

Teacher Certification Appeals Council

Minutes

The Teacher Certification Appeals Council met on Thursday, October 23, 2025, in the Thomas Jefferson Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Dr. Christine Hypolite, Chair. Members present were Brenna Bethancourt, Christen DeRise, Dr. Jason Fountain, Dr. Glenda Hembree, Dr. Rhea Kiper, and Hennessy Melancon.

Debra Yarbourgh served as proxy for Shannon Clement.

Shannon Clement was absent.

A quorum was present.

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

Appellants in attendance were Brittiany Batiste, Felicia Chandler, Kayla Davenport, Meaghan Gibson, Haley Godeaux, Stephanie Heinzen, Daniel Hillburn, Audrey Hotard, Heather Inman, Cindy Jones, Lauren Kight, Curtis Lewis, Dr. Mateo Lopez, Hannah Mollere, Skylar O'Bear, Warrell Spann, Julia Toce, Georgette Venn, Elizabeth Vidrine, and Sisciley Watson.

1. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on August 28, 2025.
2. On motion of Mr. Melacon, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council went into executive session at 9:25 a.m. to discuss appeals for the following individuals:

a.	Felicia Chandler	u.	Keisha Davis	oo.	Paula Longo
b.	Meaghan Gibson	v.	DeVionte Edmonson	pp.	Mateo Lopez
c.	Mindy McConnell	w.	Paige Fatland	qq.	Andrea May-Fiorella
d.	Georgette Venn	x.	Shameka Francis	rr.	Joni Meche
e.	Ashlie Allardyce	y.	Hannah Gates	ss.	Hannah Mollere
f.	Angela Watts	z.	Haley Godeaux	tt.	Skylar O’Bear
g.	Curtis Lewis, Jr	aa.	Brandi Harper	uu.	Leslie Pierre
h.	Wade Reimonenq	bb.	Jennifer Harrison	vv.	Molly Poda
i.	Sisciley Watson	cc.	Danielle Hillburn	ww.	Lacey Prather
j.	Andreae Wright	dd.	Audrey Hotard	xx.	Christopher Price
k.	Stephanie Heinzen	ee.	Jana Hullinghorst	yy.	Alisha Russell
l.	Jeremy Deibel	ff.	Heather Inman	zz.	Travis Smothers
m.	Chanda Hunter	gg.	LaToya Johnson	aaa.	Warnell Spann
n.	Danielle Fontenot	hh.	Cindy Jones	bbb.	Julia Toce
o.	Ashley Morris	ii.	Jarvis Joseph	ccc.	Elizabeth Vidrine
p.	Matthew Aucoin	jj.	Dillon Juneau	ddd.	Caitlin Vinson
q.	Brittany Batiste	kk.	Lauren Kight	eee.	Abigail Wallner
r.	Sarah Buie	ll.	Katelyn Landreaneau	fff.	Julienne Walsh
s.	Robyn Collins	mm.	Olivia Landry	ggg.	Rudyard West
t.	Kayla Davenport	nn.	Leteisha Lawson	hhh.	Alexandria Williams
				iii.	Cole Williamson

3. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council reconvened into regular session at 2:35 p.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.
4. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Felicia Chandler**'s request to extend her Level 2 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 Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Meaghan Gibson**'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.
6. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council deferred **Mindy McConnell**'s request to extend her Level 2 teaching certificate to the February 26, 2026, meeting.
7. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Georgette Savoia**'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 Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Ashlie Allardyce**'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.
9. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Angela Watt**'s request to extend her Ancillary School Counselor certificate for one year 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.

10. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. Derise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Curtis Lewis, Jr.**'s request for issuance of the Ancillary Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps certificate.
11. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Wade Reimonenq**'s request to extend his 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.

12. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Sisciley Watson**'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.
13. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Andreae Wright**'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.
14. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Fountain, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Stephanie Heinzen**'s request to add Deaf and Hard of Hearing K-12 to her Level certificate.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.
15. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Jeremy Deibel**'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.
16. On motion of Dr. Hembree, seconded by Ms. Bethancourt, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Chanda Hunter**'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.
17. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Ms. DeRise, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Danielle Fontenot**'s request to extend her Educational Leader Level 1 certificate for one year in order to meet requirements for issuance of the Educational Leader Level 2.
18. On motion of Dr. Fountain, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council granted **Ashley Morris**'s request to extend her Ancillary Provisional Speech Pathologist for two years.
19. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Matthew Aucoin**'s request for issuance of the Level certificate, as evidence of a mentor teacher waiver was provided, authorizing the Department to grant the certificate in accordance with policy.
20. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Brittany Batiste**'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.
21. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Sarah Buie**'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.

22. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Robyn Collins'** 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.
23. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Kayla Davenport'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.
24. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Keisha Davis'** 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.
25. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **DeVionte Edmonson'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.
26. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Paige Fatland'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.
27. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Shameka Francis'** 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.
28. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Hannah Gates'** 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.
29. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Haley Godeaux'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.
30. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Brandi Harper'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.

31. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Jennifer Harrison'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.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

32. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Daniel Hillburn'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. Hillburn.

33. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Audrey Hotard'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.

Public comment was received by Ms. Hotard.

34. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Jana Hullinghorst'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.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

35. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Ms. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Heather Inman'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.

36. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **LaToya Johnson'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 Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Cindy Jones'** 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.

Public comment was received by Ms. Jones.

38. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Jarvis Joseph**'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.
39. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Dillon Juneau**'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.
40. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Lauren Kight**'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.
- Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.
41. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Katelyn Landreneau**'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 Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Olivia Landry**'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.
43. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Leteisha Lawson**'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.
44. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Paul Longo**'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.
45. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Mateo Lopez**'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 Dr. Lopez.

46. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Andrea May-Fiorella**'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.
47. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Joni Meche**'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.
48. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Hannah Mollere**'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.
49. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Sklyar O'Bear**'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.
50. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Leslie Pierre**'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.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

51. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Molly Poda**'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.
52. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Lacey Prather**'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.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

53. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Christopher Price**'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.

54. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Alisha Russell**'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.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

55. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Travis Smother**'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.

56. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Warrell Spann**'s request for issuance of the Level certificate, as evidence of a mentor teacher waiver was provided, authorizing the Department to grant the certificate in accordance with policy.

57. On motion of Mr. Melancon, seconded by Dr. Hembree, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Julia Toce**'s request for issuance of the Level certificate, as evidence of a mentor teacher waiver was provided, authorizing the Department to grant the certificate in accordance with policy.

Public comment was received by Ms. Toce.

58. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Elizabeth Vidrine**'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.

59. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Caitlin Vinson**'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.

60. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Abigail Wallner**'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.

61. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Julienne Walsh**'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.

62. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Rudyard West**'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.
63. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Alexandria Williams**' 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.
64. On motion of Ms. Bethancourt, seconded by Mr. Melancon, the Teacher Certification Appeals Council denied **Cole Williamson**'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.

Dr. Kiper abstained from the vote.

With no further business to come before the Teacher Certification Appeals Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.