



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

Happy February, Providers! Our Louisiana preparation provider community is doing some amazing work in the field and beyond to advance their programs in many ways. This month, we would like to take the time to highlight a program that is advancing its program in a big way - Grambling State University (GSU).

As part of its commitment to serving underrepresented communities in education, GSU has been selected as one of only four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to receive the [Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence \(Hawkins\) grant](#). This was the only grant awarded in the state. The grant, which provides \$379,000 for the first year and \$2.1 million over five years, will support GSU's efforts to increase multilingual representation and address the need for more educators in underserved communities.

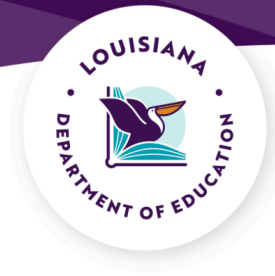
The grant, awarded through the U.S. Department of Education, supports GSU's groundbreaking initiative, GramPREP: The Grambling Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Danielle Williams, Assistant Professor in the College of Education, will serve as the project's Principal Investigator (PI). Katina Crowe-Scott will serve as the Program Coordinator.

"This opportunity allows us to explore all factors of the learning process that impact student success," said GSU President Martin Lemelle, Jr. "We are expanding how education is delivered and received. This grant represents another step in our commitment to standing at the forefront of workforce preparedness, ensuring our graduates are ready to excel in today's complex educational landscape."

"Grambling State University is uniquely positioned to address the barriers faced by bilingual teacher candidates, especially those from underrepresented communities," said Dr. Danielle Williams. "By creating this groundbreaking program at an HBCU, we are closing opportunity gaps and promoting a multilingual approach to teaching and learning. This program offers a rare and vital platform for multilingual educators to collaborate, share experiences, and develop strategies."

Congratulations to GSU and to all who will greatly benefit from this fantastic opportunity as they continue to develop effective, high-quality teachers for all students.

Arthur M. Joffrion, Jr., Ed.D.  
Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development



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## NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Events

**February 24:** Certification Monthly [call](#)

**February 26:** Preparation Provider Monthly [call](#)

### Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

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

#### Webinar Details:

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

### Preparation Provider Spotlight Form

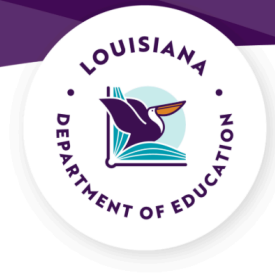
We want to share your good news! We invite all of our providers to complete the [provider spotlight Jotform](#) so that the amazing things happening throughout our teacher preparation provider community can be shared across our great state. Please include information regarding new grant opportunities, 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

### 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.



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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](mailto: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](mailto:STEM@la.gov).

## EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### Annual Teacher Exit Survey Released

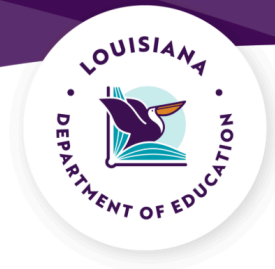
The annual Teacher Exit Survey highlights the progress of Louisiana's comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy and may inform future educational recruitment strategies. This past year saw the following improvement:

- The rate of teachers exiting current positions from traditional Louisiana school systems decreased by two percentage points;
- The number of candidates who completed a Louisiana teacher preparation program has increased for the first time since the reporting of the teacher exit survey began in 2012-2013.

The [2023-2024 Teacher Exit Survey](#) is available in the [Workforce Attributes Library](#).

### 2023-2024 Teacher Prep Provider Performance Profile Verification

The window to verify 2022-2023 TPP completer rosters for Performance Profiles and upload completer consent forms is currently open until February 28, 2025, in the File Transfer Portal (FTP). An email with instructions was sent on January 31.



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## ETS Resolution Period is Open

The Title II Reporting Services ETS portal will open on February 3, 2025, for educator prep providers to review 2023-2024 pass rate reports posted to the ETS Title II site. Please complete this review by **February 28, 2025**. ETS sent out an email with instructions on Monday, February 3, 2025.

## 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, implementing HQIM, and improving 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. All applications submitted by the deadline will receive notification of pending decisions by February 14. 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.



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## OpenSciEd Elementary Pilot Professional Learning Opportunity

Preparation providers are invited to attend a professional learning (PL) opportunity for the OpenSciEd elementary pilot. This is a curriculum-specific PL for the last of the four pilot units, including Launch and Storylining. This will take place in Vernon Parish **February 18-19**. Please email [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) to register and obtain more information.

## 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.

This professional learning opportunity has three options that providers can choose from to attend- North (Ruston), Central, LA (TBD), and South (Baton Rouge). All sessions will be held this summer in July. For more information or to reserve a seat, please email [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov).

## Supporting High-Quality Planning for Science Instruction

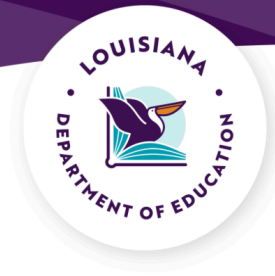
Preparation providers are invited to attend a one-day PL workshop focused on supporting school and system leaders in planning coherent and sustainable structures to improve science teaching and learning. Leaders will explore the LDOE Science Instructional Model and identify elements within high-quality 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](mailto:STEM@la.gov).

## ELA Learning Session 2: Planning for Teachers

The academic content team invites you to join the webinar series focused on planning for and implementing high-quality instruction in ELA classrooms.

Session 2, which will be held on **February 17**, will focus on planning for and implementing high-quality instruction in ELA classrooms. All interested participants should [register](#) to attend.



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## CERTIFICATION

### Certification Reminders

#### 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)
- 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.

#### Literacy Exam

As has been stated many times before, **initial applicants** completing **in-state** preparation programs already enrolled in the year-long residency and holding either the PL or the R credential **prior to January 1, 2025, are not** subject to taking the Teaching of Reading exam. This means the LDOE will need to see evidence of **enrollment** in the residency **prior to January 1, 2025, and** the PL or R must have been **issued prior to January 1, 2025**, for teacher candidates to be exempt from the Teaching of Reading exam, when applying for initial certification.



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To ensure PL and R applications were received, considered, and processed for credential issuance by January 1, 2025, it was strongly recommended applicants submit a complete application by no later than December 10, 2024. All applications for PLs and Rs submitted prior to December 10 were processed. Additionally, many other PL and R applications submitted after December 10 were also able to be processed prior to the January 1 deadline.

## Literacy Requirements for Program Completers

Candidates who **completed** a BESE-approved program **before September 1, 2024**, are required to have specific semester hours or equivalent contact hours in various certification areas. For All-Level (K-12) or Secondary (6-12) areas, including Mild/Moderate 6-12, candidates need 3 semester hours or equivalent contact hours. For Middle Grades (4-8) areas, including Mild/Moderate 4-8, 6 semester hours or equivalent contact hours are required. For Birth to Kindergarten, PK-3, Elementary 1-5, Early Interventionist, Significant Disabilities, and Hearing & Visually Impaired, 9 semester hours or equivalent contact hours are necessary. Alternate-certification candidates for any area may substitute the required coursework hours with any adopted Teaching of Reading exam. Additionally, a Teaching of Reading: Elementary exam (7002 or 5205) is **not required** for any certification area.

The literacy requirements are determined by four factors:

- Program area
- Program completion date
- Whether they held a PL/R before January 1, 2025
- Whether they were enrolled in the residency before January 1, 2025

Candidates who **completed** a BESE-approved program **on or after September 1, 2024, and held** a PL/R while enrolled in the residency **before January 1, 2025**, are required to complete specific semester hours or equivalent contact hours based on their certification area. For Secondary (6-12) or All-level general education areas, candidates need 3 semester hours or equivalent contact hours. For Middle Grades (4-8) general education areas, 6 semester hours or equivalent contact hours are required. For Birth to Kindergarten, PK-3, Elementary 1-5, Early Interventionist, all Mild/Moderate areas, Significant Disabilities, and Hearing & Visually Impaired, 9 semester hours or equivalent contact hours are necessary. A Teaching of Reading exam **cannot** substitute for the required coursework hours for initial certification, and a Teaching of Reading: Elementary exam (7002 or 5205) is **not required** for any certification area.

Candidates who **completed** a BESE-approved program **on or after** September 1, 2024, and **did NOT hold PL/R before January 1, 2025, or were NOT enrolled** in the residency before January 1, 2025, will be **required** to meet the semester hour or contact hour requirements. For Secondary (6-12) or All-level general education areas, candidates need 3 semester hours or equivalent contact hours. For Middle Grades (4-8) general education areas, 6 semester hours or equivalent contact hours are required. For Birth to Kindergarten, PK-3, Elementary 1-5, Early Interventionist, **all Mild/Moderate** areas, Significant Disabilities, and Hearing & Visually Impaired, 9 semester hours or equivalent contact hours are necessary. A Teaching of Reading exam **CANNOT** be used in place of coursework hours. **In addition** to the semester or contact hour requirement, a **Teaching of Reading: Elementary exam** (7002 or 5205) is also **required** for Birth to Kindergarten, PK-3,





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Elementary 1-5, Early Interventionist, **All Mild/Moderate** areas, Significant Disabilities, Hearing & Visually Impaired.

Undergraduate candidates who **are not** enrolled in the residency **and** hold the R before January 1, 2025, in areas that require Elementary Multiple Subjects and a Teaching of Reading exam must meet **specific coursework and exam requirements**. The required coursework hours are the same as outlined in previous guidelines. For the exam, candidates have several options:

- All four subtests of Elementary Multiple Subjects (5001), PLT K-6, **and either** Teaching of Reading: Elementary (5205) or Teaching of Reading/ELA subtest (7002)
- All four subtests of Louisiana Elementary Multiple Subjects (7001) and PLT K-6
- Any combination of subtests from Elementary Multiple Subjects (5001) or Louisiana Elementary Multiple Subjects (7001), one for each subject, PLT K-6
  - If the ELA content subtest passed is 5002, Teaching of Reading Elementary exam (5025 or 7002)

## Literacy Exam Requirements

The Teaching of Reading(TOR) exam is considered a **content exam**; therefore:

- Successful passage is required **prior to enrollment** in a post-baccalaureate program.
- Successful passage is required **prior to the issuance** of a practitioner's license.
- Exams accepted for K-3 or special education areas are Exam #5205 or #7002

This was effective **January 1, 2025**. Candidates enrolled in the program **prior** to January 1, 2025, under current requirements (passed area content) but have not passed the Teaching of Reading may remain enrolled; however, the LDOE cannot issue the PL until the candidate passes Teaching of Reading **if** the PL was not requested and **issued before January 1, 2025**.

## Phase 1 of New System

The Teacher Certification Online portal, question, and application system will be 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





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Center. Educator end users only need a MyLa account([linked here](#)); 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.

## 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 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 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

### Comprehensive Criminal Background Check (CBC) Requirement for Certification

In accordance with Louisiana law (R.S. 17:8.9), a comprehensive criminal background check (CBC) is required for teacher certification. This requirement goes beyond the CBC conducted for employment purposes. A fingerprint-based CBC, processed through the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, is mandatory for issuing, renewing, advancing, or modifying a certificate.



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Effective January 1, 2025, certification applicants will utilize the [updated Professional Conduct form](#), included with all certification applications, to authorize the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to receive a CBC on the educator if one is not already on file and less than five years old. At the time of applying for certification, if no valid CBC is found, applicants will be instructed to [schedule fingerprinting at an IdentoGO location](#). If the applicant already knows that the LDOE does not have a CBC on file, the applicant may schedule fingerprinting with IdentoGO using the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

Once the applicant's CBC is received, reviewed, and free of disqualifying convictions, [a "Clear Credential" will be added to their certification record](#), allowing all certification requests to be processed.

LDOE previously communicated there would be a \$25 processing and handling fee for the Credential Clearance (CC) application, applicable to certification applicants without a CBC on file and run in the past five years. We are pleased to inform you that this fee has been removed during the implementation of this new process. **Applicants will not be required to pay a fee to the LDOE and the applicant will not be required to complete an application separate from the certification application** requesting issuance, renewal, advancement, or modification. All other certification fees remain the same as outlined on the [Certification Fee chart](#). The previously communicated fees associated with fingerprinting for the CBC paid directly to IdentoGO stay the same.

School systems with their own "Enroll-Your-Own" (EYO) fingerprinting machines may offer fingerprinting services to educators. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) has indicated the following school systems have EYO fingerprinting machines: Acadia, Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Lafayette, Livingston, Ouachita, St. Charles, St. Landry, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, and Archdiocese of New Orleans. Individuals may schedule fingerprinting within the school system using the LDOE's service code included in the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#) and the location code provided by the school system. **Preparation Providers with teacher candidates placed in the school systems with EYO machines are encouraged to direct those teacher candidates to the school system for the location code before scheduling fingerprinting.**

If you have any questions, please contact [EducatorClearance@la.gov](mailto:EducatorClearance@la.gov).