

All certification applications are now submitted through the Louisiana Educator Portal.

Educational Leader (EDL) Certification Information

Educational Leader (EDL) is the certificate needed by those who fill school and district educational leadership positions (e.g. assistant principal, principal, parish/city supervisor of instruction, supervisor of child welfare and attendance, sped supervisor, or comparable school or district leader positions).

Eligibility Letter

A letter of eligibility for Educational Leader certification will be issued to individuals who meet requirements, but who are not yet hired in a leadership position. The appropriate leadership certificate will be issued upon employment in a leadership capacity at the request of the employing Louisiana Employing Authority. Louisiana Employing Authorities have been informed that a letter of eligibility issued by the LDOE is sufficient to identify you as being eligible for employment and the certificate will be issued upon their request.

If employed in a leadership role at the time of application, the application should be routed to employer to verify date-of-hire and role within the application. The certificate will be issued without a letter of eligibility being necessary.

Official Transcripts

Transcripts must be official for all certification purposes. Official transcripts should be mailed or emailed directly to **you or your employing school system** and will be considered official when scanned and/or uploaded to the online certification portal with your certification application packet. The Certification Office does not accept transcripts sent directly via email or paper mail.

Degrees and coursework used for Louisiana certification purposes must be earned from a college or university [accredited in accordance with 34 CFR 602](#).

Experience Verification

Louisiana teaching and/or leadership experience must be verified by the Louisiana employing school system. Applications should be routed to the current employing school system if experience verification is not already on file with the LDOE from previous applications.

Out-of-state experience must be verified as successful by the out-of-state employing authority using the [Out-of-State Experience Verification Attestation](#).

Educational Leader Certificates

Educational Leader Level 1 (EDL 1) – permits service as a school or district level leader with the exception of superintendent or assistant superintendent unless otherwise noted.

Eligibility for EDL1 can be obtained by fulfilling **one** of the following options. Click on the pathway link to access the self-evaluation checklist and required documentation for each pathway.

- [Graduate Degree Path](#) - for certified teachers who have earned a graduate degree in the area of Educational Leadership.
 - **Application: Educational Leader 1 - Degree or Individualized Program**
- [Alternate Path 1](#) - for certified teachers who hold a graduate degree and have fulfilled an individualized, competency-based educational leadership plan-of-study from an accredited institution of higher education. The institution of higher education must provide a letter verifying successful completion of the program. Refer to the Alt Pathway 1 self-evaluation for information on the information required to be included in the letter.
 - **Application: Educational Leader 1 - Degree or Individualized Program**
- [Alternate Path 2](#) - for certified teachers who hold a graduate degree **in education** and document evidence of 240 clock hours of educational leadership experiences. Refer to the Alt Pathway 2 self-evaluation for instructions on documenting the experiences.
 - **Application: Educational Leader 1 – 240 Clock Hours**
- [Alternate Path 3](#) - for certified teachers who hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree and have successfully completed a [Louisiana competency-based educational leader practitioner \(residency\) program](#). The Educational Leader 1 - Practitioner Leader Program application will be routed to the BESE-approved provider for program verification documentation.
 - **Application: Educational Leader 1 – Practitioner Leader Program**
- [Alternate Path 4](#) - for individuals who hold a graduate degree in Public Administration or Business Administration, or a Juris Doctor (JD), or who are an honorably discharged commissioned officer of the United States military with a pay grade of O3 or higher, with or without teaching experience or certification. ***This pathway authorizes serving as a school level leader only in Louisiana approved schools.*** Refer to the Alt Pathway 4 self-evaluation for additional requirements.
 - **Application: Educational Leader 1 – School Level Leader Alt Path 4**

All pathways to the Educational Leader 1 license require the successful completion of either the [Praxis School Leaders Licensure Assessment \(SLLA\)](#) or the [Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series \(LLAS\)](#).

EDL1 *eligibility* does not expire. The EDL1 certificate, with the exception of EDL1: School Level Leader (Alternate Path 4), is valid for three years initially after being issued at the request of the Louisiana employing school system, and may be extended thereafter for a period of one year at the request of the Louisiana employing school system. EDL 1 certificates are limited to two such extensions. The EDL1: School Level Leader (Alternate Path 4) certificate is a five year, non-renewable certificate.

****If you do not currently hold Louisiana teaching certification, please review the '[I am not certified as a teacher in Louisiana. I would like to apply for Educational Leader \(EDL\) eligibility.](#)' article or ask for additional guidance through the [Teacher Certification Help Center](#).****

Educational Leader Level 2 (EDL 2) – permits service as a school or district level leader for educators with successful leadership experience (has met the standards of effectiveness verifiable via Compass/LEADS, local evaluation, or out-of-state employer).

Eligibility for EDL2 requires the following:

- Hold or be eligible to hold an Ed Leader 1 certificate, Louisiana provisional principal certification, or comparable level out-of-state educational leader certificate; AND
- Three years of teaching experience*; AND
- Meet the standards of effectiveness as an educational leader for three years, verified in accordance with §103 of [Bulletin 746 - Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel](#).

*Leaders holding the EDL1: School Level Leader (Alternate Path 4) certificate lacking the required teaching experience must meet the standards of effectiveness as a school level leader for five years, verified in accordance with §103 of Bulletin 746.

Application: Educational Leader Renewal or Higher Certification

EDL2 *eligibility* does not expire. The EDL2 certificate is valid for five years and is renewable by successfully meeting the standards of effectiveness for at least three years during the five-year initial or renewal period of the EDL2. Effectiveness for school level leaders in Louisiana public/charter schools is verified via Compass and/or LEADS evaluations. Effectiveness for leaders in a nonpublic setting or serving as a district-level leader is documented on the Local Evaluation Attestation form included in this application packet.

Educational Leader Level 3 (EDL 3) – permits service as a school superintendent or assistant superintendent

Eligibility for EDL3 requires **all** of the following:

- Have a valid Louisiana Educational Leader Level 2 certificate or one of the Louisiana administrative or supervisory certifications that preceded the Educational Leadership Certification structure; AND
- Have three years of teaching experience; AND
- Have five years of successful administrative or management experience in education at the level of assistant principal or above. The assistant principal experience would be limited to a maximum of two years of experience in that position; AND
- Have a passing score on the [Praxis School Superintendent Assessment \(SSA\)](#), in accordance with state requirements.

EDL3 *eligibility* does not expire. The EDL3 certificate is valid for five years and is renewable by successfully meeting the standards of effectiveness for at least three years during the five-year initial or renewal period of the EDL3. Effectiveness is documented by the Louisiana employing school system on the [Local Evaluation Attestation](#) form.

Application: Educational Leader Renewal or Higher Certification

Educational Leader in Special Education Ancillary (AN EDL in Sped) – permits service as a school or district supervisor, director, or coordinator of special education **only**.

Eligibility for AN EDL in Sped requires **all** of the following:

- Hold one of the following valid Louisiana ancillary certificates or be considered certified by BESE by holding the valid Louisiana license issued by the appropriate licensing board:
 - o educational diagnostician;
 - o certified school psychologist (Level B or Level A);
 - o qualified speech pathologist;
 - o speech therapist;
 - o speech-language pathologist;
 - o speech and hearing therapist;
 - o qualified school social worker; or
 - o qualified licensed audiologist;
- Three years of experience working with students in the area(s) of certification;
- Graduate degree from an institution of higher education [accredited in accordance with 34 CFR 602](#);
- Documented 240 clock hours of educational leadership experiences. Click on the heading above to access the Ancillary Educational Leader in Special Education self-evaluation for instructions on documenting the experiences; and
- Successful completion of either the [Praxis School Leaders Licensure Assessment \(SLLA\)](#) or the [Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series \(LLAS\)](#).

AN EDL in Sped *eligibility* does not expire. The AN EDL in Sped certificate is valid for five years and is renewable by successfully meeting the standards of effectiveness for at least three years during the five-year initial or renewal period of the certificate. Effectiveness for school-level leaders in Louisiana public/charter schools is verified via

Compass and/or LEADS evaluations. Effectiveness for leaders in a nonpublic setting or serving as a district-level leader is documented by the Louisiana employing school system on the Local Evaluation Attestation form. **Such renewal shall constitute a renewal of the special education ancillary certificate ONLY and shall not qualify the candidate for EDL1, EDL2, or EDL3.**

Application: Educational Leader – Ancillary Special Education

Out of State Certified Principal & Superintendent – permits service as a principal or superintendent

Louisiana also offers the Out-of-State Principal 1 or 2 (OSP 1 or OSP2) and Out-of-State-Superintendent (OSS) certificates for leaders who hold leadership certification in another state.

[Out-of-State Principal](#)

[Out-of-State Superintendent](#)

Out-of-State certified leaders who do not qualify for EDL certification, but may qualify for OSP1, OSP2, or OSS would apply for certification eligibility may review the [Out of State Administrative Certification Information](#).

Do NOT submit an Educational Leader application for OSP or OSS certification.

Non-practicing Status

Educators holding an EDL certificate who are not currently serving in a leadership position in Louisiana should place the EDL certificate into Non-practicing status to preserve any unused validity as renewal requires leader evaluations in Louisiana within the validity of the certificate. A request for Non-practicing status requires verification/signature from the current or former employing Louisiana school system.

Application: Status Change

Required Documents

Gather all documentation in PDF or JPG format before starting the online application. All applications must include:

1. **Copy of Applicant Social Security Card and Driver's License**
2. **Pathway or request specific items.** Review the self-evaluation checklist linked below for the request you wish to make for information on required documentation. ***Include the completed self-evaluation with the application.***
 - EDL1 via [Graduate Degree Path](#)
 - EDL1 via [Alternate Pathway 1](#) (Individualized Program)
 - EDL1 via [Alternate Pathway 2](#) (Documented 240 Clock Hours)
 - EDL1 via [Alternate Pathway 3](#) (Practitioner/Residency Leader Program)
 - EDL1: School Level Leader via [Alternate Pathway 4](#) (Graduate degree in Public Administration or Business Administration, JD, or Commissioned Officer)
 - Educational Leader in Special Education Ancillary ([AN EDL in Sped](#))
 - Renewing/Extending EDL1, 2, 3, or AN EDL in Sped (Requires verification from the Louisiana Employing School System)
 - [EDL2](#) (Requires verification from the Louisiana Employing School System)
 - [EDL3](#) (Requires verification from the Louisiana Employing School System)

Contact Information: All questions regarding certification requirements or the certification process, can be answered through the Louisiana Department of Education's [Teacher Certification Help Center](#).

All applications will be evaluated in the order in which they are received. You can check the status of a certification application through the [Louisiana Educator Portal](#).

Formal application responses and certificates issued can be reviewed on [TeachLouisiana.net](#).