

## 2026 Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy

### Overview

The Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy is a one-of-a-kind, five-day hybrid of a summer camp and a professional learning experience for high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators.

Hosted by the Louisiana Department of Education and staffed by a team of advisors and coaches from around the state, the Aspiring Educator Summer Academy will bring together 100 aspiring educators from around the state for a high-energy, professional leadership experience that propels them on their pathway to becoming highly effective, educators in our state. The Louisiana Aspiring Educator Academy will take place at the **Louisiana State University July 13-17, 2026**.

The academy staff will be made up of up to 30 exceptional individuals who represent different parts of the Louisiana educator pipeline. Academy staff includes:

- Ten exceptional teachers, professors, and other practicing educators who will serve as **Advisors** throughout the week.

Twenty collegiate student leaders enrolled in education who will lead and serve as **Coaches** to smaller cohorts of academy participants.

### Goals

During the Academy, participants will:

- Continue to increase their skills and knowledge related to becoming a highly-effective educator.
- Develop steps to increase their leadership and advocacy skills.
- Network and build a community amongst other Louisiana aspiring educators.

### A Day at the Academy

A general day at the academy will give participants an opportunity to engage in workshops led by extraordinary Louisiana educators, to be mentored by exceptional educators at various points in their career, to practice skills related to being an effective education advocate, and to network and build community with other Louisiana aspiring educators.

## Sample Summer Academy Daily Schedule

Time	Activity	Description
8:30-9:15	Breakfast	LSU Cafeteria
9:15-9:30	Morning Huddle	Coaches review daily schedules and lead academy participants in community building and daily goal setting
9:30-11:30	Morning Camp Clinical Experience	Coaches and academy participants work with students enrolled in Children's Summer camps hosted at LSU
11:30-12:30	Clinical Experience Debrief	Reflect on camp and prepare for the next clinical experience. Participants debrief their clinical experience camp and complete reflection
12:30-1:30	Lunch	LSU Cafeteria
1:30-3:30	Seminar	Guest Speakers, Workshops, and Planning Time
3:30-5:00	Recharge	Play games, rest and relax in your dorm room, group visits to student union, call family and friends
5:00-6:00	Seminar	Guest Speakers, Workshops, and Planning Time
6:00-9:00	Dinner and Evening Events	Each night, a different social event will be held on or off campus. Social events may include a pool party on campus, a movie night, or a trip to an adventure park.
9:00-9:30	Evening Dorm Huddle	Participants reflect on the day by sharing highlights, lowlights, and goals for the next day. Coaches share expectations and schedule for the next day
9:30-10:00	Dorm Downtime and Curfew	Academy participants return to dorms and go to rooms by 10:00

### Application Process and Timeline

To be nominated to attend the Academy,

- Interested participants can complete the [interest survey](#).
- School system and teacher leads can nominate students to attend the academy by completing the [interest survey](#).
- Teacher Leaders must confirm student eligibility to attend the academy by participating in a follow-up recommendation call, to be held once nominations close.

- Alternates will be selected to fill vacant spots. All alternates will be notified by 06/1/2026 of their registration status.
- If you have completed the nomination and then learn you can no longer attend the academy, please contact [aboque2@lsu.edu](mailto:aboque2@lsu.edu) or [beleiveandprepare@la.gov](mailto:beleiveandprepare@la.gov) and include Aspiring Summer Academy in the subject line.

Registration Timeline	
1/27/2026- 4/22/2026	Student Application form will be open for student nominations
4/22/2026-5/20/2026	Applications will be reviewed, candidates will be confirmed by their school system, and participants will be selected and notified.
5/23/2026-6/1/2026	If spots are still available, alternate candidates will be reviewed, selected, and notified.
6/5/2026	Participants must have all requested forms complete. These forms are sent to participants upon acceptance.
6/16/2026 and 6/17/2026	Aspiring Educator Summer Academy Parent/Guardian and Participant Information Webinar All Parents/Guardians must select one date to attend the virtual informational webinar. Both Webinars will begin at 5:30PM. Links will be sent out upon acceptance.
7/13/2026-7/17/2026	2026 Aspiring Educator Summer Academy at LSU

### Application Process and Timeline

School systems that offer the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway are eligible to register one aspiring educator per high school to attend the Summer Academy. Additionally, each school site will nominate up to five alternates to be considered to attend the academy.

An ideal academy participant is a high-school student that is determined to make a positive impact in the field of education in Louisiana.

- Rising tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students previously enrolled in at least one of the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway courses, or are registered for a Pre-Educator Pathway course in the upcoming school year, are eligible to attend the academy free of charge.
- Academy participants are responsible for their transportation to and from the Academy. School systems are encouraged to support and partner with nearby school systems when possible.
- Students should possess dispositions, interests, and characteristics of effective educators including but not limited to:
  - Being open-minded, compassionate, respectful, and service-oriented;
  - Having an interest in community, state, and national service;
  - Possessing a desire to serve children and the community through improving outcomes for all children;
  - Enjoying collaborative activities;
  - Sharing a passion for a certain topic or content area;

- Developing strong interpersonal and communication skills;
- Exploring skills and strategies of an effective 21<sup>st</sup> century educator.

## Frequently Asked Questions

I am a high school Pre-Educator Pathway student interested in attending the Summer Academy. What should I do next?

- Inform your Pre-Educator Pathway Teacher or Pre-Educator Club Sponsor about your interest in attending.
- Complete the [interest survey](#).

I am a Pre-Educator Pathway Teacher or System Leader. What do I need to do to nominate and register students to attend the 2026 Summer Academy?

- Teacher leaders should share the opportunity with strong aspiring educator candidates that possess the characteristics described above.
- System leads can use the [interest survey](#) to register participants from each high school that offers Pre-Educator Pathway coursework. After submitting the nomination form, systems will be responsible for ensuring aspiring educators, parents/guardians, and teacher leaders remain informed of next steps.

How will alternate candidates be reviewed and selected?

- In addition to registering one student per high school, each school that offers the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway will have the opportunity to nominate up to five alternates to be considered for the remaining Academy spots.
- The Summer Academy team will review the applications for all alternates submitted by school systems through the nomination form.
- School system leads, teacher leaders, and alternatives will receive an email with next steps as alternates are selected to attend.

Who should apply to serve on the Louisiana Summer Academy Staff?

- Coaches- College students that are currently enrolled or recently graduated in a Louisiana teacher preparation program and/or college/university or with a demonstrated interest and skill in mentorship, service, and leadership will be considered to serve as coaches.
- Advisors- Currently practicing exemplary educators with a specific interest and demonstrated skills in teaching, teacher mentorship, and aspiring teacher development will serve as advisors during the academy.
- For more details related to being considered for academy staff, refer to the 2026 Louisiana Summer Academy Staffing Description. The [interest survey](#) for both can be found here.

How can I find out which schools are eligible to submit Academy participants?

- If you have any questions about the Academy, including eligibility, contact [abuque2@lsu.edu](mailto:abuque2@lsu.edu) or [beleiveandprepare@la.gov](mailto:beleiveandprepare@la.gov) and include Aspiring Summer Academy in the subject line.