



Mid-Year Program: Frequently Asked Questions

In an effort to answer candidates' questions regarding the Mid-Year Program, we have compiled a list of questions and answers that you may find helpful as you learn more about our program.

What is teachNOLA?

teachNOLA is a highly-selective alternate route to teaching program that recruits, selects and trains committed individuals to teach in New Orleans public schools. Since 2006, teachNOLA has brought more than 300 teachers to New Orleans' classrooms; to date, 89% of New Orleans' public schools have at least one teachNOLA teacher on their staff. Last year, teachNOLA received almost 1400 applications from across the country, and ultimately placed 58 new Teaching Fellows in New Orleans' classrooms.

What is the Mid-Year Program?

The Mid-Year Program is a new initiative of the Recovery School District to bring high-quality teachers into the district's neediest classrooms. Mid-Year Fellows will begin teaching in January of 2009 in one of 34 Recovery School District schools. Like the summer program, Fellows benefit from a streamlined application process and an intense and rigorous training Institute.

Why are there Mid-Year vacancies?

Often times, schools face unexpected vacancies when teachers retire, take a leave of absence, or even walk off of the job. More often than not, students in these schools are left with a revolving door of substitutes throughout the year. In order to meet the needs of all children in the Recovery School District, teachNOLA has been charged to meet one of our city's greatest challenges – bringing exceptional teachers into our school system after the start of the school year.

Who can apply to the Mid-Year Program?

teachNOLA Teaching Fellows seeks the nation's most outstanding mid-career professionals and recent college graduates to significantly impact education by teaching in New Orleans public schools. Applicants must meet program eligibility rules and demonstrate a strong commitment to teaching in New Orleans. For more information on eligibility requirements, please visit the program website at <http://www.teachnola.org/ar/programeligibility.html>.

Where will the Mid-Year Fellows teach?

All teachNOLA Mid-Year Fellows will have full time positions in the Recovery School District in January of 2009. Fellows will teach in classrooms that align to their certification area. For example, a Fellow assigned to teach Math (6-12) will teach middle or high school math in one of the district's K-8 or high schools. *Fellows in the Mid-Year cohort will **not** be able to pursue positions in New Orleans charter schools.*

What subject will Mid-Year Fellows teach?

The Recovery School District is seeking high-quality elementary (grades 1-5), math (grades 6-12) and English (grades 6-12) teachers to staff their Mid-Year vacancies. If invited to interview, Mid-Year candidates will be assigned to one of these three subject areas by teachNOLA. Candidates who are interested in teaching other high-needs subject areas such as science, foreign language and special education are strongly encouraged to apply to the summer 2009 program. We regret that we are not able to recruit candidates for all subject areas for the Mid-Year Program.

When will the training Institute start for Mid-Year Fellows? What will the training entail?

teachNOLA's training Institute is a rigorous and intense five-week training in New Orleans designed specifically for this accelerated route to teaching program. Tentative training dates are December 8, 2008 through January 16, 2009. The training includes a practice teaching assignment in a New Orleans classroom, framework sessions with an experienced local educator on the foundational skills necessary to be an effective teacher in a high-needs schools and the opportunity to engage in discussions and activities with a network of other Fellows who have made a similar commitment to teach in New Orleans. Mid-Year Fellows should expect a full day of training – from 8 AM to 7 PM daily – for the entirety of the five-weeks.

When will Mid-Year Fellows start teaching full-time?

The first day of full-time teaching for Mid-Year Fellows is tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2009, the first day of the Recovery School District's second semester.

What are the challenges of starting in the middle of the school year?

A new teacher's first year is particularly challenging, and Teaching Fellows should anticipate long hours and intense effort. This is especially true for Mid-Year Fellows, who will often find their placement in the district's neediest schools. Mid-Year Fellows should be prepared to teach where they are needed most and be committed to ensuring their students' academic success despite what was likely a tumultuous beginning of the school year.

What is the timeline?

Interested candidates should expect a short and efficient timeline. If invited, candidates will have the opportunity to attend an Interview Event in New Orleans in early November and candidates who are offered a position in the program and enroll are expected to begin training in December 2008. More information on the timeline is available by logging on to your "My teachNOLA" page.

I'm from out-of-town. When do I need to be in New Orleans and do you have suggestions for moving?

Candidates will need to be in New Orleans to attend an Interview Event and, if selected, to start training in mid-December. teachNOLA provides a Moving Guide to all enrollees with tips and suggestions for moving and is often able to help connect new enrollees to other helpful resources. Although the program is not able to provide individualized assistance, past participants find that the move to New Orleans is fairly smooth.

How will I get certified?

teachNOLA Mid-Year Fellows will be certified through enrollment in the Louisiana Practitioner Teacher Program (LPTP). Since LPTP's program runs on the academic year calendar, Fellows will not officially begin classes and pay tuition until August 2009. Mid-Year Fellows will be on a Temporary Authority to Teach license through the fall of 2009, when that license will transition into a Practitioner License. More information on LPTP will be available to Fellows during the training Institute.

What tests do I have to take and when?

teachNOLA Fellows must take the Praxis I exams and, at a minimum, register for the Praxis II subject-area exams prior to the start of the training Institute. More information on testing requirements is available online at <http://www.teachnola.org/ar/testingrequirements.html>. Additionally, upon being invited to interview, candidates have access to a detailed Testing Guide with instructions on how to meet program test requirements.

What resources are available once Mid-Year Fellows start teaching?

Upon entering the program, the teachNOLA staff assists with logistical support, such as helping Fellows manage the process of becoming full-time school employees. teachNOLA also provides communications, including periodic newsletters, and offers special events, such as professional development opportunities and social gatherings. Fellows often develop their ongoing support network at the school level and through the strong network of teachNOLA teachers currently teaching in our city's schools.

I am not sure if the Mid-Year Program timeline works for me. Can I also be considered for the Summer 2009 program if I apply to the Mid-Year Program?

Candidates who are invited to interview but are not able - for whatever reason - to meet the Mid-Year timeline or requirements may be considered for the summer 2009 program. Should this occur, these candidates should expect to receive detailed instructions from the program on any next steps they need to take in order to proceed with the application process for the summer 2009 program.

How can I find out more information?

Interested candidates should sign up for an information session online on their 'My teachNOLA' page. Information sessions are led by program staff and allow time for candidates to ask questions. In addition, candidates are welcome to contact the teachNOLA office at info@teachNOLA.org with questions regarding the program and their candidacy.