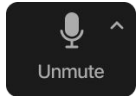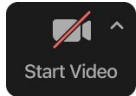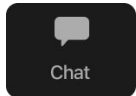# Zoom Meeting Preparation

- 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.

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Educator Certification Monthly Call

January 22, 2024

Certification Processing by the Numbers

- November 2023
  - 2648 Applications Processed
  - 98.6% Processed within 15 Business Days
  - 944 Questions Answered
  - 93.4% Questions Answered within 5 Business Days
- December 2023
  - 2746 Applications Processed
  - 98.1% Processed within 15 Business Days
  - 766 Questions Answered
  - 92.3% Questions Answered within 5 Business Days

Certification Policy Updates

Certification Policy Revisions

Policy proposed and adopted at the January BESE meeting include:

- Adoption of new exams in response to the legislative session and commission recommendations
- Alignment across bulletins or legislation, removing duplicative language, and reorganizing information
- Updated requirements for foreign equivalency transcripts
- Removal of unused or obsolete certification (EEL and Pre-PL)
- Updated OFAT renewal requirements
- Certification simplification
- Technical edits

Third Party Entity

All entities contracting educators to serve Louisiana students must be approved by BESE for those evaluations to be used for certification.

The Third Party Entity approval process was approved during the January BESE meeting.

- [Third Party Evaluation Approval Guidance](#)
- [Third Party Assurances](#)
- [Third Party Entity Approval Rubric](#)
- [Third Party Entity Application Portal](#)

Effective May 20, 2024

Third Party Entity

A pilot round of applications was accepted and approved at January BESE. The following entities were approved to operate as a Third Party Entity:

- Southeastern Louisiana University
- Louisiana National Guard Education Programs (YCP, etc.)
- Edmentum Instructional Services

Praxis Exam Adopted

- As a result of recommendations from the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission, the LDOE proposed and BESE adopted a Computer Science exam (5652).
- The passing score is in alignment with the ETS Multiple State Standard Setting Study recommendation of 149.
- Policy is also allowing a transitionary period where the current 30 semester hours of coursework for initial certification can be used for three years.

Effective June 1, 2024

Literacy Exam Requirements

Beginning **January 1, 2024**, **Out-of-State** applicants, not meeting exam exemption requirements, authorized to teach grades K-3 not meeting exam requirements with experience will need to take the Teaching of Reading exam **in addition** to content and pedagogy exams.

Initial applicants completing **in-state** preparation programs already enrolled in the year-long residency and holding either the PL or R credential prior to **January 1, 2025** are not subject to taking the Teaching of Reading exam.

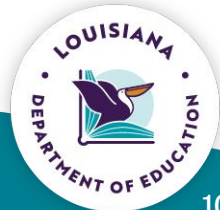 Add-on policy is effective September 1, 2024.

New Literacy Exam Option

BESE adopted the Louisiana Elementary Multiple-Subjects exam, which includes as a part of the English Language Arts subtest, the Teaching of Reading exam.

- Allows for an option with the same number of exams as currently required
- Includes grades K-3 (PK-3, 1-5, Special Education areas)
- Passing score increases over time to gradually increase Science of Reading skill mastery for teacher candidates

Effective June 1, 2024

Add-on Literacy Requirements

For add-on purposes, general reading and literacy hours may be fulfilled with:

- The indicated semester hours
    - Successful completion of the BESE-approved literacy foundations training *may* be accepted for the number of hours approved per program
- Equivalent contact hours or
- Passing the adopted Teaching of Reading exam

LETRS completion certificates must be verified by LouisianaLiteracy@la.gov for add-on credit.

Effective September 1, 2024

Foreign Equivalency Transcripts

New foreign equivalency transcripts requirements include that a credentialing agency must be an endorsed member in good standing with either:

- National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES)
- Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE).

Policy is effective **May 20**.

An updated link to these entities will be available on teachlouisiana.net by May 20.

Effective May 20, 2024

Out-of-Field Authority to Teach (OFAT) Updates

OFAT renewal requirements are updated as follows:

- Renewal of the OFAT will not be considered for individuals who lack 50 percent or more of the requirements to fulfill the OFAT
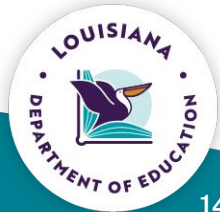
Effective May 20, 2024

Certification Simplification

Policy adopted at January BESE simplified certification. New endorsements or changes to existing endorsements were added to allow an educator to maintain a single teaching certificate:

- Artist (Art, Creative Writing, Drama, Dance, Music, Theater, Visual Arts)
- Talented (Music, Theater, Visual Arts)
- Librarian (additional options)
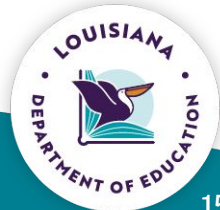
Effective May 20, 2024

Certification Simplification

Individuals holding licensure by a Louisiana State licensing board (appropriate to the services provided as listed below) will be deemed as certified beginning June 1, 2024:

- Social Worker
- Audiologist
- Speech Pathologist
- Certified Licensed Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA)
- Occupational Therapist Provisional
- Occupational Therapist

- Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)
- Physical Therapist Provisional
- Physical Therapist
- Assistant Behavior Analyst
- Behavior Analyst

Effective June 1, 2024
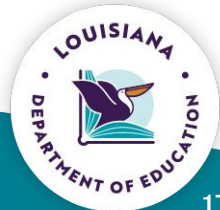
Certification Reminders

Method of Evaluation

As a result of the policy changes, the experience verification form will be a required part of most applications.

- If an educator served in a public school, we will be looking for Compass evaluations.
- If an educator served in a nonpublic school, we will be looking for local personnel evaluations.
- If an educator is contracted to a public school, we will be looking for employer evaluations from a BESE-approved entity.

Nonpublic or asterisk (*) certificates are **no longer** being issued.

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

Experience Verification Form

- Format is changed - **landscape** format
- All fields must be completed for each school year or role (mm/yyyy)
- Employment setting is **required** (public/charter, nonpublic, or company)
- Evaluation method must be chosen:
  - Compass   -   CIS verification
  - Local Personnel   -   include Local Evaluation Attestation
  - Employer (contract company) -   include Employer Evaluation Attestation
  - **Cannot be** evaluated   -   include **job description**

LA School System (Out of State Experience must be verified on form linked here)	NAME OF SCHOOL	Type of School	Dates of Service MM/YYYY-MM/YYYY (e.g. 08/2018-06/2020 –or– 08/2019 – current)	Grade Level(s)	Subject Taught or Service Provided	Employee's Role/Job Title (e.g. Teacher, Substitute, Principal, District Leader, etc.) If role is unique, include a job description.	Method of Evaluation • Compass – Verify in CIS • Local Evaluation • Employer Evaluation • Cannot Be Evaluated – include a job description
		<Select> ▼					<SELECT EVAL METHOD>

Certification Status Changes

Certification renewal is based upon effective evaluations in a Louisiana approved school.

Non-Practicing status:

- Teachers or leaders who are **not serving/employed** or who are serving in another state/country
- Educators **serving on Educational Leader** certificates (EDL) should place their **teaching** certificates into **non-practicing** status
  - **EDL** would be placed into **non-practicing** while serving on the **teaching certificate**
- The requested **effective date** of non-practicing status should be the **last date of employment in the evaluated role, within the certificate's validity, no earlier than August 1, 2012**

Certification Status Changes

Certification renewal is based upon effective evaluations via Compass.

Operational Role status:

- **Teachers** who are serving in a public school setting in roles that **cannot be evaluated per student growth measures via Compass.**
- Operational Role status shall take effect on the **first day of employment** in a role that **cannot be evaluated per student growth measures**
- **EDL** certificates **are not** placed into operational role

Accurate experience verification forms must be included with all status change requests. Requests for Operational Role should include a job description (with percentages) to determine eligibility. This is now noted on the updated experience verification form available in the October 2023 published RH application.

Self-Evaluations

Best practice for submitting the required self-evaluations include:

- Indicating the course titles
- Indicating the course numbers
- Include course descriptions

TAT Renewals

Applicants must pass or attempt all required exams for admission into a teacher preparation program. Exams that **do not meet** this requirement include:

- Geometry
- Algebra
- Core Knowledge Exams
- Pedagogy Exams (Special Education, or PLT)

Q&A

Dates of Importance, Supports and Resources

Important Dates

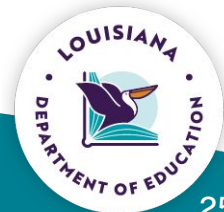**January 22:** Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

January 23: Nonpublic School Council

January 24: Special Education Advisory Panel

February 9: BESE Retreat

February 13: Mardi Gras (State Holiday)

February 19: Certification Monthly Call

Supports and Resources

- [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!](#)