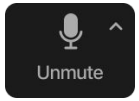
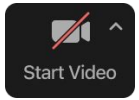
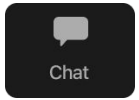
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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

September 21, 2026

Agenda

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

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

- August 2026
  - Certification
    - 3,115 Applications Processed
    - Applications processed within 20 business days
    - 4,302 Questions closed
    - Questions closed within 0.8 business days
    - 39 Office Hours appointments
  - Credentialing
    - 1,506 educators cleared with “Clear Credential” indicators
    - Credentials processed within two (2) business days of receiving the CBC

Certification Updates

Contact us through the Teacher Certification Help Portal.

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 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

Waivers for the 2026-2027 school year opened on June 15 and will close on **October 1**.

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

Certification Deadline

- Certification for Residents, Practitioners, and Mentors must be completed by **October 1**.
- Mentor Teacher waivers must also be completed by **October 1**.

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 Expansion Grant

Mentor Teacher Expansion Grant

- Option 1 allows systems funds to reimburse educators who have an approved pathway and are eligible add the Mentor Teacher endorsement on their teaching certificates.
- Option 2 provides systems up to $500 toward enrollment in a BESE approved Mentor Teacher training program, as well as up to $175 to cover the cost of the portfolio assessment for eligible participants.

Grant applications may be accessed through eGMS. Once you update contact information and assurances, access the application through the Louisiana Recruitment and Retention (LA RR) section.

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.

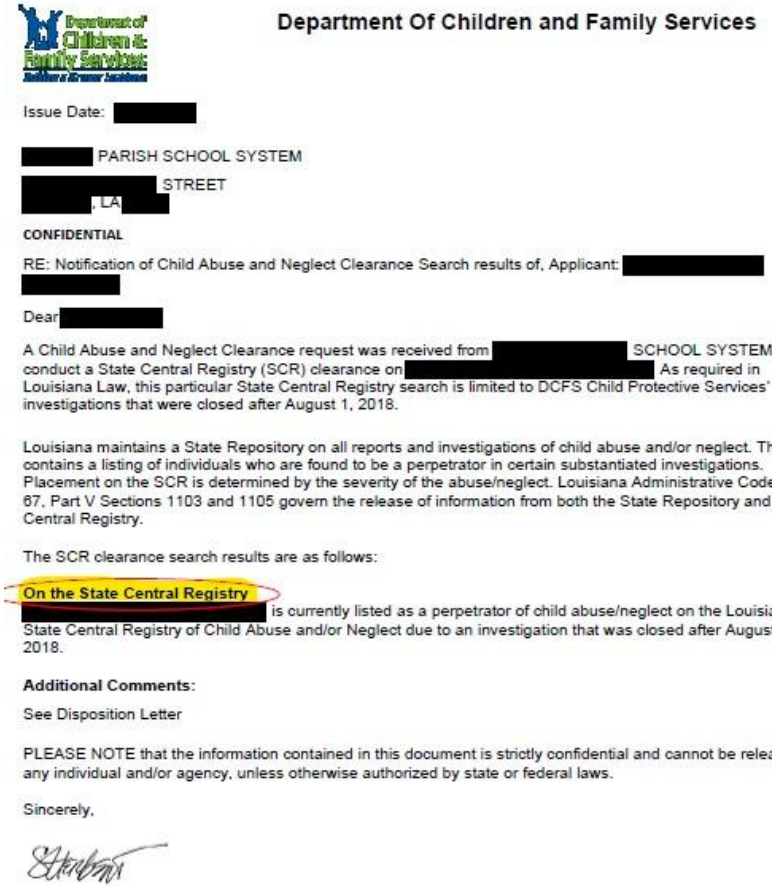
Contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions or submit questions through the Teacher Certification Help Portal.

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:

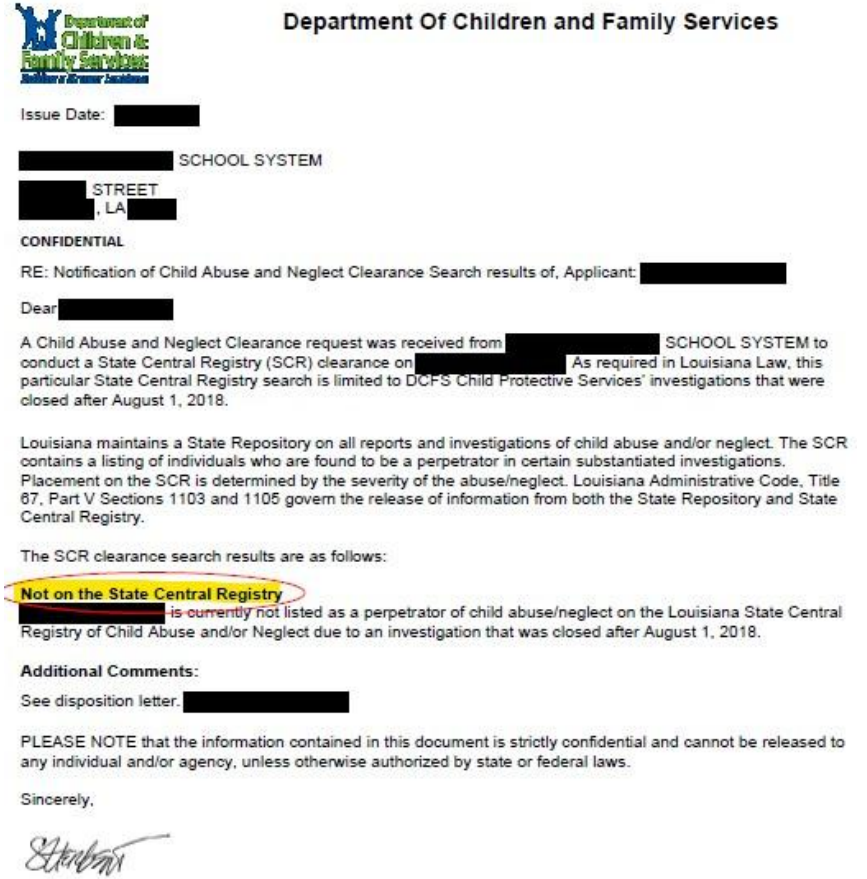
See Disposition Letter

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,

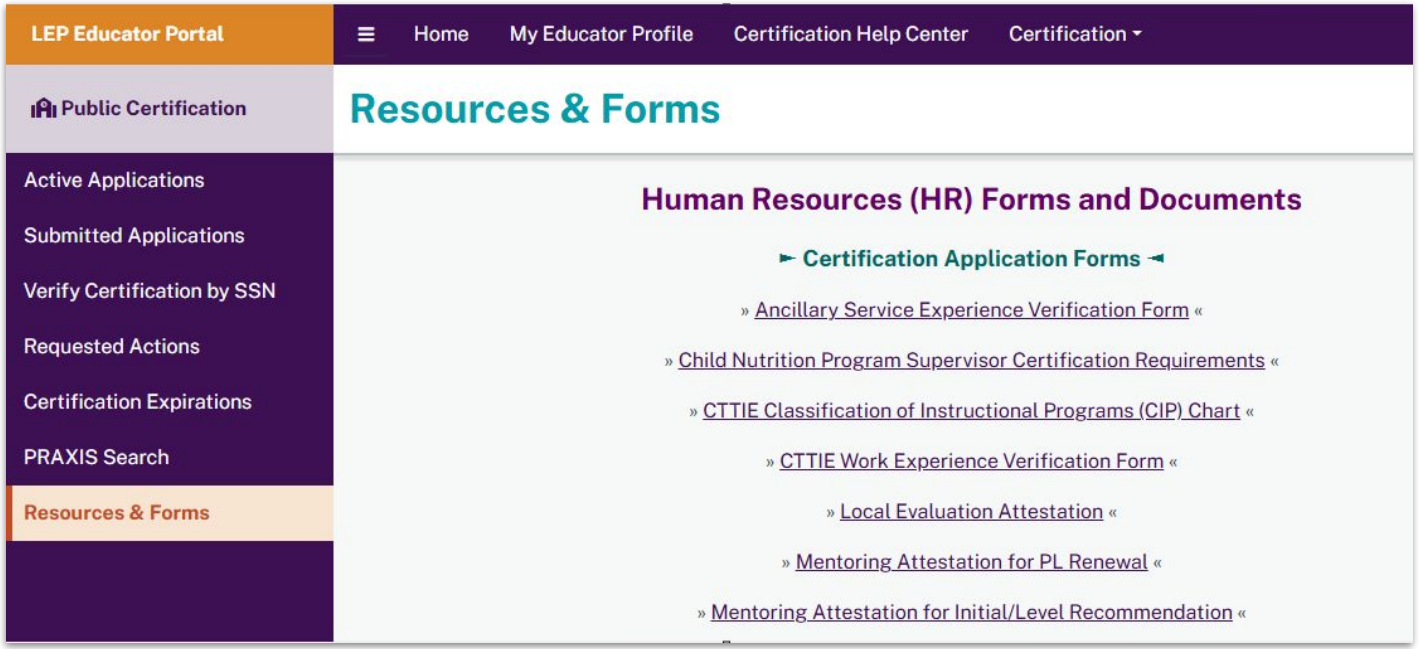
"NOT ON State Central Registry" = Clear to HIRE

Email DCFS.ChildAbuseNeglectClearances@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Educator Certification Portal

New Features Coming Soon

Resources & Forms section for HR and Preparation Providers



For questions, contact Teacher Certification Help Center.

Dates of Importance, Supports, and Resources



Important Dates

Sept 23-25: LSASPA Fall 2026 meeting

Sept 30: Preparation Provider Monthly Call

Oct 13-14: BESE Meetings



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

Extended Learning

Renewal or Higher Level Teaching Certificate Application

Purpose

The purpose of this extended learning session is to review the Renewal or Higher Level Teaching Certificate application and best practices for successful application submission in alignment with policy.

Renewal or Higher Level Teaching Certificate Application

Renewal or Higher Level Teaching Certificate Application

- Renew a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Type C teaching certificate
- Advance from a Level 1, 2 or Type C to a higher level certificate
- Advance from a three-year Out-of-State (OS) or five-year Out-of-State (OSm) to a Louisiana Level 1/2/3 certificate

Experience Verification

- Louisiana school systems may verify **all in-state** experience.
- For most requests, at least the **five most recent years of experience** should be included, not just experience with the current school system.
- Any **change in role** should be listed on separate lines, reporting the year(s) served in each role.
- If an applicant has recently been hired or moved to a new position, **include** the **current position** as well.

In-State Experience

INCOMPLETE

Form 5: In-State Experience With Upload Options

SCHOOL NAME	TYPE OF SCHOOL	DURATION	TITLE	SUBJECT	GRADES	EVAL METHOD
School System - School Name	Traditional Public / Public Charter	08/01/2022 - Current				Compass/LEADS

COMPLETE

Form 5: In-State Experience With Upload Options

SCHOOL NAME	TYPE OF SCHOOL	DURATION	TITLE	SUBJECT	GRADES	EVAL METHOD
School System - School Name	Traditional Public / Public Charter	08/01/2022 - Current	Teacher	Science	4th	Compass/LEADS

Evaluations

Evaluations

- Louisiana public school educators and school-level leaders must be evaluated through **Compass/LEADS.**
- **Local Evaluation Attestation:** Nonpublic educators and district-level leaders only
- **Employer Verification Form:** BESE-approved entities providing instructional services to public school students

Please use the Method of Evaluation Guidance document for more details.

Local Evaluations

School Year: 2025 - 2026	Employing School/School System: Must be provided	Job Position/Role: Teacher
Local Evaluation Scale (e.g. 4-1, letter grades, excellent-poor, etc.) What is the **maximum** score/rating possible? 4 What is the **minimum** score/rating possible? 1	What is the educator's **Score/Rating Earned** for this school year? 3 Evaluation Rating Equivalent (select one): (•) EFFECTIVE ( ) INEFFECTIVE	

I attest to the validity of above effectiveness ratings. I agree that my electronic signature as entered on this form is the legal equivalent of my manual signature on this application.

Signature: Authorized personnel Date: 09/21/2026 Evaluator Email: Must be provided

Evaluator Name: Authorized personnel Evaluator Title: Must be provided

Advance or Renew

Advance or Renew Options

- **Renew** my current Level 1, Level 2/2*, or Level 3/3* or Type C certificate
  - Adds validity to the current certificate **only** if renewal requirements are met
  - **Will not** change the Level of a certificate
- **Advance** from a Level 1, Level 2/2*, or Type C to a Higher certificate
- **Advance** to a Higher certificate -OR- Renew my current certificate if higher cannot be issued

Level 1 and Type C Certificates

- Initially valid for three years.
- May be extended twice for one year each at the request of the Louisiana employing authority.
- There are no other requirements for renewal of Level 1 or Type C certificates.

Level 2 Certificates

- Requires three years of teaching experience as a teacher of record and three years of effective evaluations.
- Valid for five years.
- Renewal requires three years of effective evaluations during the certificate's most recent five-year validity period.

Level 3 Certificates

- Requires a graduate degree, five years of teaching experience as a teacher of record, and three years of effective evaluations.
- Valid for five years.
- Renewal requires three years of effective evaluations during the certificate's most recent five-year validity period.

Advancing from the OS to Level 1/2/3

- Advancement from an OS to a Level certificate requires the aligned Louisiana Praxis exams unless exempt.
- An exam exemption may apply with three years of verified out-of-state teaching experience earned before the Louisiana OS certificate was issued.
- Advancement from an OSm to a Level certificate requires at least three effective teacher ratings during the five-year OSm certificate.

Advance from a Temporary Employment Permit (TEP)

- Completion of five **successful** years of teaching service on the TEP.
- TEP experience **does not count** toward tenure or advancement to a higher certificate level beyond Level 1.
- TEP completers lacking exams who have fulfilled exam required before 5 years on the TEP should contact their program provider to apply for the Initial Certification.

Status Changes

Status Changes

An additional request for a status change at issuance/renewal or for a separate certificate may be added to this application for an additional fee.

Non-Practicing Status:

- Teachers or leaders who have left employment in Louisiana schools
- Educators who are serving on a **separate, valid certificate**

Operational Role Status:

- **Teachers** who are serving in a public school setting in roles that **cannot be evaluated per student growth measures via LEADS**

Status Change Request at Issuance or Renewal

Form 4: Add Status Change Request - At Issuance Or Renewal

This additional form can only be used to request Non-practicing Status or Operational Role Status (freeze) in combination with an application for a new certificate or renewal of a certificate. The appropriate status will be applied immediately after the certificate is issued or renewed, if qualified.

To request a status change with a specific effective date or return a frozen certificate to practicing status, please remove this supplemental form under Options and Add-ons and select the Add Status Change - Existing Certificate option.

CERTIFICATES HELD

NUMBER	CERTIFICATION TYPE	ISSUE DATE	VALID FROM	VALID TO
[redacted]	CLEARCREDENTIAL - CLEARED FOR CREDENTIALING	04/20/2026		
[redacted]	LEVEL 2 - TEACHING CERTIFICATE	09/03/2003	05/21/2026	06/06/2079
[redacted]	TAT - TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO TEACH	09/30/2002	08/01/2002	05/31/2003

CERTIFICATE TYPE AND NUMBER (IF AVAILABLE) FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING A STATUS CHANGE:

Level 2 [redacted]

REASON FOR STATUS CHANGE REQUEST:

Not/was not serving in a Louisiana school system

Status Change - Existing Certificate

Form 4: Add A Status Change Request - Existing Certificate

CERTIFICATES HELD

NUMBER	CERTIFICATION TYPE	ISSUE DATE	VALID FROM	VALID TO
	CLEARCREDENTIAL - CLEARED FOR CREDENTIALING			
	LEVEL 2 - TEACHING CERTIFICATE			
	LEVEL 1 - TEACHING CERTIFICATE			

ENTER THE CERTIFICATE TYPE & NUMBER FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING A STATUS CHANGE:

Teaching Certificate; Level 2

SELECT THE STATUS CHANGE YOU ARE REQUESTING:

Non-practicing Status or Operational Role Status (freeze)

REASON FOR STATUS CHANGE REQUEST:

Not/was not serving in a Louisiana school system

CERTIFICATE'S CURRENT VALIDITY START DATE:

12/07/2021

CERTIFICATE'S CURRENT VALIDITY END DATE:

12/07/2026

- The effective date for **Non-practicing Status or Operational Role Status** must be between the start date and end date of the certificate.
- The effective date for **Return to Practicing Status or Return to Evaluated Role** must be the first date of employment in the qualifying role.
- The effective date must align with a break in service, return to service, or change in role which will be verified by your current or former employing school system.

ENTER AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE STATUS CHANGE:

04/01/2026

Questions and Answers

