



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

Happy Fall! The fall on-site reviews are underway and we are already seeing some amazing things across our prep provider community. We have also begun our fall high-quality professional learning (HQPL) sessions that have proven to be impactful for those who have been able to participate.

Last week, Deans for Impact conducted in-person professional learning sessions. The October 1 session was hosted by Grambling State University for our providers in the northern part of our state, and the October 3 session was hosted by Louisiana State University for our providers in the southern part of our state.

Both sessions focused on the significance of lesson internalization and its impact on how our teacher candidates effectively plan for instruction. The lesson internalization session was broken down into a four part process:

- Read and annotate the core text used in the lesson
- Connect to the unit's culminating task
- Familiarize yourself with the culminating task and analyze opportunities for students to make meaning throughout the lesson
- Anticipate areas where students may need support

Although presenters used an ELA lesson to model the process, participants were able to engage with one another to discuss how this process looks across all content areas and why using each step in the process helps teacher candidates prepare to teach a lesson with HQIM.

We'd like to sincerely thank those providers who served as host sites and look forward to hearing about the impact this new learning will have within your teacher preparation program(s).

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

Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 21:** Certification Monthly [call](#)

**October 30:** Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)

## NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, October 30.

#### Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 30, 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](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



## 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.

- Ascension Parish - October 24, 2024
- McNeese State University, Unlock Education Event - January 23, 2025

## 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 fall semester/term is November 1; spring semester/term is May 1; and 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](mailto:deborah.paul@la.gov) with questions.

## BESE Tuition Program for Teachers

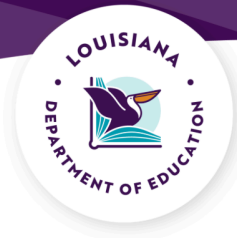
The BESE Tuition Program for Teachers provides tuition funding for certified and currently employed Louisiana classroom teachers. [Online applications](#) for the spring 2025 semester are now open!

The application and program details can be found on the [Continuing Education Opportunities for Educators](#) page. The application will close on October 15, 2024.

## Math Competencies Reminder

[Act 347](#) of the 2023 Regular Session states that BESE shall revise teacher certification requirements and the requirements of teacher education programs to require instruction on foundational numeracy skills standards for candidates seeking certification to teach students no later than December 31, 2023.

[Bulletin 746 §507.B.12](#) Beginning September 1, 2028, an applicant for initial certification must have



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



earned coursework or equivalent contact hours in alignment with the adopted foundational numeracy competencies.

The [competency crosswalk](#) document can be found in the [Preparation Library](#).

## 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 for teacher candidates are published and may be shared at the provider's discretion. For more information regarding [Act 260](#), please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov).

## Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) and the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER)

The [LAER rubric](#) is a [valid and reliable tool](#) which will allow teacher candidates with the ability to receive support and coaching to increase their capacity as an effective educator.

As stated on our September monthly provider call, the LAER and the LER are both designed to assess and guide educators, but they cater to different stages in a teacher's career.

The LAER is targeted to meet the needs of the pre-service teacher and practitioner teacher candidates as it provides a framework for developing teaching practices and competencies during preparation programs, emphasizing foundational skills and the application of theory to practice.

Whereas, the LER is intended for in-service teachers and experienced educators as it focuses on more advanced instructional strategies, student engagement, differentiation, and data-driven decision-making. It evaluates the impact of teaching on student learning, while addressing the complexities and nuances of teaching.

Together, the LAER and LER create a continuum of support and evaluation that fosters effective teaching and learning environments based on where a teacher is in their professional journey.

The LDOE is working closely with NIET to develop additional support and training sessions. Webinars will be offered to those providers who are already NIET, ATR, and/or LER trained (system-based providers only).

For questions regarding additional support around the use of the LAER rubric, training sessions or webinars, please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



## 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](mailto:support@nasdtec.org) with any questions.

## ETS Title II Reporting is Now Open for Entry of 2023-2024 Student Data

The ETS Title II Reporting Services website is now open for entry of your 2023-2024 student data. Student lists should be reviewed at this time, and records of students who withdrew from the teacher preparation program on or before August 31, 2024, should be removed.

No further action is necessary if the program has no Completed students for the 2023-2024 academic year. However, if programs did have students who should be marked as completers the deadline to edit the student list is **Friday, November 1, 5:00 pm EDT**.

The [Title II User Guide](#) contains checklists and other resources to assist you with your work. The most recent ETS Title II [annual webinar](#) (password VGf58ey) and [slide deck](#) are also available for your



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



review.

An email with the collection information was sent from “ETS Title2 Reporting Services” on September 3, 2024. If the Title II coordinator for the teacher preparation program did not receive this email, please email [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with the contact information for the program’s Title II coordinator. ETS will often communicate via email with next steps during the collection period.

Please contact [title2@ets.org](mailto:title2@ets.org) with any questions and include the following information in the subject line of your email: state, full name of institution, and 4-digit institution code.

## Educator Development

### 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.

- Ascension Parish - October 24, 2024
- 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 must submit all required data no later than **October 22** in EdLink. The data snapshot will be taken on **October 25**. Preparation providers should check 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](mailto:MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov) with any questions.

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

### Bayou Bridges Curriculum Guide



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



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 them navigate the curriculum, better understand its key components, and effectively plan and implement Bayou Bridges lessons.

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

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) Update

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

### Deans for Impact:

**Module 2:** *Prompting Effortful Thinking*

**October 4 - 24**

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

**Virtual Check-In:** Virtual Community Conversation

[November 1](#)

Mode: *Virtual Community Conversation* (1 hour)

**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](mailto: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



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



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	<a href="#">Application Window Opens</a>	Notice of Intent Due	Full <a href="#">Application</a> Due	Round 1 Evaluation Period Begins	Notification of Pending Decisions	Round 2 Evaluation and Notification (as needed)	<a href="#">BESE</a> Consideration
Spring	September 1	October 1	December 10	December 11	February 15	TBD	April TBD

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](mailto: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](#).

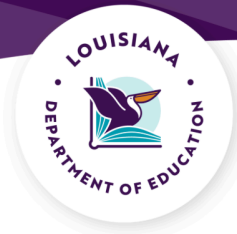
If the assigned on-site review interferes with any other accreditation timeframe, please email [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) to request a change. This request must be on official letterhead signed by the dean or director

## CERTIFICATION UPDATES

### Proposed Policy Updates

The following proposed policy updates will be included at October BESE:

- Computer Science-micro credentials--includes adding secondary computer science grades 6-12 and adding computer science and STEM grades K-5
- Montessori certification changes to align with law and Task force recommendations



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



- Removing ratings of **highly effective** and **effective proficient** in TEP policy and aligning renewal with the standards of effectiveness in Bulletin 130
- Changes to Out-of-State Principal and Out-of-State Superintendent to align with law
- Teacher competencies moving to a separate bulletin

Please keep in mind that these changes are going to BESE in October for adoption and **will not be effective** unless and until BESE approves them.

## Certification Reminders

### Mentor Teacher Policy Update

Effective **August 20**, the following has been updated in Bulletin 746 regarding mentor teacher certification:

- The provisional mentor teacher certificate will now be issued as a two year certificate.
- The Louisiana Educator Evaluator certificate is now a pathway for adding this endorsement (similar to the NIET pathway). The Louisiana Leader Evaluator certificate cannot be accepted for this endorsement; only the Louisiana Educator Evaluator certificate.
- Post-baccalaureate, Practitioner Licensed (PL) candidates can be mentored by a school-system based mentor teacher. Previously, a school-site based mentor could only be used.

### Phase 1 of New System

The Teacher Certification Online portal, question and application system will be implemented in phases. Phase 1 includes the updating of our question submission system. The testing window occurred June 17 through July 19. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to test the system. Full implementation is set to begin next week 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; instructions on how to request this role will come later. So far, we have transferred those who have the current HR/Prep role in a batch to the new system. However, we will need to test access to be sure once we have transitioned to the new system. If the batch transition did not work properly, we will provide instruction on how to request this role in additional communications.

If users are using a generic email address to access the system, these will work temporarily, but each user will need to transition individual email addresses for user accounts eventually. Instructions on how to create those accounts will be communicated after the official roll-out and live user testing.





# Preparation Provider Newsletter



## Certification Monthly Calls

Beginning with the August Certification Monthly Call, there will be a [new zoom link](#) for the 2024-2025 school year. Calls will be held on the following dates for the new school year. The link has been updated on the [school system planning calendar](#) if you wish to add the new link for the entire series to your calendar.

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.

## Application Submission Deadline Passed

To be eligible for associated funding and stipends, **resident teacher, practitioner teacher, and mentor teacher** certifications must have been issued by **October 1**. To guarantee the issuance of the appropriate certificate, the required **complete application** must have been submitted in the online certification portal by **September 1**.

These applications were prioritized during the month of September to ensure they were processed and issued by October 1. Any **incomplete** applications or applications not submitted by September 1 **may not** have been processed and issued in time for the October 1 deadline. This deadline applies to candidates who also need the mentor waiver. MT candidates who don't hold the credential and need the waiver, needed to have the MT waiver **approved by October 1** to be eligible for stipend funding. Mentor Teacher Waiver questions should be submitted to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

Any educator not issued the appropriate credential prior to the October 1 deadline, may be eligible for the next round of funding (25-26 school year).

## New Applications

All applications are **required** to be the June 1, 2024 version for processing. The new version is on the new LDOE branding; therefore the difference between the versions is much easier to determine. Any application **not** on this version will be "kicked back" unprocessed.

## Literacy Coursework Requirements

Candidates completing Louisiana teacher preparation programs on or after **September 1** are required to have completed literacy coursework semester hours or equivalent contact hours for initial certification.



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



- **3** semester hours for Secondary or All-level general education areas
- **6** semester hours for Middle School 4-8 general education areas
- **9** semester hours for Birth to Kindergarten, PreK-3rd Grade, Elementary 1-5, and **all** Special Education areas, including integrated-to-merged Mild/Moderate programs
- A Teaching of Reading exam **CANNOT** be accepted in place of literacy coursework for initial certification candidates completing after 9/1/2024

## Literacy Exam Requirements

Beginning **January 1, 2024**, **Out-of-State** applicants authorized to teach grades K-3 and Special education areas, not meeting exam requirements with experience will need to take the Teaching of Reading exam **in addition** to content and pedagogy exams. The exam is required for the add-on policy which is effective **September 1**.

**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. If an applicant is applying for initial certification with an add-on **after September 1**, if the add-on area requires the exam, the Certification Office will be looking for the exam.

## New Literacy Exam Option

BESE adopted the Louisiana Elementary Multiple-Subjects [Praxis exam \(7001\)](#), which includes the Teaching of Reading exam, as a part of the English Language Arts subtest. This new exam:

- Allows for an option with the same number of exams as currently required
- Includes grades K-3 (PK-3, 1-5, Special Education areas)
- Has a passing score increases over time to gradually increase Science of Reading skill mastery for teacher candidates

The current Teaching of Reading exam (5205/5206) **is not** being phased out; neither is the current Elementary Multiple subjects exam (5001).

The 5205 is **not interchangeable** with the 7002. The 7002 includes the ELA portion of the multiple subjects exam **and** the Teaching of Reading exam. The 5205 is only the Teaching of Reading Elementary exam. It does not include the ELA portion of the Elementary Multiple Subjects exam. Teacher candidates in the elementary grades need both the ELA portion and a Teaching of Reading portion. Therefore, candidates can take the 5002 **plus** the 5205, or the 7002 to meet these requirements.

The LDOE was made aware that the 7001 was not available or showing up on the ETS website on June 1 as it should. However, after many communications with ETS, the 7001 should now be available for Louisiana students to register on the ETS website.



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



## Add-On Literacy Requirements (General)

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 documented with the completion certificate (application cannot be processed without documentation). Anyone using LETRS training will need to submit all LETRS certificates of completion to [LouisianaLiteracy@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaLiteracy@la.gov) for verification. The email verification from [LouisianaLiteracy@La.gov](mailto:LouisianaLiteracy@La.gov) must be included with the add-on application to receive credit for the training for add-on purposes.

## Add-on Literacy Requirements (Grades K-3, Special Education)

For add-ons in certification areas **authorized to teach grades K-3 and special education**, educators must meet:

- General literacy contact or semester hour equivalent requirements

**AND**

- Teaching of Reading exam requirements (Elementary)

These changes will be effective **September 1**. Add-on Literacy requirements **cannot** be fulfilled with two exams. Please be aware that 5205/7002 **cannot** satisfy both the exam and the semester hours requirement.

Please contact [certification@la.gov](mailto:certification@la.gov) with any questions.