

# LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare community,

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

Sincerely,  
Nicole Bono

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**September 28** : Preparation provider monthly [webinar](#)

## **IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

**October 1**: Resident, Practitioner, and Mentor licenses must be issued to be eligible for funding.

**October 1**: Notification of Intent due for spring program approvals

**November 4**: Title II reporting site closes at 4:00 pm CST

## **NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar**

Please join the monthly webinar on September 28.

#### **Webinar Details:**

- Webinar Date and Time: Wednesday, September 28 from 10-11 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/440246097>
- Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923
- Meeting ID#: 440 246 097

Please contact [nicole.bono@la.gov](mailto:nicole.bono@la.gov) with questions.

### **2021-2022 Title II Reporting Site Open**

The ETS Title II Reporting Services website is now open for entry of your 2021-2022 student data. ETS collects this data in order to prepare and make available pass rate reports to satisfy Section III of the Institutional and Program Report Card on the Quality of Teacher Preparation (IHE Report Card).

Please contact [emily.smiley@la.gov](mailto:emily.smiley@la.gov) with questions.

### **Science Collaborative Application Open**

The Department is excited to announce that the application for the Science Collaborative is now open. This Science Collaborative is designed to bring together the best minds from both teacher preparation and K-12 to design teaching methods syllabi for elementary and secondary science courses

that, in turn, will be available for public use. This collaborative will be led by [BSCS Science Learning](#).

### **Who should apply?**

- Higher education faculty who teach science methods courses
- Higher education faculty who teach science courses for education majors
- Strong K-12 educators who help support science instruction (e.g., science curriculum coaches, current science content leaders, district science supervisors)

Interested applicants should submit the [application](#) to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) by **5:00 p.m. October 7, 2022**.

Contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

### **Teacher Preparation Office Hours**

This year the Department will again offer Teacher Preparation Office Hours. These webinars are an opportunity for program staff to share best practices and learn from one another. We are currently seeking topics for this year's series.

Please email [nicole.bono@la.gov](mailto:nicole.bono@la.gov) with suggestions for call topics and recommendations of staff that can facilitate these sessions.

Previous topics included:

- Recruiting minority candidates to programs
- Supporting post-bacs
- Strong feedback cycles
- Collaborating with system partners

Contact [nicole.bono@la.gov](mailto:nicole.bono@la.gov) with questions

### **Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway Teacher Preparation Roundtable**

In the 2021-2022 school year there were over 600 high school students enrolled in the pathway representing over 20 different school systems. In the 2022-2023 school year, we are excited to see the pathway expand into approximately 30 new school systems on 90 new high school campuses. The Department hopes to provide greater support to aspiring educators by connecting our graduating Pre-Educator Pathway students to Louisiana Teacher Preparation Programs.

The Pre-Educator Pathway lead for your program, or an appointed designee, should attend the Fall Teacher Preparation Program Pre-Educator Pathway Fall Roundtable:

- Time: **October 4, 2022 1-2:30 p.m.**
- Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- Meeting ID: 345 504 8179
- Phone: 1-470-381-2552,,3455048179#

All Teacher Preparation Programs should complete the [2022-2023 LA Pre-Educator Pathway Teacher Preparation Inventory](#). The Pre-Educator Pathway Implementation Guidebook is coming soon to the [Resource Library](#).

Contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

### **2022-2023 Training Provider Effectiveness Measures Pilot**

Based on training provider feedback and our hope to provide BESE with a more comprehensive view of your programs, we are continuing to pilot tools that would create additional data points to be included in future [training provider effectiveness reports](#). These tools include a **participant survey**, a **district**

**partner experience survey**, and a **training observation rubric**.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the LDOE is looking to work with 15 approved training providers (10 Mentor & 5 Content Leader) to pilot these tools and provide feedback on the future development and implementation of the training provider effectiveness measures. Pilot participants will contract with the Department for \$2,000. We encourage programs that are interested in participating to attend the webinar below to learn more about pilot participants' roles and responsibilities.

Time: September 20, 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.

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

Meeting ID: 345 504 8179

Phone: 1-470-381-2552,,3455048179#

Contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

### **New Teacher of the Year Nomination Portal**

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs, as well as the New Teacher of the Year program. Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created.

**The [nominations portal](#) is open now and will close on September 30.** Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

For questions regarding Teacher/Principal of the Year contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov). For New Teacher of the Year contact [Laurie.Carlton@la.gov](mailto:Laurie.Carlton@la.gov).

### **Mentor Funding**

Preparation providers should have received a list of resident licenses and first year practitioner licenses on September 9. This list was emailed to the dean or program lead. If your program did not receive this list please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

Preparation programs should use this list to ensure that all residents and practitioners have their required license issued by **October 1, 2022**, the deadline to be eligible for funding.

Contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with any questions.

### **Certification Updates**

During the 2022 Legislative Session, many bills were passed that affect certification. In the coming months, the LDOE will be proposing policy to align with this legislation. This includes:

- Praxis I Core
- Master's degrees
- Out-of-State reciprocity
- GPA for entry into a teacher preparation program
- Criminal History Checks for Certification

## **Praxis I Core Update**

In August, BESE approved the removal of the requirement of a core academic skills assessment (e.g. Praxis Core) for both entrance into a Teacher Preparation Program and for licensure. All other requirements (Praxis II, PLT, one-year residency, etc.) remain the same. For the **exam** portion of requirements for the following certificates, this means:

- Praxis **Core is not required** for issuance of a **Resident Certificate**
  - Praxis **Content is required** for **renewal** of a **Resident Certificate**
- Praxis **Core is not required** for **issuance** of a **Practitioner's License (PL)**
  - Praxis **Content is REQUIRED** for **issuance** of a **Practitioner's License (PL)**
- Praxis Core is **not required** for **issuance** of an **initial Level 1 (or higher)** certificate
  - Praxis **Content, Pedagogy, and Specialty exams** are **REQUIRED** for **issuance** of **Level 1 (or higher)** certificate

Act [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session updated the GPA requirements for entry into a teacher preparation program and for program completion. GPA flexibility for entrance into a teacher preparation program was **removed** from law.

In August, BESE adopted policy to align with the legislation that requires a 2.20 GPA on a 4.0 scale for **entrance** into a teacher preparation program. This means a **2.20 undergraduate** GPA for entrance into post-baccalaureate programs and 2.20 GPA **prior to entrance** into the college of education for traditional programs. While BESE adopted the policy in August, because policy cannot be less restrictive than law, the effective date of these changes to GPA requirements are the date the law was signed.

This requirement has been updated for issuance of both the PL and the R certificates. This law is **not retroactive** and thus **does not** affect candidates **enrolled/admitted** prior to the law's effective date (**5/31/2022**).

The updates related to program completion amended by Act [244](#) include the following:

- applicants must have a 2.50 on a 4.0 scale **GPA at graduation**
- applicants in post-baccalaureate programs only that do not have a program GPA of 2.50 or higher have some flexibility for certification

Due to recent changes in legislation and policy, the Certification Office will be updating all applications related to these changes. The new applications will be posted and available on [teachlouisiana.net](http://teachlouisiana.net) by **September 15**.

There will be a little over a one-month grace period where either version of the application can be submitted. However, the new version of the application will be required by **November 1**.

Since policy was approved as emergency rule regarding these changes, any unprocessed application that is currently "unassigned" can have additional supporting documentation uploaded via the "history" option if needed.

For funding purposes, resident teacher, practitioner licenses, and mentor teacher certificates that need to be issued by *October 1* to receive a stipend must have been submitted completely and correctly via the online portal **on or before September 1**.

**Any applications submitted after September 1, or any incomplete/incorrect submission may not be processed by October 1. This may result in the candidate's inability to be eligible for the funding.**

Please direct any funding questions to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## **Certification Monthly Call**

The Certification Office will now have a monthly call devoted solely to certification. This call will begin in August. It will generally fall on the third **Monday** of each month at **10:30 a.m.** Any changes due to BESE meetings or holidays will be included on the [school system support calendar](#).

**Certification Monthly Call details:**

**Webinar link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWIDU1gvNnNYQk40Wjl3YmpxUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 978 0104 5748

**Passcode:** 959091

## **Literacy Update**

At June BESE, proposed revisions to certification policy were approved to align with literacy requirements in law. These literacy updates have a **future effective** date. The updates include:

- updating teacher certification requirements to include the adoption of a Teaching Reading exam that assesses updated literacy competencies,
- specifying the type of reading coursework required to align with the science of reading competencies, and
- including the adopted science of reading training as options to meet certification requirements.

LDOE is also partnering with ETS to update the Teaching of Reading exam for Louisiana for the future.

In the meantime, the more **broad** interpretation of the law regarding teaching reading will be used. 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

If a university program **does not** offer the reading competencies **via coursework**, a signed assurance document indicating contact hour equivalent is **required**.

Reading requirements are outlined in law, therefore, these requirements are also considered when additional areas are added to existing certificates.

**Certification Reminders.** 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.

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**. Additional application changes necessary due to legislative changes will be made once policy is updated. The normal communication and transition timeline will be implemented.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact [Christy.Bellue@la.gov](mailto:Christy.Bellue@la.gov).

## TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

### **2022-2023 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 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	Notice of Intent	Application Submission	Evaluation Period	Notification of Evaluation	BESE Considers (if
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<b>Opens By</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Deadline</b>		<b>Results</b>	<b>recommended for approval)</b>
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 [emily.smiley@la.gov](mailto:emily.smiley@la.gov).