

Teacher Certification Appeals Council

Minutes

The Teacher Certification Appeals Council met on Thursday, August 28, 2025, in the Iowa Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Dr. Christine Hypolite, Chair. Members present were Brenna Bethancourt, Shannon Clement, Christen DeRise, Dr. Jason Fountain, Dr. Glenda Hembree, Dr. Rhea Kiper, and Hennessy Melancon.

A quorum was present.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education were Paula Bell, Britt Colon, Lana Hutchinson, Dr. Arthur Joffrion, Rachel Normand, Amanda Slaughter, and Rebecca Stephenson.

Appellants in attendance were Danielle Alfano, Courtney Bailey, Christopher Caffery, Jessica Cavenah, Angienelia Cross, Kara Cuellar, Monique Fontenot, Rebecca Forbes, Caroline Fournerat, Tamelra Jenkins, Michelle Matt, Mindy McConnell, Marqus Mitchell, Elson Sanchez, III, Kylie Trisler, Crystal Williams, and Dayjell Williams.

1. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2025.
2. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council went into executive session at 9:21 a.m. to discuss appeals for the following individuals:

a. Melanie Pharr	m. Mandy Segura	y. Marqus Mitchell
b. Becky Adams	n. Danielle Alfano	z. Crystal Williams
c. Jessica Cavenah	o. Mary Perry	aa. Rebecca Forbes
d. Tiffany Guidry	p. Amanda Trim	bb. Angienelia Cross
e. Sarah Lambert	q. Courtney Bailey	cc. Tyler Bourque
f. Michelle Matt	r. Caroline Fournerat	dd. Christopher Caffery
g. Mindy McConnell	s. Elson Sanchez, III	ee. Tamelra Jenkins
h. Chancey Mouhot	t. Renada Thompson	ff. Cassidy Jones
i. Kylie Trisler	u. Ada Hall	gg. Sarah Maggio

j. Erin Vaughan

v. Camerone Kuhn

hh. Taylor Reed

k. Kirstie Carter-Penny

w. Kara Cuellar

ii. Theresa Rodriguez

l. Monique Fontenot

x. Latesha Brumfield

jj. Dayjell Williams

3. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council reconvened into regular session at 2:30 p.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.
4. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Melanie Pharr's** request to extend her Type C teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced in accordance with policy.
5. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Becky Adams'** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
6. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Jessica Cavenah's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
7. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Tiffany Guidry's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
8. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Sarah Lambert's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
9. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Michelle Matt's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate.

Mr. Clement abstained from the vote.

10. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council deferred **Mindy McConnell's** request to extend Level 2 teaching certificate to the October 23, 2025 meeting. .
11. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Chancey Mouhot's** request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.

12. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Kylie Trisler**'s request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
13. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Erin Vaughan**'s request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
14. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Kirstie Carter-Penny**'s request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

15. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Monique Fontenot**'s request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
16. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Mandy Segura**'s request to extend her Level 3 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.

Mr. Clement abstained from the vote.

17. On motion of Mr. Melanson, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Danielle Alfano**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate in accordance with policy. The Council noted this will be the final extension.
18. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Mark Perry**'s request to extend his Out-of-State teaching certificate.
19. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Amanda Trim**'s request to extend her Out-of-State teaching certificate for one year in order to fulfill the Praxis exam(s) required for issuance of the Level certificate in accordance with policy.
20. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Courtney Bailey**'s request to renew her Ancillary-Talented certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
21. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Caroline Fournierat**'s request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.

22. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Elson Sanchez, III**'s request to renew his Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
23. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Renada Thompson**'s request to renew her Temporary Authority to Teach for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
24. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Ada Hall**'s request to extend her Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education's teaching certificate for three years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
25. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Cameron Kuhn**'s request to extend his Practitioner's License, contingent upon providing evidence that he is paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing his residency.
26. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Kara Cuellar**'s request for school counselor eligibility, accepting requirements met after June 30, 2017.
27. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Latesha Brumfield**'s request to add Educational Leader Level 1 eligibility to her Level 3 certificate.
28. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Marques Mitchell**'s request to add Educational Leader Level 1 eligibility to his Level 3 certificate.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.
29. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Crystal Williams**' request to add Educational Leader Level 1 eligibility to her Ancillary-School Counselor certificate citing she fulfilled the 24 semester hours of school counseling coursework.
30. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Kiper, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Rebecca Forbes**' request to add Elementary School Principal to her Type A, substituting the Praxis School Leaders Licensure Assessment in lieu of the Educational Leadership Administration and Supervision exam.
31. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Angienelia Cross**' request for issuance of the Level certificate in accordance with policy, citing she was mentored during her year-long residency.

32. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Tyler Bourque's** request for issuance of the Level certificate but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing he must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
33. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Christopher Caffery's** request for issuance of the Level certificate but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing he must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
- Public comment was received by Mr. Caffery.
34. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Tamelra Jenkins'** request for issuance of the Level certificate but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
35. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Cassidy Jones'** request for issuance of the Level certificate in accordance with policy, citing she was mentored during her year-long residency.
36. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Sarah Maggio's** request for issuance of the Level certificate but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
37. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Taylor Reed's** request for issuance of the Level certificate but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
38. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Theresa Rodriquez's** request for issuance of the Level certificate but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
39. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Dayjell Williams'** request for issuance of the Level certificate in accordance with policy, citing she was mentored during her year-long residency.

With no further business to come before the Teacher Certification Appeals Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.