

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare community,

Below are important updates and events for the month of July. As always, please reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Nicole Bono

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 13: Mentor Training Updates [webinar](#)

July 19: Mentor waiver [application](#) opens

July 19 & 21: Mentor waiver application [webinar](#)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

August 31: Deadline to download FTP files

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Praxis Core

Last winter, the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force studied the impacts of Praxis Core on the education profession. This assessment has been a barrier for entering the workforce for decades, and the current teacher shortage has magnified the need to address this unnecessary requirement quickly. The task force endorsed a proposal to remove Praxis Core, and, in addition to policy changes, legislation was filed to remove this from law.

Acts [707](#) and [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session were passed into law which removes the passing of an examination that includes English proficiency as a requirement for certification. BESE policy requires ACT or Praxis Core as the measure of English proficiency for both entrance to a teacher preparation program and initial certification. To align with the new law, policy changes will be brought to BESE in August removing Praxis Core from program entrance and certification.

To eliminate any delay in implementing this law and policy, BESE President Garvey signed a waiver of BESE policy, so that teacher preparation providers can enroll and schedule candidates into courses for the fall semester and school systems can make hiring decisions based on updates to certification before the school year begins.

Removing this barrier is a step in the right direction and a part of a comprehensive plan to improve the educator workforce. We appreciate your commitment to this most important work.

If you have any questions, please reach out to believeandprepare@la.gov

Teacher Prep Provider Data-Sharing Update

Performance Profile Reports for 2020-2021 have been added to the FTP. If you did not receive an email with this information, please reach out to Emily Smiley. Debriefing meetings are scheduled for August-September. If you have not yet scheduled a meeting, there is still time to do so.

Files stored in the FTP will be removed by **August 31**. Make a plan now for downloading any data that you need to keep before this deadline.

For more information, email: emily.smiley@la.gov.

Mentor Training Updates

Updates have been made to the Mentor training modules. Revisions to the modules include:

- Reduced total number of modules from nine to six.
- Increased focus on developing and executing a coaching cycle.
- Less explicit training on content topics, content is embedded through examples.

A webinar for training providers to review these changes as well the process for updating previously approved trainings will be held on **Wednesday, July 13 from 12-2 p.m.**

Date/Time: June 14 from 9-11 or July 13 from 12-2

Webinar link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87020837576>

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

2022-2023 Mentor Waiver Application

At the April BESE meeting, the Board approved a waiver for the Mentor policy for the 2022-2023 school year. Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee. The waiver will be issued by the LDOE for educators highly recommended by the Mentor's principal and who possess one or more of the following qualifications:

1. Two years of Highly Effective Compass ratings;
2. National Board Certification;
3. Statewide or national distinction for excellence in teaching;
4. Experience as a TAP mentor, master teacher, executive master teacher, or certified TAP evaluator;
5. Content leader experience, as evidenced by participation in Content Leader training or redelivery of professional development; or
6. Master's or doctorate in education and exemplary experience hosting student teachers.

The 2022-2023 Mentor Waiver [Application](#) will open on **July 19, 2022**.

Mentor Waiver applications must be created by the system leader responsible for resident placement and/or Mentor recruitment and support. We encourage system leaders and their preparation partners to attend one of the two Mentor Waiver Application [webinars](#).

Webinar Dates/Time: July 19 from 10-11 a.m. or July 21 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

Passcode: 3455048179

Phone: 1-470-381-2552

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Certification Updates

At January BESE, revisions to align Bulletin 746 and Bulletin 996 were approved by BESE and are now off of Notice of Intent. As a reminder, those revisions include that teacher candidates must:

- Complete a one-year residency
- Hold a Practitioner's License (PL) in the certification area prepared (alt. cert/post-bacc)
 - Be mentored during the first year on a PL by a school-based mentor
- Hold a Resident Certificate (traditional/undergrad)
 - Be mentored by a classroom-based mentor for residents
- Out-of-State residents must hold an R certificate for all candidates (traditional/alt. cert)
 - Mentoring attestation is not required for out-of-state residencies
 - Letter on official letterhead indicating an out-of-state residency and no mentoring is required at time of initial certification application

Certification processing times during our peak season could extend to 12-14 weeks. We are implementing both short term and long term solutions to address processing times, but expect processing times to slowly be reduced. Once the Praxis policy is communicated, submit resident and practitioner applications as soon as possible.

Certification Reminders. Educational Testing Services (ETS) is phasing out or redesigning some of its exams. At April BESE, revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, were adopted to include the newly redesigned ETS exams. There will be a one-year overlap where either current exams or new exams can be accepted for certification. Current exams will **expire on 8/31/2023**. The **effective** date for newly adopted exams is **9/1/2022**. Newly adopted exams include:

- Biology (**5236**), score of 154
- Chemistry (**5246**), score of 146
- General Science (**5436**), score of 141
- Physics (**5266**), score of 145
- Early Childhood Special Education/Early Intervention Praxis (**5692**), score of 159
- School Counselor (**5422**), score of 159
- School Librarian (**5312**), score of 154

In an effort to address the high school math teacher shortage, at April BESE, revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, were adopted to create a Geometry Add-on.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Valid standard, professional level Louisiana teaching certificate or higher; and
- Pass the Geometry Content Exam

New certification application updates have been made. New applications became available on April 1. The new applications were **required** to be used, **effective May 1, 2022**.

The initial application has the place for **one** add-on area as a part of the application request. The initial application plus one add-on area is \$75. The recommendation is to choose the add-on area that makes the teacher candidate most marketable. Other add-on areas can be requested via the [Evaluation Add-on, Course Approval application](#) at a separate time.

Recent legislation and questions surrounding teaching reading competencies have led to a more **broad**

interpretation of the law regarding teaching reading. Therefore, when issuing initial certification, our team will be looking for the following:

- Traditional Programs: Semester hours 3, 6 or 9 hours
- Alternate Programs:
 - BESE-adopted Teaching Reading Exam (5206) OR
 - Signed Assurances indicating contact hour equivalent

The LDOE will continue to review current and proposed legislation around literacy and adjust policy accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact Christy.Bellue@la.gov.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

2021-2022 Program Approval Applications

Teacher, early childhood ancillary certificate program, educational leader proposals for initial approval, and mentor and content leader training proposals are accepted and considered by BESE twice per year. Proposals that meet all initial submission requirements will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers to ensure proposals meet policy requirements. Additionally, the [Preparation Library](#) has program approval resources, including notices of intent and application rubrics. Programs submitting applications for review and use these materials to ensure their applications align with policy requirements.

Preparation providers seeking approval to offer new programs must first submit a [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI). The Department will send a link to the application following receipt of the NOI. The deadlines to submit notices of intent and applications are highlighted in the chart below. Note that providers may submit NOIs after the deadline. Applications must be received by the below deadlines in order for them to be reviewed during the below review cycles.

Application Portal Opens By	Notice of Intent Submitted By	Application Submission Deadline	Evaluation Period	Notification of Evaluation Results	BESE Considers (if recommended for approval)
05/01/2022	6/1/2022	6/30/2022	07/01/2022 - 08/19/2022	09/12/2022	10/12/2022
09/01/2022	10/01/2022	12/09/2022	12/19/2022 – 02/17/2023	03/09/2023	04/19/2023
05/01/2023	06/01/2023	07/10/2023	07/17/2023 – 08/01/2023	9/12/2023	10/11/2023

If you have any questions, please contact Jennie.moctezuma@la.gov.