

Teacher Certification Appeals Council

Minutes

The Teacher Certification Appeals Council met on Thursday, February 26, 2026, in the Iowa Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Dr. Christine Hypolite, Chair. Members present were Brenna Bethancourt, Shannon Clement, Dr. Glenda Hembree, and Dr. Wendi O'Halloran.

Jody Purvis served as proxy for Dr. Jason Fountain.

Karen Triche served as proxy for Hennessy Melancon.

Dr. Jason Fountain and Hennessy Menalcon were absent.

A quorum was present.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education were Paula Bell, Lana Hutchinson, Patrick Mackin, Rachel Normand, Lori Pennison, and Rebecca Stephenson.

Appellants in attendance were Scott Abadie, Elizabeth Addington, Angela Beecher, Julianne Cambre, Natalie Cooper, Kevin Drez, Jr., Shelisa English, Crystal Fugatt, Te'Andrea James, Alexandra Norwood, Michael Reed, Neili Reed, Shealee Schexnayder, Alethea Simms, Marcus Scott, Chaddrick Smith, Tiffany Thomas, and Antoinette Walker.

1. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on October 25, 2025.
2. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council went into executive session at 9:15 a.m. to discuss appeals for the following individuals:

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| a. Angela Beecher | v. Clare Landry |
| b. Kevin Drez | w. Mary Robillard |
| c. Te'Andrea James | x. Chaddrick Smith |
| d. Suzette Stroud | y. Danielle Stapleton |
| e. Scott Abadie | z. Lauren Forbes |
| f. Mindy McConnell | aa. Crystal Fugatt |
| g. Heather Noah | bb. Antoinette Walker |
| h. Neilie Reed | cc. Parron Jones |
| i. Brandi Bubenzer | dd. Alexis Louviere |
| j. Elizabeth Addington | ee. Brianna Malbrough |
| k. Natalie Cooper | ff. Shara Mayers |
| l. Michael Reed | gg. Christi Santangelo |
| m. Michelle Brown | hh. Shealee Schexnayder |
| n. Quentelle Larkins | ii. Marcus Scott |
| o. Alexandra Norwood | jj. Melanie Seraille |
| p. Victoria St. Romain | kk. Alethea Simms |
| q. Julianne Cambre | ll. Lemetria Smith |
| r. Paulita Cheffin | mm. Tiffany Thomas |
| s. Sergio Guzman | nn. Shelisa English |
| t. Lynette Flagge | oo. Thaddaeus Sands |
| u. Jasmine Johnson | |

3. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council reconvened into regular session at 1:35 p.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.
4. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Angela Beecher's** request to extend her Level 1 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced in accordance with policy.
5. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Kevin Drez's** request to extend his Level 1 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced in accordance with policy.
6. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Te'Andrea James'** request to extend her Level 1 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced in accordance with policy.

7. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Suzette Stroud**'s request to extend her Level 1 teaching certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced in accordance with policy.
8. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Scott Abadie**'s request to extend his 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 Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Mindy McConnell**'s request to extend her Level 2 certificate for one year, contingent upon her school system providing official evidence of annual evaluations using a state-approved rubric, with final evaluations entered into the state's evaluation system.
10. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Heather Noah**'s request to extend her Level 2 certificate for one year in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
11. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Neili Reed**'s request to extend her Level 2 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 Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Brandi Bubenzer**'s request to extend her Level 3 certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
13. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Elizabeth Addington**'s request to extend her Ancillary-Artist teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced in accordance with policy.
14. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Natalie Cooper**'s request to extend her Ancillary-Talented Artist teaching certificate for two years in order to earn the necessary effective evaluation(s) so the certificate can be advanced in accordance with policy.
15. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council deferred **Michael Reed**'s request to the June 25, 2026, meeting.
16. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Michelle Brown**'s request to extend her Temporary Authority to Teach teaching certificate for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.

17. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Quentelle Larkin's** request to extend her Temporary Authority to Teach teaching certificate for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
18. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Alexandra Norwood's** request to extend her Temporary Authority to Teach teaching certificate for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
19. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Victoria St. Romain's** request to extend her Temporary Authority to Teach teaching certificate for one year in order to meet requirements for entrance into a Louisiana teacher preparation program.
20. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Julianne Cambre's** request to extend her Out-of-Field Authority to Teach teaching certificate for one year in order to meet add-on requirements for Significant Disabilities.
21. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Paulita Cheffin's** request for issuance of the Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education certificate.
22. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Sergio Guzman's** request for renewal of the Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education certificate for three years so that the certificate can be renewed in accordance with policy.
23. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Lynette Flagge'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.

Ms. Bethancourt abstained from the vote.

24. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Jasmine Johnson's** request to extend her Practitioner's License for one year to allow time for completion of program requirements necessary for recommendation for the initial certificate.
25. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council deferred **Clare Landry's** request to the June 25, 2026, meeting.

Mr. Clement abstained from the vote.

26. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Mary Robillard's** request to extend her Practitioner's License for one year to allow time for completion of program requirements necessary for recommendation for the initial certificate.

27. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Chaddrick Smith**'s request to extend his Practitioner's License for one year to allow time for completion of program requirements necessary for recommendation for the initial certificate.
28. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Danielle Stapleton**'s request to extend his Practitioner's License for one year to allow time for completion of program requirements necessary for recommendation for the initial certificate.
29. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Lauren Forbes**' request to allow her certificate to be retroactively placed into non-practicing status.
30. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Mr. Clement, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Crystal Fugatt**'s request to add Mild/Moderate 1–5 to her certificate. The Council accepted her documented work experience and approved the use of a "Collaborative Leader" course in lieu of the identified course deficiency.
31. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Antoinette Walker**'s request to add Educational Diagnostician to her certificate, contingent upon her providing evidence of official verification of 100 hours of supervised experience.
32. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Parron Jones**' request for issuance of the Level certificate, but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing that he must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
33. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Alexis Louviere**'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.
34. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Brianna Malbrough**'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.

Mr. Clement abstained from the vote.

35. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Shara Mayers**' 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.

36. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Christi Santangelo's** request for issuance of the Level certificate, but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing that she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
37. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Shealee Schexnayder'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 Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. O'Halloran, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Marcus Scott's** request for initial issuance of the Level certificate.
39. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Melanie Seraille's** request for issuance of the Level certificate, but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing that she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
40. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Alethea Simms'** request for issuance of the Level certificate, but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing that she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
41. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Lemetria Smith'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.
42. On motion of Dr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Tiffany Thomas'** request for issuance of the Level certificate, but allowed an extension of the Practitioner's License, citing that she must be paired with a credentialed mentor teacher while completing the year-long residency.
43. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Shelisa English's** request to add Educational Leader Level 1 eligibility to her Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education certificate.
44. On motion of Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Bethacourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Thaddaeus Sand's** request to add Educational Leader Level 1 eligibility to his Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education certificate.

With no further business to come before the Teacher Certification Appeals Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2026.