

# LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## PREPARATION PROVIDER

### MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare community,

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

Sincerely,  
Nicole Bono

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**August 17 & 22:** Mentor and resident funding [overview](#)

**August 31:** Preparation provider monthly [webinar](#)

#### **IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

**August 31:** Deadline to download FTP files

**September 1:** Deadline to submit resident license applications to ensure October 1 issuance

**September 2:** Deadline to submit assurances for Mentor training revisions for Fall

#### **NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

##### **Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar**

Please join the first monthly webinar of the 2022-2023 school year on August 31.

##### **Webinar Details:**

- Webinar Date and Time: Wednesday, August 31 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.

##### **Praxis Core**

On July 14, 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. This eliminates any delay in the impact of Acts 707 and 244 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session on enrolling students into teacher preparation programs.

This does not waive requirements for initial certification. Additional policy recommendations based on the aforementioned Acts will be brought to BESE for consideration in August.

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

Acts 707 and 244 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session were passed into law, which removes passing 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 presented to BESE for approval in August removing Praxis Core from program entrance and certification.

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.

Please contact [em.cooper@la.gov](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

### **Teacher Prep Provider Data-Sharing Update**

Performance Profile Completer Rosters (with VAM) have been added to the FTP. If providers need login credentials, please reach out to Emily Smiley.

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](mailto:emily.smiley@la.gov).

### **Mentor Funding**

During the 2022 Legislative session, an MFP budget was approved that includes \$2,000 for Mentors. The Department will host two webinars in August to review the data collection process that will be followed to ensure these allocations are received. Please join us for one of the following webinars:

- **Date/Time:** August 17 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. or August 22 from 1-2 p.m.
- **Zoom:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Phone:** 1-346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

Contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@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.

Approved training providers who plan to revise their training and utilize the revised modules this fall should submit signed assurances no later than **September 2, 2022**.

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto: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 to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider.

The 2022-2023 Mentor Waiver [Application](#) is now open.

Mentor Waiver Applications must be created by the system leader responsible for resident placement and/or Mentor recruitment and support. System leaders have been directed to include preparation provider partner emails when creating the waiver application to keep partners informed about the waiver process. Mentor waivers should be in place prior to **October 1**.

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

## **New Teacher Experience Kick Off**

On July 25, the Department hosted the first New Teacher Experience [kick-off](#), welcoming new teachers from across the state. Over 100 new teachers from over twenty-nine school systems participated in a day filled with professional development sessions and networking. New teachers were welcomed into the profession and celebrated at this day long event.

The Department will offer affinity groups and professional development modules for new teachers beginning in Fall 2022. More information about these new teacher supports is available on the New Teacher Experience [webpage](#).

Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) for additional information.

## **Teacher Leader Summit Materials Available**

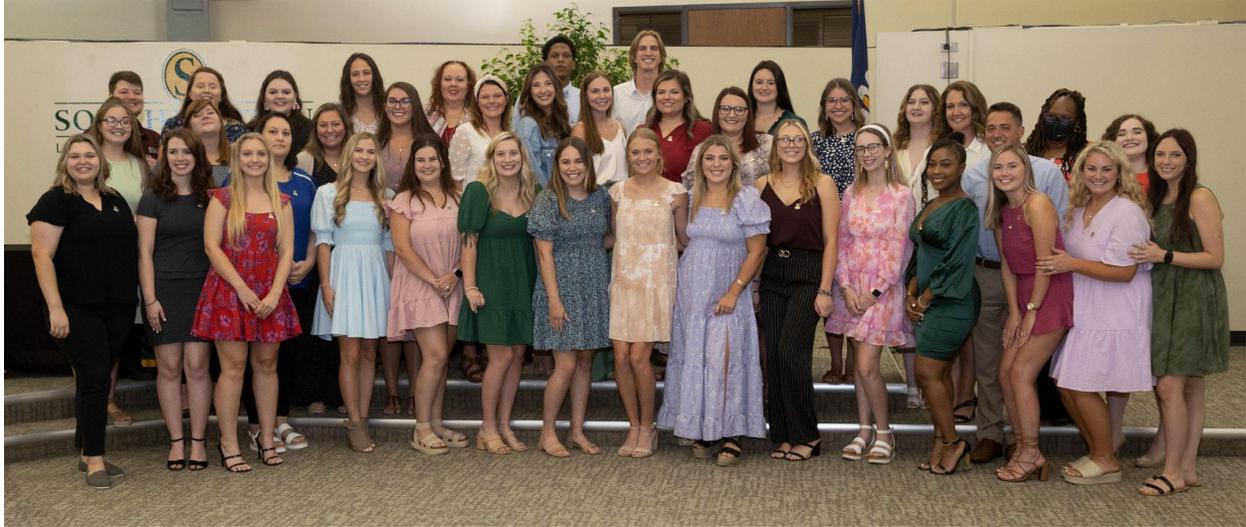
The tenth annual Teacher Leader Summit brought together educators from across the state for an energy-filled, inspiring event that closed out one school year and inspires attendees in their planning for the next.

Check out all of the great materials from the 2022 Teacher Leader Summit are now available in the new 2022 Teacher Leader Summit Materials [library](#). Look for your photo on the [LDOE Facebook page](#).

The Teacher Leader Summit [video](#) is now also available for viewing.

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

## **Southeastern's College of Education Pinning Ceremony**



Southeastern College held its inaugural Education Pinning Ceremony on July 25, 2022. The College pinned the teacher candidates beginning their second semester of residency and graduating in December 2022. "The pinning ceremony recognizes the teacher candidates and welcomes them into the profession of teaching." Paula Calderon, Dean of Education.

Tell us how you are recognizing and celebrating the profession of teaching. Send your stories and pictures to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) for inclusion in upcoming email blasts.

### **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
- Criminal History Checks for Certification

**Praxis I Core Update.** The specific rules impacting teacher education candidates and institutions of higher education in *Bulletin 996, Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, and *Bulletin 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel* are:

- Bulletin 996, §743.E.2. Requires passage of the core academic skills test prior to admission to a traditional teacher preparation program.
- Bulletin 996, §745.F.3. Requires passage of the core academic skills test prior to admission to an alternate teacher preparation program.
- Bulletin 746, §515.A.4.c. Requires passage of the core academic skills test prior to issuance of a provisional practitioner license for use by an educator while enrolled in an alternate teacher preparation program. This credential is issued for employment as a teacher of record during completion of the program.
- Bulletin 746, §535.C.3. Requires passage of the core academic skills test for issuance of a nonstandard teaching credential for individuals satisfying the education program requirement to complete a one-year residency.

Please note that these waivers of the Praxis Core Academic Skills test **only remove** the requirement of passage of that test **prior to entering into, or while participating in, a teacher candidate preparation program**. These waivers **do not waive** the current BESE requirement of passage of the Praxis Core

Academic Skills test **upon completion of those teacher preparation programs.**

These waivers of BESE rules will be in effect from the date of signature until policy revisions are considered, as Notice of Intent and Declaration of Emergency, at the August 24, 2022, BESE meeting and will be subject to the ratification of the state board.

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)**

**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:

<https://doe.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 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.

| <b>Application Portal Opens By</b> | <b>Notice of Intent Submitted By</b> | <b>Application Submission Deadline</b> | <b>Evaluation Period</b> | <b>Notification of Evaluation Results</b> | <b>BESE Considers (if 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 [Jennie.moctezuma@la.gov](mailto:Jennie.moctezuma@la.gov).