

Louisiana Believes



**Believe and Prepare: Full Preparation in Rural Communities  
Request for Applications**

**Application Due Date: November 10, 2017 by 5 p.m.**

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## **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Compared to their urban and suburban counterparts, rural school districts face greater challenges in accessing teacher preparation and training programs that fully prepare aspiring teachers for the demands of the classroom.<sup>1</sup> This has a devastating effect on schools and students in rural parishes,<sup>2</sup> who are significantly less likely to have a fully prepared educator than their peers in urban and suburban schools. To address this challenge, **rural school districts need greater access to high-quality educator preparation pathways that include time for sufficient classroom practice.**

To ensure that every child in the state of Louisiana has access to teachers, who are fully prepared for their first day of teaching, the Louisiana Department of Education will support a group of rural school systems to increase access to high-quality, practice-based preparation programs, particularly through post-baccalaureate teacher preparation pathways. This two-year opportunity will support efforts to strengthen preparation experiences through the development of innovative, practice-based, post-baccalaureate models that provide ample time for hands-on practice in the classroom with appropriate supports, including an expert mentor teacher.

As part of this grant opportunity, each school system will receive **customized support and services** as they design and implement a practice-based, post-baccalaureate model that meets the school system's workforce needs. Participating school systems will also have support to develop deeper, more collaborative relationships with preparation providers.

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Department is seeking applications from eligible school systems that are interested in and committed to piloting innovative approaches to high-quality, post-baccalaureate residency models.

Each participating school system will receive up to \$150,000 over the course of the two-year period, including \$15,000 upon identification for the grant. Additional funds will be awarded to each school system based upon the size of the school system and the plan submitted for the costs associated with implementing the pilot.

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<sup>1</sup> [Access to Full Preparation For Teachers in Rural Communities](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Educator Workforce Need Trends](#) (Workforce Need, See Question 1)

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

Release of Request for Applications

October 24, 2017

Deadline to Submit Application

November 10, 2017 at 5 p.m.

*Complete applications (with all necessary signatures) must be submitted in PDF format to [BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov](mailto:BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov).*

**Application forms are available in Appendix A.**

Notification of Selection

November 17, 2017

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Application will be assessed on the below criteria.

Criteria:

- [Teacher Incentive Fund \(TIF\) district](#) or [REAP-eligible district](#) with a focus on training teachers in special education
- Commitment at the district and school level to develop and launch a practice-based, post-baccalaureate preparation models

Districts must be willing to commit to the following:

- **Innovation Community (2017-2019)**
  - Participate in and contribute to the grant community; collaborate with other districts, with teacher preparation program partners, and with external partners to design and pilot innovative post-baccalaureate preparation models that include significant time for classroom practice
- **Design Phase (2017-2018)**
  - Collaborate with partners to design an innovative post-baccalaureate preparation experience that includes significant time to practice and that meets district workforce needs
  - Identify strong mentor teachers to support residents
  - Develop and carry out a plan for recruiting post-baccalaureate residents
- **Pilot Phase (2018-2019)**
  - Launch post-baccalaureate program in 2018-2019
  - Evaluate effectiveness of pilots and share best practices

**QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Contact [BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov](mailto:BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov) with questions or for additional information.

**APPLICATION**

An editable version of the application form is available [HERE](#).

The Believe and Prepare: Full Preparation in Rural Communities application should include the enclosed cover page at the beginning of this packet, the application below, and the narrative on the last page.

Responses should be 11- or 12-point Calibri font on 8 1/2 x 11 pages with one-inch margins. Please double space between paragraphs.

<b>Name of Submitting School System:</b>	
<b>Address of School System (School System, Street Address/P.O. Box Number, City, State, Zip Code):</b>	
<b>The signatories certify that the information in the application is accurate.</b>	
<b>District Superintendent</b>	<b>Name:</b>
	<b>Title:</b>
	<b>Telephone:</b>
	<b>E-mail Address:</b>
	<b>SIGNATURE:</b>
<b>District Project Lead #1</b>	<b>Name:</b>
	<b>Title:</b>
	<b>Telephone:</b>
	<b>E-mail Address:</b>

<b>District Project Lead #2 (if applicable)</b>	<b>Name:</b>
	<b>Title:</b>
	<b>Telephone:</b>
	<b>E-mail Address:</b>
<b>District Budget Director</b>	<b>Name:</b>
	<b>Title:</b>
	<b>Telephone:</b>
	<b>E-mail Address:</b>

**NARRATIVE**

In 250 words or less, please describe why your district is interested in this grant program.

In your response, briefly describe:

- What you hope to gain from participating
- Which state-approved preparation provider(s) you would appreciate working with and why