



Preparation Provider Newsletter



Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

The Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) training is proving to be a cornerstone for developing highly effective Grow Your Own programs and ensuring a seamless transition for aspiring educators into the classroom. Here's what some of our partners are saying about their experiences:

"Participating in the LAER training was an invaluable experience that will significantly enhance our school district's [future] teacher preparation program. The training provided not only a comprehensive understanding of how to implement the LAER effectively but also clarified its direct connection to the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER). This alignment ensures a seamless and transparent transition from teacher preparation to professional practice, establishing a strong foundation for what aspiring educators should know and be able to do before meeting the expectations outlined in the LER.

Equally impactful was the opportunity to collaborate with the university and alternative certification providers. These partnerships will enable us to align expectations more closely, strengthen our relationships, and enhance our overall approach to preparing future educators who are ready to thrive from the outset of their teaching careers."

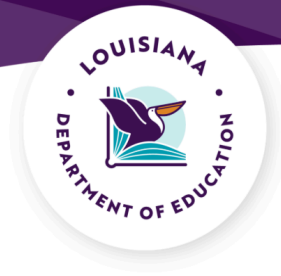
-Lakesha Penn (East Baton Rouge Parish)

"I recently attended the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Rubric (LAER) training, and it was a powerful experience. LAER provides a clear framework for effective teaching, focusing on student-centered learning, strong planning, purposeful questioning, and meaningful feedback.

This training will directly benefit our Teach St. Tammany practitioners by giving them consistent, research-based guidance that mirrors the expectations they will face as classroom teachers. By using LAER in our coaching and support, we can ensure that our aspiring educators are well-prepared to create engaging classrooms and make an immediate impact on student learning.

At its core, LAER strengthens what we value most: high expectations, reflective practice, and continuous growth. I'm excited to bring these insights back to our district to support the success of both our teachers and our students." -Rapheal Tillman (Teach St. Tammany)

We invite all preparation providers to attend future LAER trainings to continue building a shared understanding of effective teaching and strengthen the preparation of aspiring educators. These collaborative sessions are vital for aligning our efforts and ensuring that every future teacher is equipped with the skills and knowledge to excel in Louisiana classrooms.



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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

September 15: [Certification Monthly call](#)
September 24: [Preparation Provider Monthly call](#)

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

Mentor Credential Waiver Portal is OPEN

Since September 2020, every teacher who serves as the mentor of an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate candidate must hold the Mentor Certificate or the Provisional Mentor Ancillary Certificate. Prompted by a shortage of credentialed Mentor Teachers willing to host residents specifically in certain content areas, BESE has allowed a waiver of the Mentor Credential since the 2020-2021 school year.

This application process will be completed by system leads, mentors, principals, and, in the case of the Alternate Mentor Waiver, education preparation providers.

The portals for [Traditional Mentor Waivers](#) and [Alternate Mentor Waivers](#) opened on August 7, 2025.

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



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Quarter 1 Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinar

Offered quarterly, the Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinars are virtual opportunities for Pre-Educator Pathway/Grow Your Own System Leads to share best practices related to developing and expanding access to the Pre-Educator Pathway. All school systems are encouraged to attend regardless of current pathway status.

- Webinar date/time: September 25 at 10:30 a.m.
- Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96480214276?pwd=ZzfpuA8GPHiFs6dDSKb13VavovnuXs.1>
- Meeting ID: 96480214276
- Phone: 470-250-9358

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

System leaders, teacher leaders, and postsecondary teacher preparation partners are invited to attend site visits for a day of learning and community building. During site visits, participants will have the opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their own the opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their own system. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend the visit in Ascension Parish on October 20.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

The New Teacher Experience Professional Learning Modules

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly [professional learning modules](#) on topics that are critical for 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.

- [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.



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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 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 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.

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



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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 Notices of Intent are due by **October 1**. For details on how to access the new program application platform, visit the [Accessing the New Program Approval Application Instructions](#) webpage.

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
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 university supervisors, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.



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Fall LAER Recertification

The LAER [Annual Recertification](#) window is open in [EE PASS](#). Recertification is required to continue evaluating aspiring educators. Recertification [EE PASS](#) will close **September 18**.

To complete the recertification assessment:

- Sign in to your [EE PASS](#) account.
- Refer to the Navigating [EE PASS 2.0 Teacher Evaluator Certification Assessment](#) document for guidance on accessing the LAER certification assessment.
- Once you have successfully passed the LAER recertification, download and save your Certificate of Completion for your records.

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

Specialized Dyslexia Training

A free dyslexia course is available that would fulfill the “specialized training” outlined in [Bulletin 996](#) for instructors teaching the dyslexia coursework.

Enrollment in Coursera's [Overcoming Dyslexia](#) is currently free and includes nine modules. These modules will focus on advancements in dyslexia research, federal statutes, and pedagogical methods for teaching students with dyslexia.

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

Act 260 Numeracy Training

Preparation providers are highly encouraged to complete the [Numeracy Professional Learning courses](#) aligned to [Act 260](#) as a guide when enhancing coursework to align with the current [Louisiana Mathematics Teacher Competencies](#). Providers should utilize the [information](#) provided to join provider-specific courses in the [LDOE Professional Learning Platform](#).

For more information regarding [Act 260](#), please contact STEM@la.gov.

LDOE Teacher Preparation Training

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

- **Literacy:** DIBELS in Practice: Connecting Assessment to Instruction Training, [September 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- **Numeracy:** All Things Numeracy, [October 27 at 10 a.m.](#)



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- **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 link with faculty and staff to whom these courses apply. 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.

CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING

Louisiana Educator Certification Portal (LEC)

To support systems with the transition to LEC, training materials are available on www.teachlouisiana.net and within [TeachLA Live!](#). 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.

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.