

Believe & PREPARE

PREPARING LOUISIANA'S NEXT GENERATION EDUCATORS

January 2019



McNeese State University teacher candidates participate in professional development.

McNeese State University and Calcasieu Parish School System partnered to offer ELA Tier 1 Curriculum trainings to elementary teacher candidates and classroom teachers. The trainings were led by an ELA Content Leader and included topics such as Text Complexity, Text Based Experiential Learning, and Close Reading Process with Readers Circle.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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- January 16: Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Training request for Applications released
- January 16: Webinar on Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Training RFA
- January 17: Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Regional Meeting (Natchitoches)
- January 18: Data Verification Technical Assistance webinar
- January 22: BESE Committee Meetings
- January 22: Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Regional Meeting (Baton Rouge)
- January 23: BESE Board Meeting
- January 23: Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Regional Meeting (New Orleans)
- January 28: Regional Collaborative, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
- January 31: Regional Collaborative, Jefferson Parish School Board Building, Harvey
- February 1: Data Verification Technical Assistance webinar
- February 5: Regional Collaborative, Trinity United Methodist Church, Ruston
- February 7: Regional Collaborative, Calcasieu Parish Assessment Building, Lake Charles

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

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- **January 25:** Deadline to [register](#) for January/February 2019 Supervisor Collaboratives
- **January 31:** Deadline to submit corrections to yearlong resident and mentor data via [template](#)
- **February 1:** Deadline to submit Super App
- **February 14:** Deadline to complete preparation provider data verification process
- **February 8:** Deadline to submit application for Mentor Teacher or Content Leader training pilot

TEACHER AND LEADER PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: STATE-APPROVED MENTOR TEACHER AND CONTENT LEADER TRAININGS

In October 2018, [BESE approved regulations to establish new state credentials for classroom teachers](#) who serve as mentors to aspiring teachers and as curriculum experts within their schools. The credentials, Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Certificates, are ancillary certificates and count toward requirements to obtain the certificate needed to become an assistant principal or principal.

The mentor teacher certificate will be required for teachers who mentor undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents beginning in September 2020, eventually replacing the previously required Supervisor of Student Teaching credential.

To earn the certificates, candidates must:

- complete a state-approved training program, and
- complete the Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series or the Louisiana Content Leader Assessment Series, specially designed [licensure assessments](#) unique to each role.

Beginning in fall 2017, the Department has offered Mentor Teacher and Content Leader trainings and will continue to offer these trainings through 2019-2020.

Beginning in 2019, the Department will approve universities, school systems, and other organizations to offer Content Leader and Mentor Teacher trainings.

To transition from state-provided training to state-approved trainings, **the Department is releasing an RFA on January 16** to support new providers' development of these programs. The RFA will be posted on the [Mentor Teacher](#) and [Content Leader](#) webpages.

The Department will hold a webinar on **January 16, at 10:00 a.m.**, for further details about the RFA. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/618191832>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 618191832

Please contact Nicole.Bono@la.gov with questions.

BELIEVE AND PREPARE UPDATES

SUPERVISOR/PRINCIPAL COLLABORATIVES

Each quarter, the Department assembles school systems and preparation providers together at regional collaborations to communicate the state's plan for school system support and funding, and to facilitate conversations about teacher preparation support and accountability.

The next regional collaboratives will take place in January and February. Please review the list of session offerings below and **mark your calendar to attend one of the following Supervisor/Principal Collaboratives.**

- January 28: Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, 201 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801
- January 31: Jefferson Parish School Board Building, 501 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058
- February 5: Trinity United Methodist Church, 1000 Woodward Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270
- February 7: Calcasieu Parish Assessment Building, 1618 Mill Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601

[Registration](#) for the January/February 2019 Collaboratives is now open through January 25. The registration code is **supv19.** Please note that the Department has transitioned to a new registration platform called EventBrite. EventBrite is simple to use and all registrations can be completed via your mobile phone.

- [iPhone](#) instructions
- [Android](#) instructions

Session Title	Session Description	Time Offered
Opening Session	Describe the current state of school system plan implementation and school system planning, and how today's sessions connect to those two focus areas.	8:30-9:00
Effectively Utilizing and Supporting Mentor Teachers	Explore strategies to effectively use and assess the performance of Mentor Teachers.	9:10-10:00
Effectively Utilizing and Supporting Content Leaders	Explore strategies to effectively use and assess the performance of Content Leaders.	10:10-11:00
Educator Preparation: Mentoring in Post-Baccalaureate Preparation	Learn about efforts in rural communities to pilot innovative models of post-baccalaureate preparation.	10:10-11:00
Believe and Prepare: Educator Preparation	Preparation providers and school system personnel will discuss strategies to form stronger partnership via MOUs to meet workforce needs.	11:10- 12:00

Please contact Nicole Bono at nicole.bono@la.gov with any questions.

SUPER APP

In November 2018, the Department launched the 'Super App,' which allows school systems to **access their federal formula and competitive dollars through one application, on one timeline.**

One component of the Super App requires school systems to describe their plan for addressing workforce needs in struggling schools, including [CIR and UIR schools](#). This component is born out of a federal requirement in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires school systems to develop improvement strategies for their struggling schools and to submit those strategies to the state.

We strongly encourage preparation provider partners and school systems to work collaboratively to create this plan as a component of the Super App, which may include the development of MOUs that structure partnerships between providers and school systems. There will be a session offered at the January/February collaboratives, which will allow school systems and preparation providers to discuss these partnerships.

The Super App is due by February 1. Applications submitted after this date will not be eligible for competitive funds.

For information about developing MOUs, please review the Department's [sample MOU](#), which is accessible in the [Preparation Library](#).

Please visit [School System Planning in Louisiana](#) for more information about the Super App and technical support with the application.

YEARLONG RESIDENT AND MENTOR DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

This month, the Department will facilitate a data collection process to make corrections to 2018-2019 yearlong resident and mentor data originally collected in August 2018. Corrections may include deleting residents who have dropped, adding residents who were accidentally left off of the August collection, or noting changes in mentors. **Data templates must be submitted by school systems no later than January 31. A link to the [data template](#) is accessible via the [Preparation Library](#).**

The Department held a webinar on **January 14** to provide guidance to school system leaders and preparation provider partners about the data collection process. The [2018-2019 Resident and Mentor Stipend Data Collection Process \(January Update\) webinar presentation](#) is available in the [Preparation Library](#) and on the [Educator Preparation Providers](#) webpage.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION: MENTORING IN ALTERNATE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Roughly half of all teachers in Louisiana are prepared through post-baccalaureate, or “alternate certification” training programs that require less pre-service practice experiences, compared to undergraduate residents, before serving as a teacher of record.

In September 2017, the Department studied and reported on the issue of post-baccalaureate or “alternate certification” preparation in [Access to Full Preparation in Rural Communities](#) and established a pilot grant program aimed at improving alternate certification preparation in rural school systems. School systems piloting innovative approaches to alternate certification preparation this school year include the **City of Bogalusa, Cameron Parish, Grant Parish, J.S. Clark Leadership Academy, Morehouse Parish, Pointe Coupee Parish, Richland Parish, and West Carroll Parish**. Current preparation provider partners helping to inform the implementation phase of these pilots include the **University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), TNTP, Louisiana State University (LSU) Cain Center, and Northwestern State University (NSU)**.

In December 2018, the Department released [Full Preparation for All Teachers: Mentoring in Alternate Preparation Programs](#), a report highlighting important lessons learned from these pilots thus far that offer insight into how Louisiana can strengthen alternate certification candidates’ experiences, including the impact of increased mentoring.

This month, the Department will release a [toolkit](#) describing strategies that these school systems have used, alongside their provider partners, to provide increased support for post-baccalaureate candidates, including shifts in scheduling and staffing plans.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION ACCOUNTABILITY

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM REGIONAL MEETINGS

In June 2017, BESE approved the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System. This system is being phased in over a five-year period and the 2018-2019 school year is the first year of the two-year learning phase. In Spring 2019, preparation providers will receive performance profiles for their programs (Note: These profiles will not be made public until Winter 2019).

In preparation for releasing the performance profiles, the Department will hold regional meetings in January 2019, to receive feedback from preparation providers on the draft performance profiles, review the data verification process, and receive further feedback on the Teacher Quality proposal that BESE will consider in March. These meetings will be held at the locations below on the following dates:

- **Natchitoches:** January 17, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Northwestern State University (Teacher Education Center, room TBD)
- **Baton Rouge:** January 22, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Department (Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room A)
- **New Orleans:** January 23, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the University of New Orleans, (University Center, Innsbruck Rooms A and B).

As the performance profiles will also be a useful tool for aspiring educators, we are asking all providers to **please nominate one to two teacher candidates to attend their regional meeting** to provide feedback on the performance profiles.

To RSVP for these meetings, each person who plans to attend should visit the [link](#) to RSVP by no later than January 15.

DATA VERIFICATION PROCESS

All preparation providers will be required to complete a data verification process in order to verify that their 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 program completion data in the portal is accurate and consistent with provider records. This data will be used to create the performance profiles and for the data exchange.

The data verification portal will open on **January 21** and will close on **February 14 (please note that this date has been pushed back from the original opening date of January 14)**. **Providers should complete this process by February 14 to ensure that the data that will be used to calculate the performance profiles are accurate.**

All deans/department heads will receive an email prior to January 21 containing their username and information about how to access the data verification portal. Deans/department heads can also request usernames for up to 2 additional employees at their institution to access the portal by sending an email to robert.markle@la.gov with the following information: (1) Employee's first name, (2) employee's last name, and (3) employee's email address. The Department must receive these additional employees' information by Friday, February 1.

To assist providers with the completion of the data verification process, the Department has developed a user guide that explains how to access the data verification portal and complete the data verification process. The user guide is posted in the Teacher Preparation Library on the Louisiana Department of Education website and can be accessed [here](#).

In addition to this guide, the Department will hold technical assistance webinars on the following dates:

- Friday, January 18, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, February 1, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Providers who are not able to attend the webinars on the above dates or who would like additional technical assistance can schedule an individual technical assistance call with Rob Markle, Director of Program Approval.

To make an individual technical assistance appointment, please visit the following link to select an appointment time: <https://doodle.com/poll/5dtbmpf52xqghg2y>. After selecting an appointment, providers will receive a follow-up email to verify the contact information for the call.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

APPROVED EXTENSION REQUESTS

During the January 2019 BESE Committee Meeting, BESE will receive updates from providers who received teacher preparation program alignment extensions. The Department will contact providers individually with any clarifying questions regarding the reports for the meeting.

REQUESTS TO OFFER NEW PROGRAMS

Preparation providers seeking approval to offer new programs that result in initial certification must follow the process outlined below. Preparation providers must first submit a [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI), and once that is received, the Department will send a link to the application.

Current and new providers may access resources available on Louisiana Believes via the [Preparation Library](#).

Notice of Intent Submitted By	Application Submission Deadline	Evaluation Period	Notification of Evaluation Results	BESE Considers <i>(if recommended for approval)</i>
11/16/2018	12/14/2018	1/4/2019-3/15/2019	3/18/2019	4/17/2019
7/1/2019	8/1/2019	8/1/2019-9/13/2019	9/13/2019	10/15/2019

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