



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

According to the latest report by National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), “[State of the States: Building a Strong Teacher Workforce for Students with Disabilities and English Learners](#)”, Louisiana is making encouraging strides in building and sustaining a teacher workforce that is prepared to meet the needs of all students, including those with disabilities and English language learners. While national trends highlight ongoing shortages, Louisiana is moving in the right direction by strengthening preparation, improving retention, and creating conditions for long-term success.

NCTQ noted that Louisiana had the following areas of success:

Teacher Retention

Teacher retention has risen statewide, with 83% of first-year teachers and 86% of all teachers choosing to remain in the profession. This progress reflects growing support for educators and signals greater stability for students.

More Certified Teachers

The percentage of certified teachers in Louisiana increased to 69%, ensuring more classrooms are led by educators who meet professional standards.

Stronger Preparation & Standards

Louisiana stands out nationally for:

- Clear reading standards for teacher preparation programs
- Adoption of strong licensure tests in reading
- Use of high-quality instructional materials across core content areas

These steps help ensure that new teachers enter the classroom ready to serve learners effectively.

Innovative Clinical Partnerships

Louisiana universities are gaining national recognition for building strong school partnerships, aligning preparation with district needs, and integrating high-quality materials into training.

Transparency in Talent Distribution

Louisiana is one of the few states that provides school-level data on teacher distribution, evaluation ratings, and emergency certifications. This openness enables districts to identify and address staffing gaps.

These efforts create a stronger foundation for supporting students with disabilities and English



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learners, two groups that represent a growing share of Louisiana's classrooms. By focusing on teacher quality, retention, and preparation, Louisiana is positioning itself as a leader in ensuring every child has access to a well-prepared teacher.

Best regards,

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

Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development
Louisiana Department of Education

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Events

October 27: [All Things Numeracy](#)

October 29: [Preparation Provider Monthly call](#)

November 5: [Bayou Bridges Office Hour](#)

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

The New Teacher Experience Professional Learning Modules

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly [professional learning modules](#) on topics critical to new teacher success. These modules include online asynchronous content followed by an in-person learning lab where participants practice and apply these concepts.

Teachers are expected to complete the entire series of professional learning modules. These five modules are designed to build learning throughout the year.



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- [Module 1: Classroom Management/Classroom Environment](#)
- [Module 2: Standards and Curriculum](#)
- [Module 3: Data Literacy](#)
- [Module 4: Literacy for 21st-Century Learners](#)
- [Module 5: Parent and Community Engagement](#)

This year, complimentary seating will be offered for the first 200 registrants.

Half of the seats for the northern location (Monroe) and half for the southern location (Baton Rouge) will be reserved as complementary seating. Once those seats are exhausted, teachers may still attend, but the cost to complete the series of modules will be **\$1,272.00** per teacher.

There are still complementary seats available.

Teachers must receive approval to attend from their school leader. [Registration](#) is now open. Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations and an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

Please contact laurie.carlton@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 enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the state's postsecondary institutions 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 are **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.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY Policy Implementation Timeline Guide

To navigate key **policy changes** affecting Louisiana's teacher preparation community, a [Policy Implementation Timeline Guide](#) has been developed. This resource outlines updates in literacy, dyslexia, numeracy, computer science, and English learners. The document will be updated in the coming months to reflect the August BESE policy changes.



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

Spring 2026 Program Approval Cycle

The [new program application window](#) opened on **September 1** for the spring cycle for teacher preparation programs, mentor teacher, content leader, and early childhood ancillary certificates. All applications are due by **December 10**. A notice of intent must have been received by **October 1, 2025**, for an application to be considered for program approval.

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

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Program Approval Reminders

When considering a change to a program, email believeandprepare@la.gov. The preparation team will meet to determine whether the change is minor or major. If the change is minor, the change must be noted on the letterhead and signed by the dean. If the change is major, the provider must undergo the program approval process to obtain approval for the change. This process is crucial for candidates to obtain certification upon completing their coursework.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Winter LAER Training

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

- [January 15-16, 2026](#), University of Louisiana at Monroe
- [January 29-30, 2026](#), University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Please share the registration links with residency/placement coordinators, university supervisors, or those responsible for observing and evaluating residency students.

Should providers wish to include faculty members who are not the residency or placement coordinators or



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university supervisors, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

LAER as a Coaching Tool

The [Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric \(LAER\) as a Coaching Tool](#) module is now available on the Professional Learning Platform. This module is designed to support preparation providers, mentor teachers, and school leaders who work with new teachers who have been trained on the LER to utilize the LAER as a coaching tool. This does not replace the in-person training for the LAER certification.

Course Code: 35299E95

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Specialized Dyslexia Training

Preparation providers are invited to take part in one of the following trainings to fulfill the “special training” outlined in [Bulletin 996](#) for instructors teaching the dyslexia coursework.

Bulletin 996 states, “... taught by a faculty member who has been provided specialized training in instructing teacher candidates on pedagogical methods for teaching students with dyslexia.”

Options for the instructor’s specialized training are as follows:

- Complete the [Overcoming Dyslexia](#) course from Coursera.
 - Uncertified Course is free, Certified Course is **\$49**
- Outsource the course to the speech department.
- Complete a dyslexia certification.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with any questions or for more information.

LDOE Teacher Preparation Training

Educator Preparation, in partnership with the Literacy, Numeracy, and Diverse Learners teams, is offering the following opportunities.

- **Numeracy:** All Things Numeracy, [October 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- **Diverse Learners:** Seclusion and Restraint Training, [November 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- **Diverse Learners:** Improving Outcomes for ELs: Louisiana’s Framework, [December 4 at 10 a.m.](#)

Please [sign up](#) and share the [sign-up](#) link with faculty and staff who will benefit from these courses. A calendar invite with the Zoom links will be sent once the [sign-up](#) form is completed.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.



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Bayou Bridges Office Hours

Preparation Providers are invited to join the LDOE for the third social studies office hours of the 2025–2026 school year. Scheduled for **November 5 at 3:15 p.m.**, the office hours will focus on Using the Unit Planning Tool and What Teachers Need to Know (WTNK) Document. It will also offer an opportunity to address any questions related to [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Join the session using the link provided below, or by accessing the [Social Studies Office Hours Flyer](#) located on the K–12 Social Studies Planning webpage.

- Webinar Date and Time: November 5 at 3:15 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>
- Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799
- Meeting ID#: 974 3607 5546

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Preparation Advisory Workgroup

The LDOE is seeking a diverse group of representatives to form a Teacher Preparation Advisory Workgroup. The group will meet once a month virtually, with two in-person meetings a year. Topics that will be covered include: TPQRS, High-Quality Professional Learning, policy revisions, and document feedback.

The LDOE is looking for a variety of representatives that include:

- Public universities from each region
- Private university provider
- Alternative Preparation Provider
- Grow your Own Provider.

Complete the [application](#) if you are interested in participating by **October 17**.

Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING

Louisiana Educator Certification Portal (LEC)

To support systems with the transition to LEC, training materials are available on www.teachlouisiana.net. These resources include user guides and video recordings designed to assist with navigating the LEC platform. Materials are available for each user role, including: applicants, public and non-public schools, preparation providers, and early childhood centers.



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Please contact the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#) with any questions.

Certification Monthly Calls

Calls will be held on the following dates for the 2025-2026 school year. The link has been updated on the [school system planning calendar](#); the link and reminder may be added to individual calendars for the entire series.

August 18, at 10:30 a.m.	September 15, at 10:30 a.m.	October 20, at 10:30 a.m.
November 17, at 10:30 a.m.	December 15, at 10:30 a.m.	January 26, at 10:30 a.m.
February 23, at 10:30 a.m.	March 16, at 10:30 a.m.	April 20, at 10:30 a.m.
May 18, at 10:30 a.m.	June 15, at 10:30 a.m.	July 20, at 10:30 a.m.