



2018 Teacher Leader Summit draws over 6,500 educators



Top: Northwestern State University Education faculty and alumni. Bottom: Educators, who completed the first year of Mentor Training, share their experiences at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit.

Special thanks to all preparation provider leaders, who attended the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit and who shared their insights with school system partners by participating as panelists in many Summit sessions.

Panelists: Mrs. Jordan Ahrend- Southeastern University, Dr. Paula Calderon- Southeastern University, Mr. Kyle Finke- LRCE, Dr. April Giddens- Northwestern State University, Dr. Janice Janz- University of New Orleans, Dr. Patsy Jenkins- LSU Alexandria, Mr. Glenn Larson - Louisiana Tech University, Ms. Ramona Wynder- Northwestern State University

Providers: Grambling State University, Louisiana State University Alexandria, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University, Tulane University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Monroe, University of New Orleans, Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, Loyola University of New Orleans, University of Holy Cross, Louisiana College, LRCE, Caddo Teaching Academy

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

- June 15: Deadline to spend all 8(g) funds in Believe and Prepare Grants
- June 15: Webinar to provide additional feedback regarding the business rules for the **Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System** and to demo the **Onsite Review Scheduling Portal**
- June 18: [Scheduling portal for onsite review](#) opens
- June 19: BESE Administration and Finance committee considers approval of 2018-2019 Believe and Prepare formula funds for preparation providers
- June 22: Deadline to submit reimbursement requests for 8(g) funds in Believe and Prepare grants
- June 29: Release of Teacher Preparation Leadership Collaborative application
- June 29: Deadline to submit milestones into the extension application in the [Program Approval Application Portal: Alignment](#)
- July 16: Deadline to submit onsite review preferences for the learning phase of the **Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System** (2018-2019 and 2019-2020)
- July 27: Deadline to submit Teacher Preparation Leadership Collaborative application

BELIEVE AND PREPARE UPDATES

LA PREPARATION PROVIDER LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

The Department will be offering a fellowship opportunity for teacher preparation programs across the state. Deans for Impact will design and facilitate a network of program leaders from Louisiana preparation programs, who will use data to increase candidate learning in a specific focus area. Goals for the collaborative include:

- Implementing a full improvement cycle focused on candidate learning in a particular focus area
- Improving processes used to collect and analyze data for continuous program improvement
- Building trust among participants that facilitates cross-institutional learning with potential to continue beyond the initial project period

There will be limited space in the collaborative, so preparation providers interested in this opportunity must submit an application. The application to join this collaborative will be available in late June. Please contact Nicole Bono at nicole.bono@la.gov for further details.

PRAXIS SUPPORT GUIDE

Praxis is a requirement for enrollment in and completion of teacher preparation programs in Louisiana. Many prospective educators face challenges in successfully completing this requirement. School systems have demonstrated a strong desire to support those, who are interested in becoming certified to teach, and have a need for resources to assist them with this support. On June 12, the Department released the [Praxis Support Guide](#). This guide is designed to assist aspiring teachers with test preparation for the Praxis exams necessary for teacher certification.

The guide includes information about required Praxis exams for each certification area. In addition, it includes directions for creating an individualized study plan, recommendations for how to provide follow up support to someone on a study plan, and a list of test preparation resources.

If you have questions or would like to suggest additional resources to add to the guide, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

BELIEVE AND PREPARE FUNDING

The 2017-2018 grant cycle is coming to a close. **All 8(g) funds must be spent by June 15, 2018**, and requests for reimbursements must be submitted in eGMS by **June 22, 2018**. **Failure to do so will result in a loss of these funds.** All federal funds (IDEA, TIF, Title I 1003(a), Title II) must be spent by September 30, 2018, and requests for reimbursements must be submitted in eGMS by November 15, 2018.

BESE will consider 2018-2019 Formula Fund allocations for preparation provider transition support on June 19, 2018. These funds will include 2018-2019 formula funds, which are based on program providers' three year average of program completers, as well as the full balance of unspent 2016-2017 8(g) funds. Providers will receive funding from a variety of sources, a small portion of which (less than 15 percent) must be spent by September 30, 2018. Preparation providers will receive an email with specific details regarding their formula fund allocations and timelines for spending these funds.

In addition, the Department will conduct a data collection process in August 2018, to determine allocations for undergraduate resident and mentor stipends for 2018-2019.

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM: WEBINAR ON JUNE 15

In June 2017, BESE approved the [Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System](#), which will phase in over a period of five years. The Department is now preparing for the Learning Phase of the quality rating system, which is from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020. During this phase, all teacher preparation providers will participate in an onsite review.

The Department will hold a webinar with teacher preparation providers on Friday, June 15, 2018, at 10:00 AM regarding the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System. Please RSVP for the webinar [here](#).

During this webinar, the Department will ask for **feedback regarding the list of high-need schools and the business rules for the quality rating system.** The Department will also give a brief demo of the Onsite Review Scheduling Portal.

The [Onsite Review Scheduling Portal](#) will open on June 18, 2018 and will close on July 16, 2018. Teacher preparation providers will submit their preferences for the academic year (2018-2019 or 2019-2020), semester, and dates during which they would like to participate in the onsite review.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

APPROVED EXTENSION REQUESTS

BESE will receive reports regarding the status of extension requests in August 2018, and in January 2019. Below is a list of key dates for the August extension request report.

- **June 29, 2018 is the deadline to submit:**
 - Milestones into the extension application in the [Program Approval Application Portal: Alignment](#)
 - A draft of the innovative model in the [Program Approval Application Portal: Alignment](#) (if applicable)

Request to offer new programs

Preparation providers seeking approval to offer new programs that result in initial certification must follow the below deadlines. Preparation providers must first submit a [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI). Once the NOI is received, the link to the application will be sent.

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

Email believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Notice of Intent Submitted	Application Submission Deadline	Evaluation Period	Notification of Evaluation Results	BESE Considers (if recommended for approval)
6/1/2018	7/1/2018	7/1/2018-8/30/2018	9/1/2018	10/17/2018
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

EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION PORTAL

In response to feedback from our stakeholders, the Department recently launched [Teach LA Live](#), a new online educator certification portal designed to improve customer service and bring teacher certification into the digital age. The portal allows for easy communication among state and local staff, electronic submission of certification applications, and online payment of fees.

A one page [preparation program provider user guide](#) is available for a quick explanation of the portal's navigation.

Teacher candidates can also access the educator certification portal [here](#). A one page [educator user guide](#) is also available for their use.

If you need further assistance using the portal, please reach out to certification@la.gov.

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2018-2019 MENTOR TEACHER TRAINING

2018-2019 Mentor Teacher Training kicked off at Teacher Leader Summit. Over 600 teachers from across the state will be participating in this nine-day training. A full list of training dates and locations for Mentor Teacher training can be found [here](#).

TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

On Wednesday, May 30, 2018, the Department announced the [2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists](#) LIVE from the Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans. All 48 of the 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semi-finalists were recognized at the summit.

These outstanding educators will be celebrated and honored at the [12th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala](#) on Friday, July 27, 2018, at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Congratulations to these educators!

Please send questions to excellenteducators@la.gov.