



February 19, 2016



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## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Colleagues,

We are more than halfway through the 2015-2016 school year and it is time for teachers to reflect on children's progress. By the end of February, teachers should finalize the developmental levels for the second checkpoint for all publicly-funded children birth through pre-K.

Monitoring children's progress enables teachers and leaders to better understand where children are at and how to best support their growth and development. Programs are encouraged to make sure that all publicly-funded children are included and to use this information for ongoing planning and professional development.

To support teachers and leaders, Teaching Strategies<sup>®</sup> offers an array of resources including *Quick Start Guides*. These resources are available to anyone with a Teaching Strategies GOLD account through the "Help?" feature. There is also an [online resource](#) that includes "User Guides and FAQs", "Webinar Support" and "How to Videos."

Administrators can review the status of finalized checkpoint completion for their classes as well as review the mid-year results for their children. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Ivy Starns at [ivy.starns@la.gov](mailto:ivy.starns@la.gov).

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

**John**

John White  
Louisiana Department of Education  
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## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **FEBRUARY GOLD™ CHECKPOINT**

Remember that all teachers should finalize the developmental levels for the second checkpoint for all publicly-funded children birth through pre-K by February 29, 2016. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Ivy Starns at [ivy.starns@la.gov](mailto:ivy.starns@la.gov).

## SAVE THE DATES - TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Approximately 750 Lead Agency Supervisors, program partners, teachers, coaches/mentors, curriculum specialists, CCR&R staff, Mental Health Consultants, etc. will be invited to attend the Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans at the Morial Convention Center on May 31-June 1. An Early Childhood track will feature approximately 36 interactive sessions focusing on improvement efforts at the class, program and/or community level. To ensure that there is adequate coverage of session topics, the Department is looking for individuals (or groups) who would be interested in presenting sessions at the Summit. This opportunity is open to teachers, supervisors/directors, coaches, and others who work in Early Childhood programs or support those who do.

If you would like to share the knowledge and lessons you have learned in your Early Childhood Community Network, then complete the [Solicitation for Early Childhood Proposals](#) and return it to Ivy Starns at [ivy.starns@la.gov](mailto:ivy.starns@la.gov) by Monday, February 29.

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## FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

### CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RATE CHANGES

The increased Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates are now in effect. Families who benefit from CCAP have received letters informing them of the changes. This will help low-income families better afford quality early child care and raise funding levels for qualified child care centers and teachers.

Please note that neither providers nor families need to take any action at this time. The rate changes will be automatic. To understand the potential impact on a particular child care center, please try out our new [Rate Calculator](#).

Child care directors and teachers can assist with the transition by informing families about the changes. An overview of the child care assistance process can be found [here](#). Families who may be eligible can apply online through the [CAFE](#) application portal. Together we can help more Louisiana families' access quality options that help prepare their children for kindergarten.

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## CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (GOHSEP) CONTACT INFORMATION

Bulletin 137 Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, Section 1921 Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Planning requires all early learning centers to have an emergency and evacuation plan.

- If you are in need of assistance, each of the State's 64 parishes has an emergency management program. The name, email address and telephone number for your parishes' point of contact can be found [here](#).
- Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide can be downloaded [here](#).
- If you would like more information about emergency alerts, you may find information about uploading emergency alert and warning systems to your mobile device [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact the Division of Licensing at [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov) or 225-342-9905.

### INFORMATION ON ZIKA VIRUS

Information has been released for parents and providers related to the Zika Virus. The information below was developed by the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) within the Department of Health and Human Services. Please share this information as appropriate with parents, providers and other stakeholders:

- For parents: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/zika-parents>
- For providers: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/head-start-or-child-care-programs-need-to-know-bout-zika>

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# LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

## MARCH COLLABORATIVE SESSIONS FOR LEAD AGENCY SUPERVISORS

Lead Agencies should plan to send two representatives to the March Supervisor Collaborations being held as noted below. Registration information will be sent to Lead Agencies.

- Thursday, March 10 - Baton Rouge - Claiborne Building
- Friday, March 11 - Bossier City - Bossier Parish School for Technology and Innovative Learning
- Monday, March 14 - Harvey - Jefferson Parish School Board

## FEBRUARY 1 CHILD COUNT - UPCOMING DEADLINE

Bulletin 140 requires all communities to count all of publicly-funded children being served on February 1, 2016, who have not yet entered kindergarten. To complete this count, Lead Agencies will be requesting counts of publicly-funded children by funding source from all publicly-funded sites. Please work with your Lead Agencies to provide this information in a timely manner. The February 1 Child Count must be completed by February 29, 2016. A recorded webinar provided additional training and support related to the child count can be found [here](#).

## WEEKLY EARLY CHILDHOOD LEAD AGENCY OFFICE HOURS

The Early Childhood team is offering weekly Office Hours for Lead Agencies. This will be a reoccurring opportunity for Lead Agencies to call in with any questions they may have about their current work and receive additional clarification.

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# OTHER

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - VACANCY NOTICE

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and Louisiana Department of Education are seeking applications for membership on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council. Currently, there is a vacancy in the role of one representative of a local education agency that is operating publicly funded early childhood programs other than Head Start. **The application can be found [here](#).**

The ECCE Advisory Council is comprised of representatives and stakeholders within the field of early childhood care and education provides input and guidance to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Department on matters related to publicly-funded early care and education programs.

**Deadline for submitting an application is March 11, 2016.** Completed applications, as well as questions about the ECCE Advisory Council position, can be sent to [erin.carroll@la.gov](mailto:erin.carroll@la.gov).

## WEBINAR ON THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN

The Department conducted a webinar to share all final changes to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan. A recording of that webinar can be found [here](#).

## SAVE THE DATE - PRE-K EXPANSION GRANT SUMMIT - APRIL 7-8, 2016

The Department will be hosting a Pre-K Expansion Grant Summit for Y1 and Y2 grantees. More information will be provided regarding registration and agenda. To view the save the date, please click [here](#).

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## SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

If someone you know wishes to subscribe to this newsletter, please click [here](#) to subscribe.

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## LDOE Contacts

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## LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

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