

Office of Teaching & Learning: Educator Talent & Workforce Development

Mentor Teacher Expansion Grant

Purpose

The purpose of the Mentor Teacher Expansion Grant is to increase the number of certified mentor teachers available to support teacher residents and first-year teachers completing certification requirements, including those enrolled in an alternative certification program or serving under a Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT), thus reducing the number of Mentor Teacher waivers requested.

Eligibility

Option 1

Systems will identify the number of employees that have **completed** any one of the following mentor teacher pathways by October 2:

- Completion of a [Board of Elementary and Secondary Education \(BESE\)-approved mentor teacher training program](#) and a passing score on the [Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series](#);
- Educational Leadership (EDL) certification or eligibility, or previous administrative certifications, including Supervisor of Student Teachers;
- National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) completing only the coaching-related components of the [Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series](#) (no training program required);
- Current National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) evaluator certification;
- Current Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER) evaluator certification; or
- Current CLASS observer certification.

Systems will be granted \$25 to reimburse employees who possess one of the aforementioned pathways to apply for the Mentor Teacher endorsement or ancillary certificate.

An additional \$60 will be granted to systems to reimburse those employees who do not have a clear credential to complete a criminal background application.

Option 2

Systems will identify any employees interested in enrolling in a [Board of Elementary and Secondary Education \(BESE\)-approved mentor teacher training program](#) and achieving a passing score on the [Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series](#).

Systems will be granted up to \$500 to reimburse employees who enroll in and complete a [Board of Elementary and Secondary Education \(BESE\)-approved mentor teacher training program](#).

An additional \$175 will be granted to systems to reimburse those employees who achieve a passing score on the [Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series](#).

How to Apply

Systems will complete a funding application listing the number of employees for options 1 and 2.

For option 1: Systems will include the number of employees and the pathway they possess to add the Mentor Teacher endorsement or ancillary certificate.

For option 2: Systems will list the number of employees, the institution they plan to enroll in, and an assurance that they will complete the Mentor Teacher course and assessment within two years of enrollment.

The deadline to submit a funding application is **October 2, 2026**.*

For any questions, please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with any questions.

**The funding application deadline differs from the deadline for Mentor Teacher certification.*