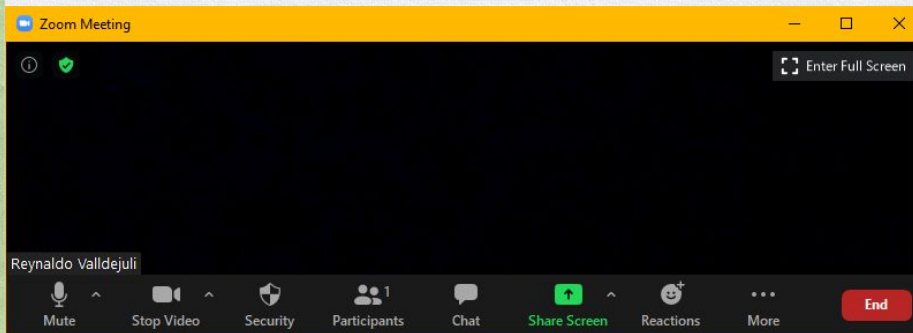


Zoom Meeting Preparation

- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”
- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”
- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.



NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact Idoecommunications@la.gov.



Certification Monthly Call
August 29, 2022

Agenda

Policy Updates Related to Legislative Updates

Processing and/or Protocol Updates

Certification Reminders

Call Summary/Important Dates



Praxis I (Core) Update

Acts [707](#) and [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session were passed removing the requirement of a core academic skills assessment (e.g. Praxis Core, ACT, SAT) as a requirement for entering the profession and for teacher licensure.

Last Week, [BESE approved](#) the removal of the requirement of a core academic skills assessment (e.g. Praxis Core) for both entrance into a Teacher Preparation Program and for licensure. All other requirements (Praxis II (Content), PLT, one-year residency, etc.) remain the same.

Praxis I (Core) Update

For the **exam** portion of requirements for the following certificates, this means:

- Praxis **Core (R,W,& M)** is **not required** for issuance of a **Resident Certificate**
 - Praxis **Content** is **required** for **renewal** of a **Resident Certificate**
- Praxis **Core (R,W,& M)** is **not required** for issuance of a **Practitioner's License (PL)**
 - Praxis **Content** is **REQUIRED** for issuance of a **Practitioner's License (PL)**
- Praxis **Core (R,W,& M)** is **not required** for issuance of an **initial Level 1 (or higher)**
 - Praxis **Content, Pedagogy, and Specialty exams** are **REQUIRED** for issuance of **Level 1 (or higher)** certificate
- Praxis **Core (R,W,& M)** is **not required** for issuance of a **Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT)**
 - Praxis **Content exam** is **REQUIRED (two attempts)** for **renewal** of a **TAT**

Grade Point Average (GPA) Update

Act [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session updated the GPA requirements for entry into a teacher preparation program and for program completion. GPA flexibility for entrance into a teacher preparation program was **removed** from law.

Last week, BESE adopted policy to align with the legislation that requires a 2.20 GPA on a 4.0 scale for **entrance** into a teacher preparation program. This means a **2.20 undergraduate** GPA for entrance into post-baccalaureate programs and 2.20 GPA **prior to entrance** into the college of education for traditional programs.

This requirement has been updated for issuance of both the PL and the R certificates. This law is **not retroactive** and thus **does not** affect candidates **enrolled/admitted** prior to the law's effective date (**5/31/2022**).

Grade Point Average (GPA) Update

The updates related to program completion amended by Act [244](#) include the following:

- applicants must have a 2.50 on a 4.0 scale **program GPA at graduation**
- applicants in post-baccalaureate programs only that do not have a program GPA of 2.50 or higher have some flexibility for certification

Out-of-State Reciprocity

Act [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session amended Out-of-State certification reciprocity requirements.

- Out-of-State educators meeting all other Louisiana certification requirements except exams **and** having **three years of Out-of-State successful experience teaching** out-of-state **prior** to coming to Louisiana can now be issued a standard level teaching certificate.
- All other Out-of-State educators meeting all other Louisiana certification requirements except exams will be issued a three-year provisional certificate. These educators are **required** to take and **pass Louisiana exams**.

Temporary Employment Permit (TEP)

Act [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session expanded options for the Temporary Employment Permit (TEP).

- There are two options for issuance of a TEP.
- Educators possessing a graduate degree in the area in which he/she is seeking employment may be eligible for a TEP.
- Educators completing a teacher preparation program but lacking required exams by 10% only may be eligible for a TEP.
- No TEPs will be issued in Special Education areas.
- After five years of successful evaluations* or passage of exams, candidate can move to the standard professional level teaching certificate

Temporary Employment Permit (TEP)

- TEP candidates possessing a graduate degree and never having completed a teacher preparation program must complete a pre-service classroom readiness training prior to entering the classroom.
- All TEP candidates must be mentored by a certified mentor teacher.
- Candidates must be evaluated via Compass and found effective proficient or highly effective.

TEPs may be held for up to five years provided:

- candidates are mentored by a certified mentor teacher
- candidates meet effectiveness requirements
- attestations are signed stating no suitable certified teacher has been found
- two attempts at *required exams have been made since issuance or last renewal

Algebra I Endorsement

Last week at BESE, policy revisions were approved to update and align the Algebra I endorsement with the Geometry endorsement.

Requirements now include:

- valid OS or standard professional Level 1 or higher teaching certificate; **and**
- pass the Algebra I exam

Agenda

Policy Updates Related to Legislative Updates

Processing and/or Protocol Updates

Certification Reminders

Call Summary/Important Dates



New Applications

Due to recent changes in legislation and policy, the Certification Office will be updating all applications related to these changes. The new applications will be posted and available on teachlouisiana.net by **September 15**.

There will be a little over a one-month grace period where either version of the application can be submitted. However, the new version of the application will be required by **November 1**.

Since policy was approved as emergency rule regarding these changes, any unprocessed application that is currently “unassigned” can have additional supporting documentation uploaded via the “history” option if needed.

Residents/Mentors

For funding purposes, resident teacher, practitioner licenses, and mentor teacher certificates that need to be **issued by *October 1*** to receive a stipend must be submitted completely and correctly via the online portal **on or before September 1**.

Any applications submitted after September 1, or any incomplete/incorrect submission may not be processed by October 1. This may result in the candidate's inability to be eligible for the funding.

Please direct any funding questions to believeandprepare@la.gov.

Certification Processing

As many are aware, this is our **peak processing season**. The volume of applications submitted weekly generally **exceeds 900 to 1000** applications per week. Current staff only has the capacity to process approximately 525 applications per week.

Additionally, as mentioned on previous calls, the certification team is currently training **new staff**. However, since it takes approximately a year to train a new specialist, immediate reduction in processing time will not occur right away. Due to training and peak season, processing time has increased.

Current application processing time is approximately **60 business days or 12 weeks**. This is indicated via email each time an application is submitted.

Certification Processing

The Department is aware this processing time is **not ideal** and is working on both **long term and short term solutions** to reduce processing time.

For the next two weeks, processing volume may be decreased in order to update applications, create guidance documents and applications, and re-train staff related to recent policy changes.

Also during the next few weeks, our staff will be prioritizing processing of Mentor Teacher, Resident and Practitioner Licenses due to the funding deadline.

Your patience is appreciated during this time.

Certification Monthly Call

The Certification Office will now have a monthly call devoted solely to certification. This is our first official monthly call. While this one was not typical to the pattern, it will generally fall on the third **Monday** of each month at **10:30 a.m.** Any changes due to BESE meetings or holidays will be included on the [school system support calendar](#).

Certification Monthly Call details:

Webinar link:

<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWIDU1gvNnNYQk40WjlI3YmpxUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 0104 5748

Passcode: 959091

Agenda

Policy Updates Related to Legislative Updates

Processing and/or Protocol Updates

Certification Reminders

Call Summary/Important Dates



Teacher Certification Appeals Council

The next Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) meeting will be held on **September 1**. The deadline to submit an appeal for the September meeting was **August 4**.

The last TCAC meeting for this year will be held on **November 10**. The deadline to submit an appeal for the November meeting is **October 13**.

Please keep in mind that to be eligible to appeal, an applicant must first be **denied** certification by the certification office. Appellants must appeal within 90 days of declination.

All decisions of TCAC are **final**, as outlined in law.

Literacy Updates

At June BESE, proposed revisions to certification policy were approved to align with literacy requirements in law. These literacy updates have a **future effective** date. The updates include:

- updating teacher certification requirements to include the adoption of a Teaching Reading exam that assesses updated literacy competencies,
- specifying the type of reading coursework required to align with the science of reading competencies, and
- including the adopted science of reading training as options to meet certification requirements.

LDOE is also partnering with ETS to update the Teaching of Reading exam for Louisiana for the future.

Reading Competencies

In the meantime, the more **broad** interpretation of the law regarding teaching reading will be used. When issuing initial certification, our team will be looking for the following:

- Traditional Programs: Semester hours 3, 6 or 9 hours
- Alternate Programs:
 - BESE-adopted Teaching Reading Exam (5206) OR
 - Signed Assurances indicating contact hour equivalent

If a university program **does not** offer the reading competencies **via coursework**, a signed assurance document indicating contact hour equivalent is **required**.

Reading requirements are outlined in law, therefore, these requirements are also considered when additional areas are added to existing certificates.

ETS Exam Updates

ETS is phasing out or redesigning some of its exams. At April BESE, revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, were adopted to include the newly redesigned ETS exams. There will be a one-year overlap where either current exams or new exams can be accepted for certification. Current exams will **expire on 8/31/2023**. The **effective** date for newly adopted exams is **9/1/2022**. Newly adopted exams include:

- Biology (**5236**), score of 154
- Chemistry (**5246**), score of 146
- General Science (**5436**), score of 141
- Physics (**5266**), score of 145
- Early Childhood Special Education/Early Intervention Praxis (**5692**), score of 159
- School Counselor (**5422**), score of 159
- School Librarian (**5312**), score of 154

Geometry Add-On

In an effort to address the high school math teacher shortage, at April BESE, revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, were adopted to create a Geometry Add-on.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Valid standard, professional level Louisiana teaching certificate or higher; and
- Pass the Geometry Content Exam

At June BESE, these revisions were adopted as **Emergency Rule**, meaning they are **effective immediately**, in an effort to allow educators to take advantage of this policy over the summer.

Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System

It has come to the attention of the LDOE that some school boards, charter schools, or other like entities may be using the Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System for background checks on pre-K-12 teachers and staff.

This is not the purpose of the System. **The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal entities strictly prohibit the use of this System for any reason other than early childcare.**

The reasons this is **prohibited** are listed on the following slides.

Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System

There are a total of five entities that the applicant's personal data are sent to when using the CCCBC system.

- a. Federal Bureau of Investigation for a check against the federal criminal registry
- b. Louisiana State Police for a check against the state criminal registry
- c. National Sex Offender Registry
- d. Louisiana State Sex Offender Registry
- e. Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services for a check against the child abuse and neglect registry

Results from any one of these entities can make the applicant **ineligible** to work in childcare based on convictions for certain offenses. Note that these convictions **may not necessitate ineligibility** for certification or employment of preK-12 staff.

Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System

Additionally, convictions listed in a CCCBC may be **permissible** for eligibility to work in childcare, but may be **prohibited** for certification or employment in a preK-12 school setting. Two separate laws govern employment in a PK-12 setting and certification of staff in a school setting. Additionally, BESE certification policy has further restrictions on certification.

- a. For example, **all** felony convictions are **prohibited** for certification in a preK-12 setting. Individuals with felony convictions can have a records review and be cleared for certification by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). However, they would first be denied certification. Therefore, a clearance on a CCCBC provided could be a “false” clearance and have legal consequences.

Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System

Criminal History Information is **strictly governed by Federal regulations**. Any criminal history information obtained must be used for its **original intended purpose**. It can also only be used for **one** purpose. Obtaining and using the criminal history information for more than one purpose or not for the original intended purpose is a **direct violation** of Federal regulations and is subject to appropriate consequences.

The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) only has the right to check on their registry for people attempting to work in childcare. Not only do they **not** have the **legal right** to search their registry for a pre-K-12 applicant but they are **not entitled to receive** that person's personally identifiable information (PII).

Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System

If/when DCFS declares an applicant **ineligible**, LDOE has to immediately make the applicant **ineligible** for childcare purposes in the CCCBC system. If an entity/provider **incorrectly** used the CCCBC system for a pre-K-12 teacher, they would be made **ineligible** immediately. This creates an issue, being that DCFS or LDOE Early Childhood should have **never** received their information in the first place.

Entities must restrict the use of the CCCBC system to childcare exclusively. For reference, please see the [User Agreement](#) that was signed by all entities before allowing entry into the CCCBC System. In addition, [R.S. 17:407.42](#) describes the state law about child care criminal background checks. Lastly, BESE [Bulletin 137, Chapter 18](#) provides more detailed information.

Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System

For employment in a Pk-12 setting and for certification, school systems must use and follow Louisiana [R.S. 17:15](#) and [R.S. 17:7](#). These laws indicate a fingerprint-based criminal background check must be completed and submitted through Louisiana State Police for a check against the state (and federal) criminal registry.

This check must be **separate and apart** from any check done through the CCCBC system, which is **only** used for individuals attempting to work in childcare. Therefore, it is possible that individuals serving in a dual capacity will require two criminal background checks.

Childcare Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System

If an educator will be employed or on the campus of an early learning center, use the CCCBC system to collect background information. This eligibility is **only** good for the purpose of working in the early learning center.

If an educator will be employed in the Pk-12 school system or needs to be certified (including for ECACs), then complete a fingerprint-based background check through LSP, as outlined in [R.S. 17:15](#) and [R.S. 17:7](#).

This may mean that multiple background checks will need to be completed on some individuals.

For any questions regarding criminal history checks, please first consult your legal counsel, then contact Hayden.Melancon@la.gov.



Q & A



Agenda

Policy Updates Related to Legislative Updates

Processing and/or Protocol Updates

Certification Reminders

Call Summary/Important Dates



Important Dates

Key Dates:

- **September 1: TCAC**
- **September 1: Deadline to submit Mentor Teacher applications for processing by October 1**
- **September 5: Labor Day Holiday--State Offices will be closed**
- **September 14: 8g Advisory Council Meeting**
- **September 15: All new certification applications will be available via online portal**
- **September 19: Certification Monthly Call**
- **September 20: Nonpublic School Council Meeting**
- **September 22: Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting**
- **November 1: Deadline requiring New Applications be used**

Supports and Resources:

- [2021-2022 School System Support Calendar](#)
- [Educator Resource Guide](#)
- [School System Planning Resources](#)
- [Family Support Toolbox Library](#)
- [Certification Bulletin, Bulletin 746](#)
- [Online Teacher Certification Portal, Teach LA Live!](#)