Updates for Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs
November 2018
Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs will learn about key updates and program opportunities during this call.

1. Updates on Early Childhood Performance Profiles
3. Expectations for Approved Programs
4. Updates from the Department
   - Progress and Areas for Support
   - Resources for Approved Programs
2018 Performance Profile Overview
Performance Profile Overview

Performance Profiles provide information about the quality of publicly-funded sites to families to inform choice and to communities to guide improvement.

Louisiana’s Unified Rating System:
• Measures core elements needed for positive child outcomes;
• Provides a clear and focused path to improvement;
• Gives families an easy way to compare choices in their community;

Results in a Performance Profile for each site published on www.LouisianaSchools.com that contains two components:

1. Ratings that relate to positive child outcomes, based on CLASS™ observations that measure the quality of adult-child interactions and instructions.
2. Informational metrics that measure use of best practices, such as using curriculum, assessing children for learning, credentialing of teachers

Researchers at the University of Virginia found that Louisiana observers are accurate, that children learn more in Louisiana classrooms with higher ratings, and that adding other quality measures does not help identify quality classrooms.
Overall Results

Louisiana’s early childhood programs showed growth from 2016-2017 to this year. However, more work still needs to be done to ensure every child is kindergarten ready.

- Overall, there was improvement in most areas from the 2016-2017 results.
  - The average score for each dimension and each domain improved.
  - The average score for program type improved.
- There are exemplar sites in each program type, and more than a third of Community Networks have at least one Excellent site.
- Local observer accuracy in all program types and nearly every domain increased.
- Yet too many children are still not receiving the instruction needed to fully prepare them for kindergarten.
- There are stark differences in access for publicly-funded early childhood care and education seats by age.
Eight percent more sites will be scored above the Proficient threshold in 2017-2018, which suggests that more children across the state are receiving quality care and education than in years past.
The statewide average score for each CLASS™ domain has improved incrementally each year, resulting in more sites providing quality care and education for children.
The statewide average score for each program type has improved incrementally each year, resulting in more sites providing quality care and education for children.
Dimension-level Improvement: Pre-K

The statewide average score for each Pre-K CLASS™ dimension has improved incrementally each year, resulting in more sites providing quality care and education.
The statewide average score for each Toddler CLASS™ dimension has improved incrementally each year, resulting in more sites providing quality care and education for children.
Sites vary in their implementation of classroom best practices that promote high-quality experiences for children, but across programs, the large majority of sites have attained a quality curriculum.
Preparing for Early Childhood Ancillary Certification
1. **Beginning on July 1, 2019** - Lead teachers in Type III child care center (who have had their position for 24 months or more) must have the EC Ancillary Certificate as a minimum credential.
   - Lead teachers must have EC Ancillary Certificate as minimum credential within 24 months of start date in the lead teacher position.
   - Directors will be asked to assure that this is true as part of their Academic Approval Assurances.

2. **Training for the EC Ancillary Certificate** - As of July 2018, there were changes in the requirements for where candidates complete training for the certificate.
   - Teachers earning a CDA or technical diploma should attend a BESE-approved preparation program. A waiver to attend a non-approved program is available for those who need it.

3. **Supports for the EC Ancillary Certificate** - Scholarships are available to attend approved programs.
   - Teachers who earn the EC Ancillary Certificate can qualify for increased tax credits, possibly earning level 4 (~$3,300) within two years.
Beginning July 2019, lead teachers in Type III child care centers that have been working as a lead teacher for two or more years must have the EC Ancillary Certificate.

- Beginning on July 1, 2019, all lead teachers in publicly-funded centers (Type III) will be required to have a current or be earning an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate as a minimum credential.
- Teachers will have 24 months from their start date as a lead teacher to earn the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate. Here are a few examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start date as Lead Teacher</th>
<th>Must have Ancillary Certificate No Later Than:</th>
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| Began prior to EC Ancillary Certificate Requirement  
(began working as a lead teacher before July 1, 2017) | July 1, 2019. |
| Began during the phase in of EC Ancillary Certificate Requirement  
(started working as a lead teacher December 1, 2018) | Must be in the process of earning EC Ancillary Certificate, earned within 24 months of start date as lead teacher (December 1, 2020). |
| Began after EC Ancillary Certificate Requirement  
(will begin working as a lead teacher after August 1, 2019) | Must have EC Ancillary Certificate within 24 months of start date as lead teacher (August 1, 2021). |
Steps to a Louisiana Ancillary Certificate through a CDA or Technical Diploma

- Attend [BESE Approved EC Ancillary Certificate Program](#)
- Apply for CDA from the [CDA Council](#) (CDA Only)
- Submit [Ancillary Certificate Application](#) to LDE with:
  1. transcript from BESE-approved program, and
  2. CDA certificate/technical diploma
- Receive Ancillary Teaching Certificate

Applicants applying with an associate’s degree in early childhood or a bachelor degree or higher must submit a transcript documenting their degree with the [Ancillary Certificate Application](#).
Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs
Where are we now?

Over the course of the past year, Louisiana has increased to have a total of 22 Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs around the state.

As of July 2018, individuals that are starting coursework for either a CDA or technical diploma that will be used to earn the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate are expected to attend a BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program. Additional information can be found in the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs.

Louisiana currently has a total of 22 BESE Approved Ancillary Certificate Programs offering coursework in a variety of formats.

An Approved Program Waiver is available for individuals working in parishes that do not have access to a BESE-approved Early Childhood Program, or who have a program that is at capacity.
Regions providing Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs

Approved programs may still expand to unserved parishes by submitting the Revision Request form to LDE.

There are 35 Parishes still unserved.
Attending an Approved EC Ancillary Certificate Program
Approved Program Waiver

Individuals who cannot access a BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate program due to availability can apply for a waiver.

There are three circumstances in which individuals will be considered for Approved Program Waivers in 2018:

1. **Approved Program Waiver for Unserved Parishes**: Individuals with no program available in their parish as of July 1, 2018.

2. **Approved Program Waiver for Limited Capacity in Parish Program**: Individuals who cannot attend local program because the program is full. Evidence of application is required.
   - EC Ancillary Certificate Programs **must** provide documentation when their program is at capacity.

3. **Other Geographic Availability Concerns**: Additional geographic concerns will be considered on exception. Evidence and explanation is required for this category.

Applications for the Approved Program Waiver are reviewed quarterly.
Expectations of Approved Programs
Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs have requirements that must be met before, during, and at the completion of a cohort of candidates. New summary guidance has been posted online.

1. **Before Beginning a Cohort of Candidates:**
   - *All programs* must submit the [EC Ancillary - Cohort Eligibility Form](#) prior to beginning a cohort of candidates.
   - Programs using Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Scholarships must complete Louisiana Pathways specific steps.

2. **Throughout the Cohort of Candidates:**
   - Programs that are using Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Scholarships must submit attendance and completion reports.

3. **At the Completion of a Cohort of Candidates:**
   - *All programs* must submit the [Candidate Data Report](#) at the end of a cohort.
   - *All programs* must issue transcripts and assist with the CDA process for candidates.
Prior to Cohort Start
EC Ancillary Certificate Program Scholarships

**EC Ancillary Cohort Eligibility Form:**
- All programs will complete the [EC Ancillary - Cohort Eligibility Form](#) and submit to LDE for review.
  - This is true for all programs, regardless of scholarship participation.

**Support Scholarship Access:**
There are two types of scholarships for Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs:

1. [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program Scholarships](#)
   - EC Ancillary Certificate Program will collect scholarship application and employment verification form from all candidates, and mail to LA Pathways as a group.

2. [College Tuition Scholarships](#) (college credit programs only)
Overview of Louisiana Pathways Tuition Scholarships for Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs

There are two key types of Louisiana Pathways Scholarships that support Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs

1. **Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program Scholarships**: These scholarships cover the cost of tuition (not supplies) for eligible teachers. These scholarships are for programs that are not currently offering credit-bearing courses.

2. **College Tuition Scholarships**: These scholarships are for programs that are offering coursework as part of a degree pathway and are offering for-credit courses. These scholarships are used to supplement the existing financial aid students have received and do not cover the cost of supplies or student fees.

There is also a CDA Scholarship that is available to students. The CDA Scholarship covers the cost of the CDA Assessment once they are ready to apply to the Council for Professional Recognition.
Throughout the Cohort Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program Scholarships

Throughout the cohort, Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs must meet requirements for Louisiana Pathways Scholarships by reporting candidate academic progress (grades and attendance).

For programs participating in Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Scholarships:

• Program must confirm student attendance once class begins and submit invoice for payment to Louisiana Pathways (this is the initial payment).
• Programs must report the academic standing and enrollment status of candidates by submitting updated rosters to LA Pathways throughout the program
  • LA Pathways will confirm scholarship criteria are still met before processing additional scholarships for payments (this is for the second or third payment).

Programs using College Tuition Scholarships will provide updated transcripts to candidates, that candidates use to renew their College Tuition Scholarship each semester.
Completion of the Cohort
Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program

EC Ancillary Certificate Programs are responsible for issuing transcripts, completing candidate data report and supporting candidates to complete their CDA with the CDA Council.

Transcript for Candidates:
• Ancillary Program must issue a transcript and certificate upon completion of the program to the candidate.
  ● The (Required) transcript must include:
    ○ List of coursework (including hours) completed
    ○ Grade of coursework completed
    ○ Name of the ECE Ancillary Certificate Program
    ○ Name of Candidate
    ○ Dates of enrollment in program

Candidate Data Report:
• Program must complete the Candidate Data Report and submit within 60 days of candidate coursework completion.
  • Template can be found in the EC Ancillary Program Library
  • Please submit to michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov.
Completion of the Cohort
Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program

EC Ancillary Certificate Programs are responsible for issuing transcripts, completing candidate data report and supporting candidates to complete their CDA with the CDA Council.

Assisting in Completing the CDA:

- Ancillary Program will have candidates complete the Louisiana Pathways CDA Assessment Fee scholarship and submit to Pathways as a group with a copy of the transcript.
- Ancillary programs will assist candidates with CDA support and Ancillary Certificate processing.
- Candidates must submit to LDE the following documents to receive an Ancillary Certificate:
  a. EC Ancillary Certificate Program Transcript,
  b. High School diploma/equivalent and,
  c. CDA from CDA Council
Process for Revising BESE-Approved Programs

EC Ancillary Certificate Programs must submit a revision request for any changes they want to make to their program, as approved by BESE (including new parishes, or change in coursework format).

As providers identify changes to strengthen program as described in the approved Application for Program Approval or wish to expand to additional parishes, they must submit a Request for a Revision Form for approval by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE).

Following review by the LDE, the provider will be notified of the decision within four weeks of the receipt of request.
Department Updates & Areas of Support
More candidates are completing the BESE Approved Ancillary Certificate Programs, but few are applying for the Ancillary Certificate.

- 234 candidates have completed a BESE approved Ancillary Program, 20% are new to the field and 48% had been employed between 1 and 3 years.
- Leaving or quitting the Type III childcare center is the most common reason a candidate had for not completing the Ancillary program.
- The majority of candidates who completed the Ancillary Program saw an increase in their CLASS scores from the initial observation to the final observation.

A very small number of program completers have applied for the Ancillary Certificate. This is a key area of concern for EC Ancillary Certificate Programs.
Resources for Ancillary Certificate Programs

There are many resources available to BESE Approved Ancillary Programs posted online.

All documents, webinars, and forms for Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs have been posted online in the Early Childhood Classroom Supports Library.

Programs should refer to documents posted online, as these will always be the most updated version of the document.
Ancillary program staff will have opportunities to highlight best practices and collaboration at regional collaboratives this spring.

**Regional Collaboratives:** Ancillary Program staff will be invited to participate in upcoming Regional Collaboratives in January (January 28-31). Programs should contact Erin or Michelle with specific topics or program highlights they would like to share.

**Onsite Visits:** Onsite visits will be scheduled for some programs around the state. Please reach out with any questions.

**Cohort 3 Check in Calls:** A check-in call will be scheduled with each Cohort 3 EC Ancillary Program in December 2018.
Questions?

• Erin Carroll (erin.carroll@la.gov)
• Michelle DeMeulenaere (michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov)

New: Procedures and Guidelines for BESE-Approved Programs

In the News: Lessons from the Bayou State: Three Reforms for Improving Teaching and Caregiving - New America