



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

We are happy to inform you that we will be sharing all the wonderful things that are going on in our provider community through our “Provider Spotlight” each month in our newsletter. The provider spotlight is an opportunity for providers to highlight exciting information about what you are doing in your program(s) that we can share across our provider community. Information can be about recent grant opportunities, innovative initiatives, research/case studies around the advancement of your program(s), or faculty and residency student highlights.

We invite you to inform us about any good news by completing the [provider spotlight Jotform](#) so we can share all the amazing things you are doing across our great state. We are so excited to hear about all the things you are doing well to grow educators who will grow students.

We are thankful and grateful for your work in continuously improving your programs. We wish you all the best in your endeavors and know we are here to support you in any way we can.

Arthur M. Joffrion, Jr., Ed.D.

Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 18: Certification Monthly [call](#)

November 20: Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, November 20.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 20, 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.

Educator Development



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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. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend.

- McNeese State University, Unlock Education Event - January 23, 2025

Mentor and Resident Funding

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the data collection for Mentor compensation will take place using a similar process to what was used in 2023-2024. Those unable to join the Fall 2024 Mentor and Resident funding call to review the funding eligibility and process should review the [presentation](#).

School systems were asked to submit all required data no later than October 22 in EdLink. The data snapshot was collected on October 25. Preparation providers should have checked in with school system partners to make sure they have all data submitted in Edlink. Preparation providers should ensure that school systems know which residents/practitioners are teaching in their classrooms. As a reminder, all certificates required (practitioner license, resident license, Mentor credential or waiver) must have been issued by **October 1** in order to be eligible for funding.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@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](#).



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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.

NASDTEC

The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) offers a reliable resource for comprehensive teacher licensure information across all 50 states. NASDTEC invites your organization to become a member and gain exclusive access to our NASDTEC KnowledgeBase. This invaluable tool provides detailed insights into teacher licensure requirements from every state in the US, empowering you with the knowledge needed to navigate the complex landscape of teacher licensure seamlessly and assist you in meeting both the requirements of the USDOE related to occupational licensure notification and the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) to teacher candidates.

As a member of NASDTEC, you'll enjoy a multitude of benefits, including:

- Twenty-five (25) user accounts with full access to all NASDTEC resources in the Online Community.
- Access to the NASDTEC KnowledgeBase: Gain unparalleled access to comprehensive teacher licensure information from all 50 states, ensuring you stay informed and prepared.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with education professionals and policymakers nationwide, fostering collaborations and sharing best practices.
- Professional Learning Resources: Access exclusive resources, webinars, and training opportunities designed to help prepare teacher candidates and those already in the field.
- Advocacy and Support: Join a community dedicated to advocating for the highest standards in teacher preparation and licensure, with access to guidance and support.

Associate membership for an educator preparation provider is only \$500 annually and as stated above, allows your organization to have 25 user accounts. For more information on membership benefits and to join, visit our website at <https://www.nasdtec.net/page/Membership>.

NASDTEC looks forward to welcoming you to our community of education leaders committed to excellence in teacher licensure, preparation, and ethics.

Please contact support@nasdtec.org with any questions.



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High-Quality Instructional Materials and Professional Learning (HQIM & HQPL)

High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) Update

We are happy to share information about upcoming high-quality professional learning (HQPL) opportunities that we have secured through the following vendor:

Deans for Impact:

Module 3: Supporting All Learners

November 1 - 15

Mode: *Asynchronous Self-Paced Learning* (6 hours)

Virtual Check-In: Virtual Community Conversation

[November 19](#)

Mode: *Virtual Community Conversation* (1 hour)

Should you have additional questions or need further guidance, please email believeandprepare@la.gov.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

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 Intents (NOIs) were due by October 1. All applications that submitted a notice of intent have been reviewed and moved to the full application stage. Full applications for all new programs are due **December 10**.

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



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

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

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

On-Site Review Updates

The Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System (TPQRS) includes the 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. Etio, formerly Class Measures, is the external vendor who will be conducting all on-site reviews with our teacher preparation providers.

Providers who are scheduled for the spring on-site review cycle were notified during their TPQRS debrief session. A follow-up email was sent to providers with instructions on how to sign up for the preferred week to conduct reviews via the Teacher Preparation Provider (TPP) online support portal [PickTime](#).

If the assigned on-site review interferes with any other accreditation timeframe, please email believeandprepare@la.gov to request a change. This request must be on official letterhead, signed by the dean or director.

CERTIFICATION UPDATES

October BESE Policy updates

These changes went to BESE in October for adoption and are currently out for Notice of Intent (NOI). The expected date this policy is effective (off of NOI), unless an effective date is otherwise specified, is January 20, 2025.

- Computer Science-micro credentials:
 - Adding secondary computer science grades 6-12
 - Adding computer science and STEM grades K-5
- Updates to Montessori Certification
- Removing the ratings **highly effective** and **effective proficient** in TEP and aligning renewal with the standards of effectiveness in accordance with Bulletin 130
- Out-of-State Principal and Out-of-State Superintendent updates
- Removing teacher competencies and moving to a separate bulletin



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Certification Reminders

Phase 1 of New System

The Teacher Certification Online portal, question, and application system will be implemented in phases. Phase 1 includes updating our question submission system. Implementation occurred on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, after business hours.

Users will need:

- [MyLa account](#)
- EdLink Security access (HR/Prep user roles only)
- Access to the Teacher Certification ZenDesk Help Center

End users will only need a MyLa account (instructions are linked above). Human Resource and Preparation Providers need the EdLink Security role, although current users have been 'batch uploaded' to the new system. Since the system is live, users will need to 'test' their accounts to ensure appropriate access has been granted. Any user using a generic email address to log-in will be provided temporary access to the HR/Preparation level of access. Additional instructions will be provided after initial live testing to any user with a generic email address on the necessary steps and timeline for requesting a new access/account.

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 your calendar 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.

Educator Background Credentialing

Credential Clearance with a Criminal Background Check (CBC) for Certification

Effective **January 1, 2025**, Louisiana law ([R.S. 17:8.9](#)) requires criminal background checks (CBCs) for **credentialing**. This law is much more comprehensive than what has historically been in place where the CBC was requested and required for employment ([R.S. 17:15](#)).

- A CBC will be required **before** a credential can be issued if LDOE does not have one on file less than five years old.
- If a person has already been issued a credential prior to the implementation of this new law,



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and the LDOE **does not have a cleared CBC** for that person, the credentialed individual will be required to complete the CBC process at the time of applying for renewal, advancement, or modification.

Certification applications **submitted before January 1, 2025**, will be processed without sending the applicant to be fingerprinted.

For applications **submitted on and after January 1, 2025**, the applicant will check www.teachlouisiana.net for a CBC on file with LDOE under five years old. If none exist in the applicant's LDOE file or if the applicant has no certification file, the applicant will be directed to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet, where the individual will schedule fingerprinting with IdentGO BEFORE certification can be processed. Certification applications are being updated with a new Professional Conduct form, the link to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet, and other documents addressing certification clearance and how to determine if one exists or if the applicant will be subject to a new background check for certification.

LDOE may obtain a CBC as needed for credentialing purposes. This allowance in law and policy provides LDOE the discretion to require an updated background check in situations such as:

- The LDOE has been made aware (self-reported, stakeholder reported, news/media outlet, etc.) of recent criminal activity
- An applicant has come from out-of-state or has relocated, requesting Louisiana certification

IdentGO by Idemia

IdentGO by IDEMIA provides a wide range of identity-related services with the primary service being the secure capture and transmission of electronic fingerprints for employment, certification, licensing, and other verification purposes. They will fingerprint applicants for Louisiana certification.

IdentGO has assigned LDOE a specific agency "service code," which will be released with a waiver agreement and all disclosures when an applicant is directed to the CBC process after submitting the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet.

Fingerprint results are returned to the LDOE through the Louisiana Applicant Processing System (LAPS) with the CBC being transmitted within a few hours if the fingerprints are clear.

Actions and Sanctions

Certification may be denied, suspended, or revoked for:

- Conviction of or nolo contendere plea to **any felony** even if dismissed per Article 893/894, expunged, or granted first offender pardon.
- Conviction of or nolo contendere plea to a crime listed in **LA R.S. 15:587.1(C)** even if



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dismissed per Article 893/894, expunged, or granted first offender pardon.

- Submitting fraudulent certification documentation to BESE or LDOE.
- Facilitating cheating on any state assessment.
- Censure of another professional credential or license.

Reinstatement via a records review may be considered by BESE based on appeal law and policy that is outlined in Chapter 19 of [Bulletin 746](#).

Background Credentialing Partnership

The new law requires a shared responsibility.

- **BESE** - establishes policies for checks, including obtaining fingerprints and requesting information from state and federal bureaus.
- **LDOE** - reviews the contents of the CBC before processing certification, making public any certification denial, suspension, and revocation.
- **PREPARATION PROVIDERS** - assist teacher candidates in applying for the pre-service certificates informing them of the CBC requirement.
- **EMPLOYING SCHOOL SYSTEMS** - notify LDOE upon the termination, resignation, or resignation in lieu of termination of any certified employee within 10 days of separation of service when the action results from conviction for any felony or any offenses listed in R.S. 15:587.1
- **CERTIFIED INDIVIDUALS** - required to report criminal convictions to LDOE within two business days.

Reporting can be done by emailing EducatorClearance@la.gov.