



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) has released its [2025 Teacher Prep Review](#), highlighting critical areas for improvement in elementary mathematics teacher preparation. We are excited to inform you that [Louisiana](#) leads in elementary math teacher preparation.

The [2025 Teacher Prep Review](#) by NCTQ highlights that 24% of Louisiana's elementary teacher preparation programs earned an 'A+' or 'A' grade. This places Louisiana among the top-performing states nationally, showing that preparation providers dedicate enough time to both math content and teaching methods.

Nationally, the 2025 NCTQ review shows that only 16% of undergraduate programs received an 'A' grade. Graduate programs performed even worse, with 84% receiving an 'F', often due to not enough focus on math content. The NCTQ suggests at least 150 instructional hours for mathematics covering areas like Numbers and Operations, Algebraic Thinking, Geometry and Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability, along with Math Pedagogy.

Louisiana has policies that align teacher preparation programs with research-based standards. They also encourage partnerships between these programs and local school districts. These actions help ensure future teachers learn what they need to teach math effectively. The state's commitment to strengthening math instruction is evident in its proactive measures. Louisiana has implemented policies that encourage teacher preparation programs to align their curricula with research-based standards, ensuring that aspiring educators acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to teach math effectively. Additionally, the state has fostered partnerships between teacher preparation programs and local school districts, facilitating feedback loops that inform and enhance math instruction.

Thank you to all teacher preparation providers for your dedication and support in advancing high-quality math instruction. Your ongoing efforts in Louisiana have set a strong example for others to follow, showing how a commitment to comprehensive math education and meaningful collaboration with school districts can better prepare future teachers. Your work is vital in improving student outcomes and helping close longstanding gaps in math achievement — thank you for leading the way.

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

May 19: Certification Monthly [call](#)

May 28: Preparation Provider Monthly [call](#)

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, May 28.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 28, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92623197552?pwd=AYoMqjVyfYDYokaCbcfmk8glcxLntE.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.

EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

[Student](#) and [Academy Staff](#) Applications are now open 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.



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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, [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

Workforce Reporting Snapshot Updates

The 2023-2024 State and Regional Workforce Snapshot reports are available in the [Workforce Attributes Library](#) and are also linked below. These workforce snapshots are built using End-of-year (EOY) data from the 2023-2024 academic year. This yearly snapshot can help preparation providers see educator workforce data such as demographics, certification, retention, and other topics. The regional reports can also be used to show this information at a more granular level to assist with recruitment.

[State Workforce Report](#)

[Central Region Workforce Report](#)

[Northern Region Workforce Report](#)



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[Southeast Region Workforce Report](#)
[Southwest Region Workforce Report](#)

For more information, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov

2024-2025 Program Approval Fall Cycle

The [new program application](#) window is now open for the fall cycle for [teacher preparation programs](#), [mentor teacher](#), [content leader](#), and [ECAC](#). All Notice of Intents (NOIs) are due by **June 1**. Full applications are due by July 10.

Cycle	<u>Application Window Opens</u>	<u>Notice of Intent Due</u>	<u>Full Application Due</u>	<u>Round 1 Evaluation Period Begins</u>	<u>Notification of Pending Decisions</u>	<u>Round 2 Evaluation and Notification (as needed)</u>	<u>BESE Consideration</u>
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](#).

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

Fall LAER Training

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

- August 11-12, 2025, Baton Rouge
- September 11-12, 2025, Ruston

Each provider will receive an email with the link to register for the training session once the locations are determined. The targeted audience of participants includes the residency/placement coordinators and university supervisors, or those responsible for observing and evaluating residency students.



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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, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

K-12 Science Planning with HQIM Professional Learning Opportunity

Preparation providers are invited to [register](#) for 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

- Option 1: July 10-11, Ruston
- Option 2: July 22-23, Leesville
- Option 3: July 28-29, Baton Rouge

For more information, please refer to the [overview](#) or email STEM@la.gov.

Supporting High-Quality Planning for Science Instruction

Preparation providers are invited to [register](#) for 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 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, please refer to the [overview](#) or email STEM@la.gov.

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.



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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.

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 four options that will be held virtually on **May 27, May 29, June 6, and June 20, 2025**. Please see the [registration flyer](#) for more details.

Please contact STEM@la.gov for more information.

CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING

Educator Background Credentialing

Fingerprint Scheduling with IdentoGO for Credentialing

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](#).



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

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



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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:

- **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.



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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 that 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

Certification Monthly Calls

There is a [new Zoom link](#) for the 2024-2025 certification monthly call. Calls will be held on the following



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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.