



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

As a trusted partner in our shared mission to prepare the next generation of educators, we are excited about the start of our LAER Menu of Support Sessions — a professional learning series designed to deepen the understanding of the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER).

These free, high-quality sessions will build the capacity of teacher preparation programs by providing relevant, focused, and replicable professional learning opportunities. Our goal is to ensure that you have the tools and strategies needed to effectively implement and sustain the LAER in your programs.

Topics of these sessions include:

- Calibration of the Rubric
- POP Coaching Cycle
- High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)
- Course Mapping
- Theory to Practice
- Rubric Internalization

To accommodate your needs and budgets, we are offering both in-person and virtual learning options.

Please register on [Eventbrite](#) if you haven't done so already.

Thank you for your continued partnership in shaping the future of Louisiana's educators. We look forward to learning and growing 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 Events

March 17: Certification Monthly [call](#)

March 26: Preparation Provider Monthly [call](#)

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, March 26.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 26, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92623197552?pwd=AYoMqiVyfYDYokaCbcfmk8glcxLntE.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 926 2319 7552

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

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.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT

Pre-Educator Support Call

The 3rd Quarter Pre-Educator Support Call will be held in person at the Aspiring Educators State Convention at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on **March 21**. Please visit the [ULL Educators Rising Collegiate website](#) for details about the conference.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Pre-Educator Site Visit

Register for 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 our final visit of the year in Rapides Parish on **April 9, 2025**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov 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.

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.

Act 260 Training

Consider using the [Numeracy Professional Learning courses](#) aligned to [Act 260](#) as a guide when enhancing coursework to align to the current Louisiana Mathematics Teacher Competencies. Providers should utilize the [information](#) provided to join provider-specific courses in the LDOE professional learning platform,



Preparation Provider Newsletter



[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.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

LAER Support Registration

[Registration](#) is now open for providers to sign up to attend support opportunities around deep understanding and implementation of the LAER rubric.

The training sessions are designed to help providers understand how to use the LAER for professional growth, implement HQIM, and improve instructional practices. We encourage all providers to register to attend. Additional information about topics, modalities, and logistics is provided in the [registration link](#).

2024-2025 Program Approval Spring Cycle

The [new program application](#) window opened on September 1 for the spring cycle for [teacher preparation programs](#), [mentor teacher](#), [content leader](#), and [ECAC](#). All Notice of Intent (NOIs) were due by October 1. Full applications were due December 10. Applications that are pending denial will have seven days to resubmit any missing documents before undergoing a second round of review. **The fall application cycle will begin May 1.**

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 TBD
Fall	May 1	June 1	July 10	July 11	August 26	TBD	October TBD

A [guide](#) for teacher preparation providers applying for initial program approval is available in the [Preparation Library](#) on Louisiana Believes.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



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.

The following options are available:

- July 10-11, Ruston
- Date TBD, Central
- July 28-29, Baton Rouge

For more information or to reserve a seat, please email STEM@la.gov.

Supporting High-Quality Planning for Science Instruction

Preparation providers are invited to attend a one-day PL 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 for participants to attend: **July 14** or **July 18**. Both sessions will be held at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA. For more information or to reserve a seat, please email STEM@la.gov.

Bayou Bridges Office Hours

Join the LDOE social studies team on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month at 3:15 p.m. to get additional support with the [Bayou Bridges Curriculum](#).

The remaining topics will be offered:

- April 2 - [Using the Bayou Bridges online resources one-pagers/ Foundations of Freedom launch](#)
- May 7 - [Teacher Leader Summit Preview](#)

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=e0bx7y79EwbnVD7OGfK2nHap7GN7qV.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 928 0030 6323

Meeting Passcode: 644638

Contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov for more information.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



LDOE The Science and Art of Teaching Reading

The Science and Art of Teaching Reading professional learning series aims to equip educators with a shared understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to implement scientifically-based literacy instruction. This professional development series (Part 1 and Part 2) is available through the LDOE [Professional Learning Platform](#). Please use the codes below to access this series.

- Science and Art of Teaching Reading (Part 1) course code: 8CBFO261
- Science and Art of Teaching Reading (Part 2) course code: C7626END

CERTIFICATION

Educator Background Credentialing

Clear Credential Facts & Tips

There are definite benefits of being fingerprinted and cleared for certification after January 1. One benefit is the “clear credential” designation that appears on a record when verified on teachlouisiana.net. LDOE will receive rap backs on all with this designation.

- Certificates issued, renewed, advanced, or modified after January 1, 2025, where the educator has completed fingerprinting for certification using LDOE’s service code 27N5HQ, will have a “Clear Credential” indicator placed on the certification record.
- Non-certificated individuals who have completed the new Criminal Background Check (CBC) process will be entered into the certification system, and the “Clear Credential” indicator will be viewable online.

The “Clear Credential” indicator signals that LDOE has received the CBC, reviewed it for disqualifying convictions, and cleared the individual for certification. Having been fingerprinted for certification ensures LDOE will receive rap backs if there are subsequent in-state entries on the individual’s rap sheet. An example educator is listed below to show what the credential looks like on teachlouisiana.net.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



teachlouisiana.net/Teachers.aspx?PageID=416

teach louisiana

HOME/LOGIN ► CERTIFICATION PREPARATION

» Certification »

Name: CANARY DEMONSTRATION BIRD

Certificates or Permits:

 **CLEARCREDENTIAL 681921** Issued: 12/18/2024
Valid For: 12/18/2024 - Life, Valid

Degree(s):

General Area(s) Of Certification:

(070) ***CREDENTIAL CLEARANCE AS PER LA R.S. 17:8.9***, 12/18/2024

Since January 1, 2025, approximately 1,500 Clear Credentials have been issued, which indicates that at least 1,500 CBCs have been received for individuals seeking certification issuance, renewal, advancement, or modification under the LDOE service code. It appears that some applicants may be scheduling fingerprinting under incorrect service codes, which prevents the LDOE Certification and Background Credentialing staff from receiving those CBCs. To ensure that a CBC is sent to the correct office, applicants must use the service code 27N5HQ, which can be found in the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

Applicants are encouraged to provide their Social Security Number (SSN) when scheduling fingerprinting. Without an SSN, processing delays occur since extra time is spent locating the SSN. Typically, the time between fingerprinting and LDOE receiving the CBC is only a few hours; however, for individuals with extensive histories, those from other countries, or those with multiple aliases, the process may take up to three weeks.

The Louisiana State Police has advised that if applicants are not contacted by Idemia/IdentoGO after fingerprinting, they should consider it a positive sign, as it means their prints are being processed, and the CBC will be sent to the Certification and Background Credentialing office soon. If there is a problem with the fingerprints collected, the applicant will be contacted by Idemia/IdentoGO through the email address provided at the time of scheduling. If, after three weeks, the LDOE does not have the CBC, please email the Educator Credentialing team with details of fingerprinting so that troubleshooting can begin.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



When requesting the issuance of a certificate from an eligibility letter (e.g., EDL, OS, etc.), LDOE requires a Clear Credential or a CBC less than 5 years old before LDOE may issue the certificate.

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with any questions.

Certification Policy Updates

Policy Updates

The following items were adopted by BESE at the October 2024 meeting and were effective February 20, 2025:

- Changes to Educational Leader Certification
- Changes to Out-of-State Administrator certification
- Addition of Computer Science and STEM Grades 1-5 Endorsement
- Update to Computer Science
- Updates to Montessori Teacher Certification
- Updates to Temporary Employment Permit
- Adoption of new Praxis

Educational Leader Certification Updates

The changes to Educational Leader certification include several key updates. Bulletin 146 has been adopted to replace Bulletin 125. New Performance Expectations now cover: School Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goal Setting, Instructional Leadership, Capacity Building, School and Community Environment, Professionalism and Integrity, and School Operations/Management.

Portfolios submitted for [Educational Leader: Alternate Path 2 \(240 Clock Hours\)](#) after the policy changes will be evaluated based on alignment with these updated Performance Expectations.

Additionally, Alternate Pathway 4 has been revised by replacing the requirement for a master's degree with a *graduate* degree in designated areas. This pathway offers a five-year, **non-renewable** certificate for serving as a School Level Leader only. Leaders certified through this pathway who lack the three years of teaching experience required for EDL2 certification may still be advanced after meeting the standards of effectiveness for five years as a school leader.

Out-of-State Administrator Updates

The updates to the [Out-of-State Principal \(OSP1\)](#) certification include several changes. Applicants with a valid out-of-state certificate to serve as a principal or a comparable certificate may now be issued OSP1, with **experience** as a principal **no longer** being a **requirement**. If the out-of-state certificate is **not valid**,



Preparation Provider Newsletter



applicants can still be issued an OSP1 with verification of at least one year of successful service as an assistant principal or principal within the five years immediately preceding their first employment in Louisiana. Applicants who **do not** have this verified experience may be issued a one-year, non-renewable OSP certificate. To transition to the five-year OSP1, leaders issued the one-year OSP certificate must earn an effective evaluation within the one-year validity period.

For [Out-of-State Principal \(OSP2\)](#), applicants will need to verify at least three years of successful experience as a principal or assistant principal, in addition to **passing** the adopted Louisiana leadership Praxis [exam](#). Educators with a minimum of four years of verified successful experience as a principal in another state **may be exempt** from the exam requirement and will meet the experience requirement for OSP2.

The [Out-of-State Superintendent \(OSS\)](#) certification now requires a **passing score** on the Louisiana Superintendent [Praxis](#) exam, in addition to the previous requirements, in order to align with state law.

Computer Science and STEM Grades K-5

To add this area of certification, applicants must hold a valid Out-of-State, Level 1, Type C, or higher certification. Additionally, they must meet one of the following requirements: complete the K-5 Computer Science and STEM Praxis, earn 21 semester hours in computer science and STEM content (with at least 3 semester hours in computer science or educational technology), or complete a BESE-approved micro-credential Computer Science and STEM Grades K-5 training program. Training programs are not expected until the Fall of 2025.

Applicants must also achieve a passing score on the Principles of Learning and Teaching K-6 exam, complete 9 semester hours of reading coursework or one of the approved literacy options, and have a passing score for the Teaching of Reading Elementary exam.

Computer Science 6-12 Endorsement

Educators now have **three** options to fulfill the content requirements for certification: completing a BESE-approved micro-credential Computer Science Grades 6-12 training program (new), earning 21 semester hours in the content area, or passing the Computer Science Praxis exam.

Additionally, educators must meet a requirement of three semester hours in the teaching of reading and literacy, complete [BESE-approved literacy foundations training](#), or pass the adopted Teaching of Reading [Praxis](#) exam.

Montessori Teacher Certification

The changes to the [Ancillary Montessori Teacher](#) and [Montessori Teacher](#) endorsement include the removal of the term “Nonpublic” from the Ancillary certificate, which now authorizes educators to serve in any Louisiana-approved Montessori school. Approved training programs have been updated to include **any**



Preparation Provider Newsletter



program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). Montessori levels will now be reflected on certificates to align with the corresponding training program levels. In addition, literacy requirements have been added for all levels to comply with state law. The requirements are as follows:

- Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood, and Elementary I: **9** semester hours
- Elementary II: **6** semester hours
- Secondary I and Secondary II (12-18): **3** semester hours
- Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood/Primary, and Elementary I (to age 9):
Earn a **passing score on Teaching of Reading: Elementary exam**

Temporary Employment Permit (TEP)

Changes to the TEP are around renewal requirements. Previous renewal requirements stated an educator was required to successfully meet the standards of effectiveness “at the level of highly effective or effective proficient.”

The policy was updated to remove “at the level of highly effective or effective proficient” and replaced with “successfully meet the standards of effectiveness” in accordance with [Bulletin 130](#).

Certification Reminders

Office Hours

Beginning February 1, 2025, the LDOE added several certification specialists to the Office Hours rotation. Please answer any unknown number during the designated time, as calls will come from area codes 225, 318, 504, 337, and 985. As a reminder, make sure to follow **all five** steps outlined in the [‘scheduling office hours’](#) link. Office hours are reserved specifically for **human resources and program providers**; please **do not share the link** with educators **or allow educators to join** the call.

Practitioner License Processing Update

The number of teacher candidates transferring between programs has increased, leading to a variety of scenarios and questions. While some of the scenarios and questions can only be answered with policy, the LDOE has updated the procedures to accommodate the issues while remaining in alignment or compliance with policy. Therefore, as of **January 1, 2025**, all alternate certification program changes require a program **withdrawal** letter from the provider, with the **acknowledging signature of the teacher candidate**. The letter should include:

- University or Provider letterhead
- Candidate name and certificate number
- Program originally enrolled in (i.e. Certification only, Secondary Math)



Preparation Provider Newsletter



- Program withdrawal date
- Program Dean (or designee) signature
- Teacher candidate signature

Please schedule and submit the letter via an office hours question and call.

Additionally, the changes to processing protocols below have been implemented as resolutions to the issues seen with applicants changing programs:

- When an applicant **changes the program area or provider**, these will be treated as **initial** Practitioner License (PL) applications.
 - This **will not require mentoring** (or program progress) to change and be issued the new PL but will require the withdrawal letter mentioned above.
- All years on the PL **will count** toward the total allowable years on a PL. (*This is a policy requirement.*)
- When **changing certification areas, or program providers**, the residency year will have to be **restarted**. (*This is also to align with policy language.*)
- When changing program types *within a provider*, PLs will be considered on a case-by-case basis for eligibility for residency continuing through the change.

Phase 1 of 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 that were authenticated HR & Prep users before implementation were 'batch uploaded' with access to the new system. Since the system has gone live, the LDOE needs assistance in 'testing' to ensure appropriate access has been granted. Be sure to use the same email address to log in to the Office Hours portal as used to log in to TeachLALive!. Any user using a generic email address to log in will be provided temporary access to the HR/Preparation level access. 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.



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Phase 2 of 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 in the first quarter or early second quarter of 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

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.