

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare community,

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

Sincerely,
Nicole Bono

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 14:** Mentor Training Updates [webinar](#)
- June 29:** Certification Overview [webinar](#)
- July 13:** Mentor Training Updates [webinar](#)
- July 19:** Mentor waiver [application](#) opens
- July 19 & 21:** Mentor waiver application [webinar](#)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- June 30:** Application deadline for program approval

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Preparation Provider Monthly Call

As a reminder the Department will **not** hold a monthly call during June or July. On **Wednesday, June 29 at 10 a.m.** the certification team will be offering a certification overview for any teacher preparation faculty that work with certification requests. The details for the call are below and are the same as the monthly call.

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 29, 10 a.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/440246097>

Phone number: 1-312-626-6799

Passcode: 44024609

Please contact certification@la.gov with any questions.

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 **Tuesday, June 14 from 9-11 a.m.** and again 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.

Teacher Leader Summit

Louisiana's largest professional development event for educators opened May 31 for its tenth anniversary at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Teacher Leader Summit brought together educators from across the state for an energy-filled, inspiring event that closes out one school year and inspires attendees in their planning for the next.

The theme of the tenth annual Teacher Leader Summit was **Making a Comeback**, a reference to the resiliency educators have demonstrated over the past several years and how Louisiana continues to make significant academic strides in the face of immense adversity.

To celebrate the 10th year and Making a Comeback, educators were invited to visit the photo booth throughout the week. Images taken at the photo booth were then compiled into a [mosaic image](#). Can you spot your photo?

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with any questions.

Certification Updates

Acts 438 and 108 of the 2021 Legislative Session provide support to Louisiana students and families to increase literacy. Act 438 also required BESE revise teacher certification and the requirements of teacher education program requirements for all candidates seeking certification in grades kindergarten through third grade by July of 2022.

In March, BESE approved updated literacy competencies to align and reinforce the requirements in Act 438 around designing and implementing an integrated and comprehensive curriculum that develops students' understanding of content, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

At June BESE, LDOE will bring policy updates to align certification requirements with the law and new literacy competencies adopted in March. These updates include the adoption of a Teaching Reading Exam and clarification around the required coursework.

Also at June BESE, the LDOE will be proposing the Geometry add-on and exam policy adopted at April BESE be adopted as an *emergency rule* so educators can take advantage of the changes over the summer.

Certification Training. As requested, there will be a certification training call held on June 29 at 10:00 a.m. for any teacher preparation provider contacts that are interested. Basic certification topics and certification application submission guidance will be discussed. The [link for the call](#) will be the same link used for the monthly preparation provider calls. Please forward the calendar invite and link to any interested parties.

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.