



# Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

Happy New Year! As we embark on the start of another year, we wanted to take the time to spotlight some outstanding educators who were developed through one of our providers in our teacher prep community- The New Teacher's Project (TNTP) Academy and teachNOLA.

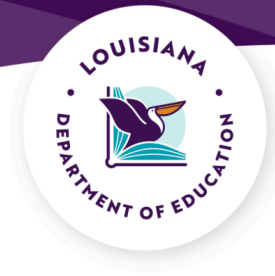
TNTP Academy and teachNOLA are proud to announce that several program alumni were honored this year at the New Orleans Excellence in Teaching Awards Gala. [The New Orleans Excellence in Teaching Awards \(NOETA\)](#) is an initiative of the Allstate Sugar Bowl New Orleans Teacher Community. It is presented annually to the [teacher of the year from every public school](#) across New Orleans. This award is an immense honor, and the educators who receive it are among the very best teachers in the city of New Orleans. Their dedication, skill, expertise, and love for their students are models for educators in New Orleans and nationwide. The annual NOETA Gala is a night to celebrate and honor these outstanding teachers.

Ten alumni from the teachNOLA and TNTP Academy program won this award for performing in the top 3% of teachers across the city of New Orleans. It is truly amazing to see the efforts of TNTP Academy and teachNOLA for training and supporting so many wonderful teachers for the students of New Orleans. Please join us in celebrating these teachers: Melanie Moore (Phillis Wheatley Community School), Donetra Smith ( ReNEW Moton Lakefront Charter School), Nijae Flowers (Harriet Tubman Montessori), Germaine Preatto (KIPP Morial Charter School), Mitchell Tranchina (Arthur Ashe Charter School), Ifasemiloore Hannah-Buchanan and Kennedy Kavanaugh (Homer Plessy Community School), Allyson McKinney (New Orleans Career Center), Bernette Tolston (The Bridge Middle School), and Brent Chapuis (Success at Thurgood Marshall).

Congratulations to the honorees and to TNTP Academy and teachNOLA for helping us reach one of our state priorities by providing effective teachers for students. We wish you all the best and continued success.

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

Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development



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## NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Events

**January 27:** Certification Monthly [call](#)

**January 29:** Preparation Provider [monthly call](#)

### Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, January 29.

#### Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 29, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92623197552?pwd=AYoMqiVyfYDYokaCbcmk8glcxLntE.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

### Aspiring Educators Attending 2025 Teacher Leader Summit

The LDOE has limited funding to help offset the costs for sending high school aspiring educators to Teacher Leader Summit. Allowable expenses for this funding include:

- Student registration fees
- Student lodging and transportation fees
- Sponsor lodging and transportation fees



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Funding allocations will be based on system need, and will be considered on a first-come first-served basis. Complete the [application](#) by **Friday, January 17 at 5 p.m.** to apply for funding.

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

## Teacher Leader Summit

Presenter applications are still open, and we encourage our provider community to submit ideas and strategies that promote excellence in education. Join us in shaping the future and empowering Louisiana's students to achieve their highest potential. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2025.

If you're interested in sharing your knowledge with Louisiana educators from across the state, refer to the [Presenter Submission Guide](#) for directions on completing [applications](#) now through **January 31**.

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

## 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

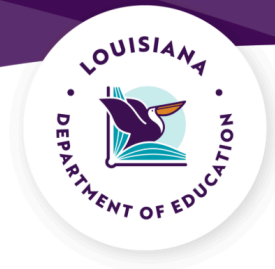
## Geaux Teach Scholarship Program

[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](mailto:deborah.paul@la.gov) with questions.



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## 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

### EL Focus Groups

Educators are required to provide instruction that meets the learning needs of all students. Effectively teaching ELs requires teachers who have undergone specific training in the skills and knowledge necessary to teach and support students who are learning English in tandem with content. With the proper training, teachers can foster a supportive learning environment that enables them to provide effective instruction while also addressing language acquisition.

To help us better understand how the implementation of EL language acquisition across all programs can be implemented in tandem with the work that is currently being done across our prep provider community, LDOE is seeking preparation provider leaders or faculty representatives who may be interested in serving on the ESL focus group.

Please [register](#) to participate in the focus group or forward the link to a representative at your university who could provide insight into the collaboration.

### 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](#).

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



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## LAER Training

To participate in the upcoming LAER virtual training sessions January 15-16, please [register](#).

Similar to the in-person training sessions, each virtual training session lasts two days, with Day 3 being asynchronous work that must be completed through LDOE’s online professional development platform, Canopy.

Participants must attend both days of the virtual training session to gain access to Day 3 asynchronous materials in Canopy. Only those participants who have successfully completed Day 3 materials in Canopy will gain access to NIET’s EE-PASS certification portal to take the LAER certification assessment.

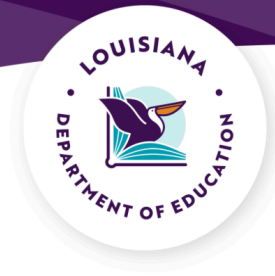
Those providers who are already trained or have been using the Aspiring Teacher’s Rubric (ATR) only have to attend Day 2 (December 12 or January 16) of the two-day training in order to take the certification assessment for the LAER rubric.

Access to the NIET certification portal is granted by NIET. LDOE will submit the names of those participants who have successfully completed Day 3 materials to NIET, and NIET will reach out to participants with further instructions on how to access the certification portal.

## 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. Full applications were due December 10. All applications submitted by the deadline are currently being reviewed for approval. **The fall application cycle will begin May 1.**

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



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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](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## 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.

## ELA Learning Session 1: 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 1 on **January 15 at 3:30** will guide teachers through effectively unpacking and preparing to implement a new unit while also understanding how daily lessons align with the end-of-unit assessment. Please [register](#) to attend.

## Bayou Bridges Office Hours

Join the LDOE social studies team on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month to get additional support with the [Bayou Bridges Curriculum](#). Use the office hours to receive information on the following topics:

- Using the Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks
- Using the LEAP assessment rubric with HQIM
- Using the Bayou Bridges alternative pacing guides
- Using the Bayou Bridges online resources

The [Bayou Bridges Office Hours Flyer](#) contains information such as the dates, times, topics, and links.

## CERTIFICATION

### Certification Reminders

### Practitioner License Processing Update



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The number of teacher candidates transferring between programs has increased, leading to a variety of scenarios and questions. To address these changes while ensuring compliance with policy, updated procedures will take effect on **January 1, 2025**. All alternate certification program changes will require a **program withdrawal letter** from the provider, with acknowledging signature of the teacher candidate. The letter should include the following:

- University or provider letterhead
- Candidate name and certificate number
- Original program enrolled (e.g., Certification-only, Secondary Math)
- Program withdrawal date
- Program Dean (or designee) signature
- Teacher candidate signature

Additionally, the changes to certification processing protocols below will also be implemented as resolutions to the issues being seen with applicants changing programs:

- When an applicant changes the program area or provider, these will be treated as an initial Practitioner License (PL) application
  - This **will not** require mentoring (or program progress) to change and be issued the new PL, but will require the withdrawal letter.
- **All** years on the PL **will count** toward total allowable years on a PL. *(This is a policy requirement)*
- When changing **certification areas, or program provider**, 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 of residency continuing through the change.

## Literacy Exam

As the January 1, 2025, literacy exam deadline approaches, questions regarding compliance and exemptions have increased. Following consultation with the legal department, the following guidelines clarify requirements:

Exemptions from the Teaching of Reading Exam:

- Initial applicants in in-state preparation programs who began their **year-long residency** and held a **Practitioner License (PL) or Resident (R)** credential **prior to January 1, 2025**, are not required to take the Teaching of Reading exam.
- Applicants must provide proof of residency enrollment and PL or R credential issuance prior to January 1, 2025, to qualify for this exemption.



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## Application Submission Recommendations:

- To ensure timely processing, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit **complete applications by December 10, 2024**.
- Applications received after December 10, 2024, **may not be processed** by the January 1, 2025, deadline, despite prioritization efforts.

Expedited processing options remain available during office hours for applications submitted after December 10, 2024. When scheduling, please note that approximately one or two applications may be processed during each 15-minute office hour session.

Submitting early ensures timely certification processing. Applications submitted after the recommended date carry a risk of delay.

## Literacy Exam Requirements

As the January deadline approaches, more and more questions are still being asked about the Teaching of Reading exam. As mentioned previously, the Teaching of Reading 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 issuance of a practitioner's license.
- Accepted exams for K-3 or special education areas are:
  - 5205 or 7002

## 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





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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.

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).