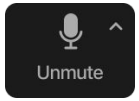
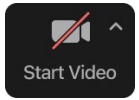
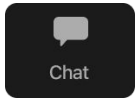
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov.

Educator Certification and Credentialing Monthly Call

October 19, 2026

Agenda

- Opening Remarks and Call Norms
- Processing by the Numbers
- Educator Development Updates
- Louisiana Educator Certification Portal Updates
- Certification Reminders
- Dates of Importance, Support, and Resources

ETWD Call Norms

- **Stay Muted Unless Speaking:** reduce background noise by keeping your microphone muted when not speaking.
- **Use Chat for Questions:** post questions in the chat and a team member will collect and will share answer(s) at the end.
- **Remain On Topic:** keep discussions aligned to the agenda.
- **Avoid Interruptions:** let others finish before responding.
- **Cameras On Encouraged:** while not required, having cameras on supports connection and engagement.
- **Engage Respectfully:** be concise, professional, and respectful in all contributions.

Certification & Credentialing Processing by the Numbers

- September 2026
  - Certification
    - 3,849 Applications Processed
    - Applications processed within 20 business days
    - 4,517 Questions closed
    - Questions closed within 0.7 business days
    - 36 Office Hours appointments
  - Credentialing
    - 1,461 educators cleared with “Clear Credential” indicators
    - Credentials processed within 2 business days of receiving the CBC

Certification Updates

Contact us through the Teacher Certification Help Portal.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) update

As a result of Act 21 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session., BESE passed an update to Chapter 17 of Bulletin 746.

A..... The decision of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) is final, *except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. (2)(a) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may override the council's denial of an appellant's appeal if the denial was based on circumstances beyond the appellant's control as determined by the state board; however, the state board shall not override a denial by the council if it determines that the certification of the appellant would conflict with state or federal law.*

Educator Development Updates

Mentor Teacher Waivers

A new waiver application for the residents beginning in January 2027 and PLs with an issue date after October 1 will open on **November 1** and will remain open until **March 1**.

It is important to note that for residents and practitioners whose year-long residency spans multiple academic years, a mentor waiver must be obtained for each academic year.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with any questions.

Mentor and Resident Teacher Reporting

Reporting Deadline

- All data for Residents, Practitioners, and Mentors must be uploaded to Edlink 360 by 5:00 p.m., **October 28**.
- Mentor and Resident Teacher Funding snapshot will take place on **October 29**.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with any questions.

Mentor Teacher Scope and Sequence

Mentor and New Teacher Scope and Sequence of Responsibilities

- This guidance is designed to strengthen mentor support for new teachers throughout their first year.
- Organized by key points in the school year - from pre-service preparation through end-of-year reflection - it outlines suggested responsibilities for both mentors and new teachers.
- The Mentor and New Teacher Scope and Sequence of Responsibilities course can be found by logging in as a 'LEARNER' on the Professional Learning Platform using the Course Code **51018F65.**

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with any questions.

Educator Background Credentialing

Contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions or submit questions through the Teacher Certification Help Portal.

Human Resources Hiring Practices

LA R.S. 15:587.1 and LA R.S. 17:15 require employers to:

- Conduct criminal background checks (CBC)
  - Completed through the Louisiana State Police (LSP) bureau of criminal identification and information
- Conduct State Central Registry (SCR) checks
  - Completed in DCFS' Child Abuse and Neglect System (CANS)

Contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions or submit questions through the Teacher Certification Help Portal.

Criminal Background Checks for Employment

- CBCs must be conducted through the Louisiana State Police (LSP) Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.
- Third-Party background check businesses do not provide fingerprint-based CBCs run through LSP's Bureau.
- Charter and Nonpublic schools are not exempt.

If you have questions, please contact LSP's Bureau of Criminal Identification & Information.

Criminal Background Checks for Employment

- Public school systems may rely on the LDOE's Clear Credential for hiring certificated staff (LA R.S. 17:15(B)).
- A "Clear Credential" = CBC completed for certification with no disqualifying convictions and LDOE receives rap backs
- Visible in LEP/LEC by verifying certification record
  - If present, no additional fingerprinting required for employment.
  - If not present, employment CBC still required.

Contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions or submit questions through the Teacher Certification Help Portal.

State Central Registry Checks for Employment

- LA R.S. 15:587.1 requires employers conduct a State Central Registry (SCR) check through DCFS' Child Abuse and Neglect System (CANS).
- Required on everyone hired after **August 1, 2025** (last year).
- Having a "Clear Credential" or a certificate does not exempt an employee from this registry check.
- No cost to employer or employee
- Refer to the February 2026 Certification Monthly Webinar slide deck for CANS access and usage tips, including the CANS User Guide.

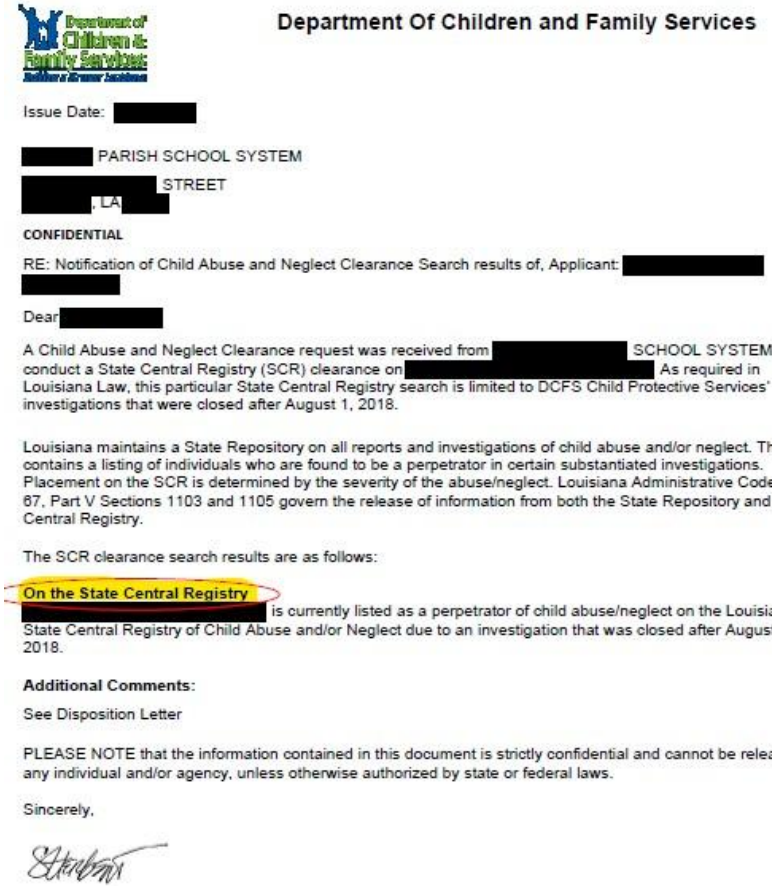
Contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions or submit questions through the Teacher Certification Help Portal.

Understanding SCR Check Results in CANS

DCFS aims to complete **SCR clearances within 10 business days** of submission.

- Automation Speeds Things Up
  - Requests are initially scanned by automated bots
  - Complete and accurate entries help avoid delays
- Why Some Checks Take Longer
  - Manual review is required when automation fails
  - Records prior to 2018 take longer due to required due process steps
- Results are accessed through the “Disposition” letter in CANS dashboard.

Email DCFS.ChildAbuseNeglectClearances@la.gov with questions.



Department Of Children and Family Services

Issue Date: [redacted]

[redacted] PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

[redacted] STREET
[redacted], LA [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: Notification of Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance Search results of, Applicant: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

A Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance request was received from [redacted] SCHOOL SYSTEM to conduct a State Central Registry (SCR) clearance on [redacted] As required in Louisiana Law, this particular State Central Registry search is limited to DCFS Child Protective Services' investigations that were closed after August 1, 2018.

Louisiana maintains a State Repository on all reports and investigations of child abuse and/or neglect. The SCR contains a listing of individuals who are found to be a perpetrator in certain substantiated investigations. Placement on the SCR is determined by the severity of the abuse/neglect. Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 67, Part V Sections 1103 and 1105 govern the release of information from both the State Repository and State Central Registry.

The SCR clearance search results are as follows:

On the State Central Registry
[redacted] is currently listed as a perpetrator of child abuse/neglect on the Louisiana State Central Registry of Child Abuse and/or Neglect due to an investigation that was closed after August 1, 2018.

Additional Comments:

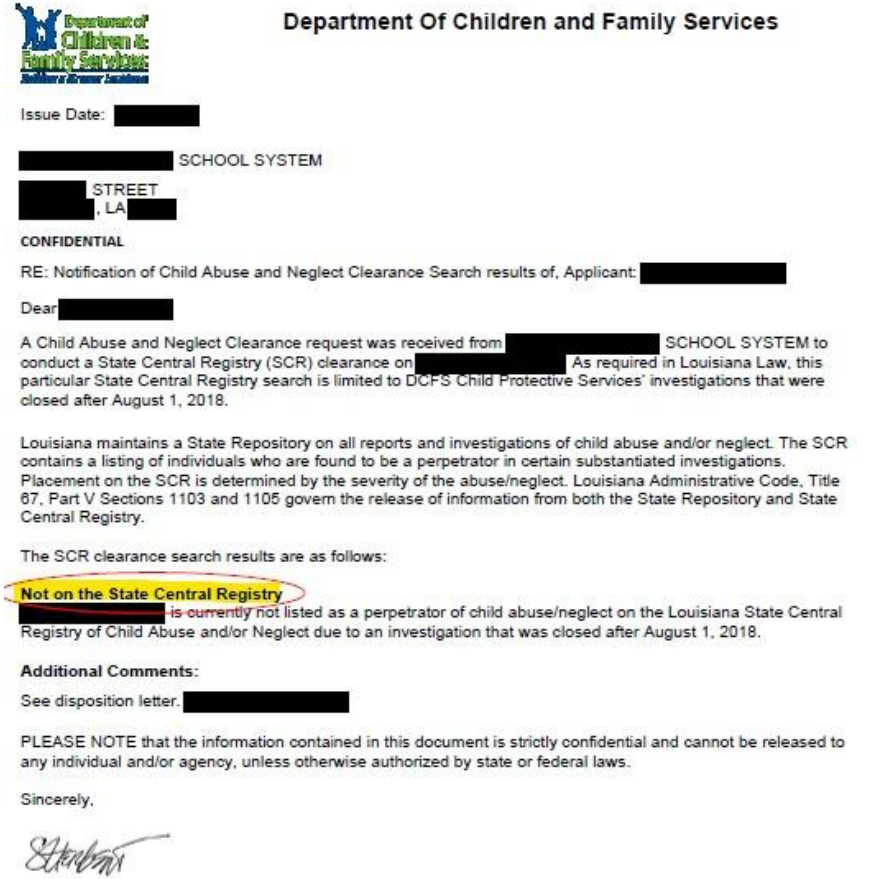
See Disposition Letter

PLEASE NOTE that the information contained in this document is strictly confidential and cannot be released to any individual and/or agency, unless otherwise authorized by state or federal laws.

Sincerely,

"ON State Central Registry" = NO HIRE

Email DCFS.ChildAbuseNeglectClearances@la.gov with questions.



Department Of Children and Family Services

Issue Date: [redacted]

[redacted] SCHOOL SYSTEM

[redacted] STREET
[redacted], LA [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: Notification of Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance Search results of, Applicant: [redacted]

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The SCR clearance search results are as follows:

Not on the State Central Registry

[redacted] is currently not listed as a perpetrator of child abuse/neglect on the Louisiana State Central Registry of Child Abuse and/or Neglect due to an investigation that was closed after August 1, 2018.

Additional Comments:

See disposition letter. [redacted]

PLEASE NOTE that the information contained in this document is strictly confidential and cannot be released to any individual and/or agency, unless otherwise authorized by state or federal laws.

Sincerely,

"NOT ON State Central Registry" = Clear to HIRE

Email DCFS.ChildAbuseNeglectClearances@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Educator Certification Portal

TeachLouisiana Tools Now in LEP

Louisiana Educator Portal Homepage - Accessible without logging in

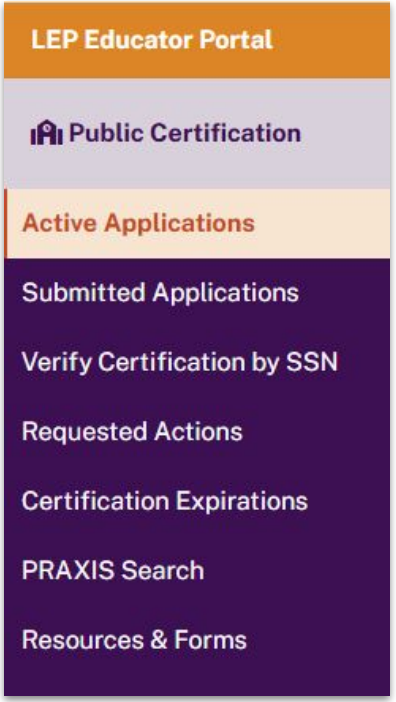


- Verify a Certificate or Teaching Authorization
- Approved Teacher/Leader Preparation Programs
- Status of a Certification Application
- Course Code & Area of Certification Finder

For questions, contact Teacher Certification Help Center.

TeachLouisiana Tools Now in LEP

Tools available with HR or Preparation Provider permissions



- Verify Certificate by SSN
- PRAXIS Search
- Resources & Forms
- Additional application and certification tracking features only available in LEP

For questions, contact Teacher Certification Help Center.

Dates of Importance, Supports, and Resources



Important Dates

Oct 28: Preparation Provider Monthly Call

Oct 29: Teacher Certification Appeals Council

Nov 3: Election Day (State Offices Closed)

Nov 11: Veteran's Day (State Offices Closed)



Supports and Resources

- School System Support Calendar
- Educator Resource Guide
- School System Planning Resources
- Family Support Toolbox Library
- Certification Bulletin, Bulletin 746
- TeachLouisiana.net
- Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP)

Certification Reminders

Certification Monthly Calls

Below are the dates for the 2026-2027 school year.

~~July 20, at 10:30 a.m.~~	~~August 17, at 10:30 a.m.~~	~~September 21, at 10:30 a.m.~~
~~October 19, at 10:30 a.m.~~	November 16, at 10:30 a.m.	December 21, at 10:30 a.m.
January 18, at 10:30 a.m.	February 15, at 10:30 a.m.	March 15, at 10:30 a.m.
April 19, at 10:30 a.m.	May 17, at 10:30 a.m.	June 21, at 10:30 a.m.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Practitioner's License

We are pleased to announce that the guidance document has been finalized and is now available. We encourage you to review the document for the latest guidance and information.

Guidance document

Praxis Teaching of Reading/Language Arts

Beginning **January 1, 2027**, the Praxis Teaching of Reading/Language Arts (7002) passing score will increase from 138 to 147.

Questions and Answers