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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Allow me first to express my condolences and prayers for those who have experienced so much loss throughout Louisiana over the last week. While little is more important than teaching and learning, our daily work must take a back seat to efforts to preserve the basic safety and well-being of adults and children alike. For those of you whose communities have experienced the greatest levels of destruction, please know that the Department stands at the ready to assist in you whatever way we can, now and in the weeks and months to come. Please do not hesitate to call on us.

As a reminder, early learning centers that experienced any major incident or extensive property damage will need to complete a [Reopening Form](#). Please contact Licensing at LDElicensing@la.gov if there are questions.

As we recover from the disaster, we also look to the future. We are more than halfway complete with our statewide Learning Year. Communities have completed thousands of classroom observations, collaborated to plan coordinated information events and applications and are enrolling children through more streamlined and family-friendly processes for 2016-2017. At the same time Department staff are reviewing [CLASS findings](#) from the first semester of the school year and are hosting a series of discussions around the state on the future of our early childhood rating and improvement system. You can find a schedule of these discussions [here](#). Starting in mid-April, attendees will examine results closely and will discuss how the state can continue to refine the manner in which centers and schools are evaluated for climate, interaction, and instructional quality. There will also be a webinar for individuals who cannot travel or leave their programs during the day. For questions, contact Nasha Patel at nasha.patel@la.gov.

Each of these discussions represents an opportunity to go deeper on what is needed to fully unify our early childhood system and to prepare all children for kindergarten. I look forward to your participation.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

TEACHING AND LEARNING

CURRICULUM RESOURCES REVIEWS

In Louisiana, early childhood programs are able to select and purchase the instructional materials that are best for their children and families. The Department is leading a review of instructional materials for programs serving children ages birth to five to determine the degree of alignment with the *Louisiana Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards* for the purpose of providing support for purchasing decisions.

Program administrators can access [reviews](#) that have been completed as of this date. Additional reviews will be posted in the upcoming weeks. If you need additional information, contact Ivy Starns at ivy.starns@la.gov.

SAVE THE DATES - JUNE TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

If you work in early childhood in Louisiana, you are invited to attend the Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans at the Morial Convention Center the first week of June.

The Early Childhood track will feature 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. Please contact Ivy Starns at ivy.starns@la.gov.

Additional details related to the Teacher Leader Summit will be included in future editions of the Early Childhood Connection Newsletter.

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

UPDATE ON ALLOCATED CCAP SEATS PILOT

Child care centers across the state applied for the 2016-2017 Allocated CCAP Seats Pilot through the Coordinated Funding Request process. The Department appreciates the effort of these centers as well as Lead Agencies in this process. Due to technology concerns, however, the Department is delaying the launch of this pilot, likely until the 2017-2018 school year. Doing so will ensure more successful implementation of the pilot which will stabilize funding for CCAP for providers.

Providers who applied for seats this year will be given priority when the Allocated CCAP Pilot begins in 2017-2018. **Please note: current CCAP vouchers or seats will not be affected by this delay.**

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY DISCLOSURE FORMS FOR VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF - BULLETIN 137: LOUISIANA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER LICENSING REGULATIONS

Centers must obtain a state central registry disclosure form (SCR-1) or a current determination from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) indicating that the individual does not pose a risk to children for all volunteers and staff prior to an individual being present in or providing services to the center.

The center must have copies the valid form on file. The SCR-1 form can be found [here](#).

It is the responsibility of the center to contact the Licensing Division within 24 hours for any staff member that has a valid finding. Under no circumstance may the staff person with the finding be left alone and unsupervised with a child. The center must submit a written statement to the Licensing Division acknowledging that the staff person with the justified finding will not be left alone or unsupervised with a child or children pending the disposition by DCFS that the staff person does not pose a risk to children. More information can be found in Chapter 17 of the Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, which can be found [here](#).

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN - BULLETIN 137: LOUISIANA EARLY LEARNING CENTER LICENSING REGULATIONS

Children are to be supervised at all times. At the end of each day, the entire center and play yard shall be checked to ensure that no child is left at the center. In addition, vehicles that transport children, must be checked to ensure no child is left in the vehicle. These regulations are further detailed in [Bulletin 137](#), *Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations* (§1901 D. End of the Day Check &

§2107 A. Motor Vehicle Passenger Check) Forms to assist with the visual checks of the center as well as motor vehicle passenger checks are available [here](#).

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

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.

Weekly Time: Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00 PM
Call In: 1-800-832-0736; PIN: 9174840

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LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)
State Superintendent of Education
(toll-free) 877.453.2721
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

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