



July 7, 2016



IN THIS ISSUE:

[Superintendent's Message](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Funding and Enrollment](#)

[Child Safety and Welfare](#)

[Other](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

A year ago the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) transitioned to the Louisiana Department of Education as part of a broader effort to unify our early childhood system to prepare all Louisiana children for kindergarten. As with any major transition, there have been challenges. Yet the Department remains committed to strengthening the partnership with child care providers who serve our most vulnerable, at-risk children. We continue to seek feedback from providers and have received many excellent suggestions on how to improve how we work together. Today we announce we are implementing two of these suggestions.

First, we are conducting a series of eight [in-person sessions](#) across the state for providers who serve children on child care assistance. These two-hour sessions, which begin July 12 in Lake Charles, will be led by the CCAP team and will provide specific guidance, including handouts, on how to assist families to apply for child care assistance. CCAP specialists will be available to assist providers with individual cases or concerns. We will add a recorded session and the handout materials on our website next week.

Second, we are launching a CCAP Provider Helpdesk. Child care providers will be able to call a direct line (225-342-1879) to speak to someone about their CCAP related concerns. You can make an appointment to speak with a specialist assigned to your region who can work through questions and concerns, case by case. The helpdesk will formally launch next Monday, July 11, and will be open, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4 pm. Please note this number is **only** for child care center directors and staff. This is not a line for families or the general public.

Preparing children for kindergarten requires ensuring families can access affordable, quality care through CCAP. We appreciate your continued partnership with the Department as we work together to help all eligible families apply for and obtain CCAP.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

TEACHING AND LEARNING

CLASS[®] PILOT TO SUPPORT CLASSROOMS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Department has released an opportunity for programs serving children with special needs. Programs may choose one of three support systems aligned with the CLASS[®] tool. Programs will apply to the Department by submitting an application to their Lead Agency. The Department will provide administrative allocations for Lead Agencies and stipends to coaches/instructors and teachers who complete the pilot.

Lead Agencies need to submit the [CLASS[®] Pilot Request For Applications \(RFA\)](#) to the Department by **July 22, 2016**. For more information on the RFA a recorded [webinar](#) is available.

For more information, please email [Megan Miron](#).

BELIEVE AND PREPARE: EARLY CHILDHOOD COHORT 2 - APPLICATION RELEASED

The Department has released a Request for Applications for [Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood Cohort 2](#). This application is for new or existing university or non-university teacher preparation programs interested in designing an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program to train child care teachers.

Selected programs will receive funding and technical assistance to develop a proposal for an Early Childhood Ancillary Program. Applicants are required to collaborate with local Early Childhood Community Networks.

Teacher preparation programs interested in applying must submit a notice of intent by completing the [Notice of Intent Survey](#) no later than **Friday, July 15**.

Please email any questions to BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov.

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING SURVEY

The Department of Education, along with the Department of Health and Hospitals, wants to better understand what information families, caregivers, and child care providers need about developmental screenings. Screenings include physical, oral, and mental health, as well as developmental and psychosocial needs.

Child care providers and caregivers are asked to complete a brief survey on experiences with developmental screenings. Results will be used to develop resources benefitting families and providers. The survey takes 3-5 minutes, and results are confidential.

The deadline for completing the [Developmental Screening Survey](#) is **Monday, July 11**.

NEW CURRICULUM REVIEWS ADDED

The Department is continuing to complete [Instructional Materials Reviews](#) of birth to five curriculum. In the coming weeks, new reviews will be added to the list. A [current list of rated curricula](#) is on the Department website.

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

COMING SOON - COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

Last summer, the Department released the second [Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment](#), in which communities evaluated their progress from that year and shared best practices with each other. The Department will conduct the third annual Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment in July and August 2016.

The Department will work with Lead Agencies to coordinate the self-assessment in their communities through meetings, conference calls, and paper-based surveys. More information about the Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment, and how providers and sites can participate in the process, will be released in the coming weeks.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

REMINDER ABOUT WARM WEATHER AND CHILDREN IN VEHICLES

Warm weather is here and temperatures inside vehicles can rise quickly. Licensed early learning centers are required to conduct visual passenger checks of all vehicles used to transport children to ensure no child is left in the vehicle.

A staff person must walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all enclosed spaces. Staff must use the [Daily Transportation Attendance Log](#) to document the visual check.

The requirement for a visual inspection applies to all vehicles used to transport children whether the vehicles are provided by you, by contractual arrangement, or provided by a parent. Please review the [regulations](#) available on the Department's website.

For more information, please email [Michelle DeMeulenaere](mailto:Michelle.DeMeulenaere).

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - JULY 14 MEETING

The next Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Thursday, July 14, at 1 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the **Claiborne Building, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA.**

This meeting is open to the public and will be live streamed. To access the live stream of the meeting, please use these [directions](#).

STATEWIDE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) FORUMS

State Superintendent John White will host a series of statewide forums this summer to discuss creating educational opportunities for students through the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). All district and school leaders and teachers are encouraged to attend these forums and share their feedback with the Department. A [schedule of forums](#) around the state is posted on the Department's website.

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

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

LDOE Contacts

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

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
[Contact Us](#)

