 2022-2023 academic year, please upload them to the [File Transfer Portal \(FTP\)](#). For VAM scores to be shared with providers, consent forms must be received by **April 1, 2024**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

On-Site Review Updates

The Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System (TPQRS) includes Preparation Program Experience as one of the domains. An on-site review by a third party is conducted to understand the program's quality once at least every four years. There will be no on-site reviews this fall. The RFP for the on-site review vendor is currently posted and a selection will be made soon.

Each provider received their on-site review timeframe during the performance profile debriefing calls. If your assigned on-site review interferes with any other accreditation timeframe, please email believeandprepare@la.gov to request a change.