

May 9, 2019



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Funding for early childhood education has dominated the news headlines in recent months. And with good reason: [It is among the state's most critical--and underfunded--needs.](#)

Since the passage of Act 3 in 2012, communities across Louisiana have led the way by successfully implementing sweeping policies to create an integrated, efficient early care and education system that truly supports children and families. [Those policy changes have boosted our state to No.8 in the nation](#) for its early childhood education system, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center, and have improved the overall quality of our early learning centers.

But as the quality of our early learning centers has climbed, the number of working families able to access them has remained low. This need is particularly strong among the families of infants, toddlers, and three-year-olds, for whom minimal services are available.

In response to that need, in January, the Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Commission--on which early childhood education leaders and providers, stakeholders, and advocates serve--unanimously put forth [a funding plan called LA B to 3](#). The bold plan, [which calls for a state investment of \\$839 million over the next decade](#), aims to serve all children on the current Child Care Assistance Program waiting list and further expand quality seats.

Immediately, Louisiana needs a minimum of \$40 million to maintain its current services and fund eligible low-income working families on the CCAP waiting list. This is due to a combination of expiring federal grants, a requirement to raise subsidy amounts to the federally-required minimum, and a growing number of working families who cannot use the state's child care reimbursement.

But when the proposed state budget for FY 2020 was released this spring, not a penny of new money was included to support early childhood education. [It was a glaring omission.](#)

There have since been [many conversations about the need and importance of this funding](#). The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, for example, [urged the Legislature](#) to fund the "LA B to 3" plan and address the state's "early childhood education crisis of access."

And, last week, [Gov. John Bel Edwards committed to supporting an amendment to add \\$8.76 million in funding for early childhood education](#) to the state budget to help fill the \$40 million gap. These funds will preserve prekindergarten opportunities for working families who would have otherwise lost them due to expiring grants. However, they will not eliminate the growing waiting list, now thousands of families long, for child

care services.

I continue to urge the Legislature to clear that waiting list and to invest in "LA B to 3." I hope you'll join us at the Legislature for "Early Ed Day" on May 21 to share your thoughts as well. Our youngest learners, our working families, and our state depend on it.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Licensing Training Session](#) - Baton Rouge - May 14
- [Key Training Modules Request for Applications \(RFA\) 2 Webinar](#) - May 14
- [Licensing Training Session](#) - Shreveport - May 22
- [New Child Care Directors Webinar](#) - May 29
- [Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Webinar](#) - June 6
- [Teacher Leader Summit](#) - June 26-28

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- The deadline to submit Academic Assurances has passed. Please submit ASAP if you have not already done so.
- Complete all CLASS® observations and enter data into the CLASS® portal - May 15
- All error corrections for spring CLASS® observations due - May 17
- [Request for Application \(RFA\) for Infant CLASS®-Supports](#) applications due - May 17
- [Early Childhood Family Survey](#) - May 31
- Spring GOLD® checkpoint due - May 31
- Lead Teacher Survey - May 31
- [Key Training Modules Application](#) due - June 3
- All [appeals](#) for 2018-2019 CLASS® observations due - July 1

MORE IMPORTANT DATES

Please see the [LDOE School System Support Calendar](#).

TEACHING AND LEARNING

LOUISIANA EARLY CHILDHOOD KEY TRAINING MODULES - REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2

The Louisiana Department of Education is offering a new funding opportunity for highly qualified trainers! In an effort to share the highest quality training opportunities available to Louisiana's early childhood workforce, the Department has released a second Request for Applications (RFA) for experts to develop ready-to-go presentations and professional development that will comprise Louisiana's Early Childhood Key Training Modules.

This RFA is the second in a series of three requests for applications, and is seeking proposals for trainings that are related to effective adult-child interactions. The [application](#) must be submitted by June 3, 2019. In addition to the information provided in the attached [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#), the Department will host an informational webinar about Louisiana's Early Childhood Key Training Modules RFA 2 on Tuesday, May 14th.

Webinar Date and Time: May 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/814353418>

Webinar Phone Number: (646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 814 353 418

Please consider participating in this application process and making your expertise accessible to all of Louisiana's early childhood workforce. For questions, please contact [Leslie Doyle](#).

EARLY CHILDHOOD ROUNDTABLES

Thank you to all who attended an Early Childhood Roundtable, conducted by the Louisiana Department of Education in six cities across the

state in the past month. In Bossier City, Monroe, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, and Harvey, the Department shared with many stakeholders its vision to increase access to quality care and education for children birth to five. If you were unable to attend, you can view the Roundtable deck [here](#). Share your thoughts on the Department's plans [here](#).

Roundtable book [here](#). Share your thoughts on the Department's plans [here](#).

EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE (ECAC) - REMINDER FOR 2019

As part of the Academic Approval assurances, directors will verify that as of July 1, 2019, all of the lead teachers working in their center for 24 months or more will have met the requirements to obtain an ECAC as set forth in Bulletin 140, or have a plan to meet these requirements by July 1, 2020. Lead teachers employed in the center who do not have the ECAC must earn it within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher.



GET HIRED + QUALIFY + CERTIFY

The [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate \(ECAC\)](#):

- Can be earned at no cost by presenting a qualifying credential or degree;
 - CDA training and technical diploma training should be completed at a [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program](#), which can often be accessed at no cost through Louisiana Pathways Scholarships.
- Is valid for three years, and can be renewed for free by demonstrating ongoing professional development; and
- May qualify teachers for the highest levels of School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC).

The Department will host a third informational webinar for directors, site leaders, and teachers titled, "[Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate.](#)"

Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/720223683>

Webinar Phone Number: (646) 876-9923

Meeting ID#: 720 223 683

Additional information can be found in the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#) and the [ECAC Staffing Map for Directors](#). For questions, please contact [Michelle DeMeulenaere](#).

2019 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT REGISTRATION

The 2019 Teacher Leader Summit will take place June 26-28, 2019 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. There will be more than 70 unique sessions offered for early childhood professionals. To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, LDOE will charge a small registration fee for the 2019 Summit. This fee will cover admission to the conference, conference sessions, and lunch. Educators can receive a discount by registering for all three days at once. For more information, view the [2019 Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#).

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT APP

On Tuesday, April 30, [a special edition of Early Childhood Connection](#) provided details about the Teacher Leader Summit app. The app became available Friday, May 3. All registered participants should have received a notification from Sched, the app provider, with instructions for downloading the app. You can also find it by going to the app store and searching "Teacher Leader Summit." **All Teacher Leader Summit sessions will require pre-registration through the app**, so please be sure to read the special edition newsletter closely for instructions.

GOLD® CHECKPOINT - DEADLINE MAY 31, 2019

To prepare for the May checkpoint, please read the following information:

- Teachers will use the [Checkpoint By Child](#) and [Checkpoint By Class](#) features to **complete and finalize their spring checkpoint ratings by May 31, 2019.**
- Teachers can generate the [Development and Learning Report](#) or the [Report Card](#) to **share end-of-year assessment information with family members.** Administrators can use [a variety of GOLD® reports](#) to **generate their final outcomes reports for the school year.**
- After all of the year-end reports have been generated, administrators will manage their users, classes, and child records to prepare for the next school year. This should include [editing user accounts](#) to **disable users who are leaving your program**; [editing classes](#) to **update the primary teachers, co-teachers, or assistant teachers assigned to each class**; and using the [Edit Children](#) feature to **archive all child records for children who will be leaving your program** and to **transfer returning children's records into their new classes.**
- To ensure that weekly plans remain intact for teachers, do not delete classes in *MyTeachingStrategies®*. Because weekly plans are saved at the class level, we recommend that teachers simply reuse the same class each year.

2019 EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY SURVEY

On April 8, the Louisiana Department of Education released the 2019 Early Childhood Family Survey. This survey asks questions about

Family satisfaction with the coordinated enrollment process and with program quality. This survey is completely anonymous and the results of this survey will only be reported on the Network Performance Profile--the results will never be tied back to individual sites or respondents.

Paper surveys were mailed out to randomly selected child care centers, Head Start programs, and schools. Families of children enrolled in the randomly selected programs will be asked to complete the anonymous family satisfaction survey by completing the paper survey or following a unique online link.

If you are a site that was not selected to participate in the random sample, you should still encourage the families of your publicly-funded children to participate in the online survey by sharing this link: <http://pprllsu.com/educationsurvey-public2019/>.

If you want to learn more about the Family Survey, the Department publishes an annual report on the survey findings. Results from the 2017-2018 survey can be found [here](#).

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF LICENSING BULLETIN 137 PROVIDER TRAINING

Did you miss the April 10 Bulletin 137 training session? You're in luck! We've scheduled two additional licensing training sessions.

Both sessions will discuss Critical Incidents and Required Notification, Incidents and Accidents, CCCBC, Behavior Management, Emergency Preparedness, Supervision and Orientation/Ongoing Training. This training is for directors, director designees, and owners who need a refresher or who would like to share their best practices. If you would like to share your center's best practices regarding these sections of Bulletin 137, please send your center's name, license number and a small description of the practice to LDELicensing@la.gov.

All attendees must register to attend.

Date	Location	Time	Registration Link
Tuesday, May 14, 2019	Baton Rouge Claiborne Building, Louisiana Purchase Room 1201 N. Third Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Please click here to register.
Wednesday, May 22, 2019	Shreveport Northwestern State University (NSU Child & Family Network) 1800 Warrington Pl Shreveport, LA 71101	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Please click here to register.

If you have questions, please contact Kishia Grayson at 225-342-9905 or email LDELicensing@la.gov.

REMINDER ABOUT WARM WEATHER AND CHILDREN IN VEHICLES

Warm weather is here and temperatures inside vehicles rise quickly. Licensed early learning centers are required to conduct visual passenger checks of all vehicles used to transport children to ensure that no child is left in the vehicle. A staff person must physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all enclosed spaces and recesses in the vehicles interior. This requirement for a visual inspection of vehicles used to transport children should be completed if the vehicle is provided by you, contractual arrangement, or parent provided. Click [here](#) to review the regulations.

If you have questions, please contact your consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail LDELicensing@la.gov.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK MAY 5-11

Governor Edwards has proclaimed May 5-11 as [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) in Louisiana. Now is the time to make sure you have an emergency plan in place for you, your family, your pets and your business. Please visit [Get a Game Plan](#) and review your emergency plans and supplies before Hurricane season starts on June 1st. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new [Alert FM](#) App. You can also find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Listen to conversations on all aspects of emergency management by downloading GOHSEP's [The Get A Game Plan Podcast](#).

CCCBC SYSTEM UPDATES

The Child Care Civil Background Check System has been enhanced to provide more efficient processing times, increased security, and more search options. Check out the new features in the updated [User Manual](#). You may also view the [webinar recording](#) or review the [webinar slides](#).

CCCBC REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS® OBSERVERS

When a Picard CLASS® observer visits a center, the center should use the Child Care Civil Background Check System to check the eligibility of the observer. Because Picard CLASS® observers are not regular visitors, they should not be added to the center's roster.

For more information on meeting the requirements for Picard CLASS® observers, review the [CCCBC Requirements for CLASS® Observers](#) guidance document.

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

LA 4 TANF REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS

Last week, an agreement was signed with DCFS regarding reimbursements for LA4 TANF. Under the terms of this agreement, **LEAs will have until the 20th of each month to submit reimbursements for expenses incurred the prior month.**

It is critically important to note that DCFS WILL NOT reimburse claims that are submitted after the 20th of the month following the expense.

- By April 20, LEAs must have submitted claims for **all** LA4 TANF expenses incurred to date.
- In May, LEAs will only be able to submit April LA4 TANF expenses by May 20.
- In June, LEAs must submit all May LA4 TANF expenses by June 20.
- LEAs must submit all June LA4 TANF expenses by July 5.

We will send a reminder to you each month. However, we regret that **we cannot extend these deadlines for any LEA.** They are set by DCFS. We strongly encourage you to gather any delinquent claims and submit them by May 20. **THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO DO SO.**

Please contact LindseyBradford@la.gov if you have any questions.

DIRECTOR SUPPORT

NEW FEATURE: LEADERS LAGNIAPPE

Each month, Leaders Lagniappe will feature the story of a child care center leader who is moving the needle for children. May celebrates Teacher Appreciation, and [Arielle Hughes of Carousel Preschool](#) shares how she supports her teachers year-round.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER: WEBINAR

The Department will offer a new webinar every other month especially designed to support **new child care directors and school-based Pre-K administrators.** The webinar will address:

- Louisiana's unified early childhood rating system and Performance Profiles
- Classroom observations for teacher-child interactions as measured by CLASS®
- Community partners that support the early childhood system

Webinar Date and Time: May 29 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/704045364>

Webinar Phone Number: (646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 704 045 364

View the presentation [here](#).

Please contact [Emmy O'Dwyer](#) with any questions.

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

INFANT CLASS® SUPPORTS - REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

To support teachers and prepare them for upcoming Infant CLASS® observations, The Louisiana Department of Education is offering lead

agencies the opportunity to apply for community-level grants to provide teachers and directors with high-quality, evidence-based professional development targeted toward infant-teacher interactions. The [application](#) must be submitted by Friday, May 17 at noon. More details can be found in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#). Additionally, the Department hosted an informational webinar on Wednesday, April 17; the webinar [slides](#) and [recording](#) are available online. If you are completing an application and the current structure of the application does not fit all of your community's needs, please complete [this addendum](#) and submit it at the same time as your application. For any questions or additional information, please contact [Lizzie Cosse](#).

WEEKLY WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team holds a weekly webinar/conference call question and answer session for lead agencies. The sessions are held on most Tuesdays from **3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The Early Childhood Team provides updates and reminders. Additional topics are determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information to the Zoom webinar account has been sent to all lead agency contacts. Contact [Kaye Eichler](#) if you have questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies:

- May 21
- May 28

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - MAY 15

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. If you are unable to attend, you can livestream the meeting [here](#). For an overview of the ECCE Advisory Council and 2019 meeting dates, click [here](#). For additional information, please email [Leslie Doyle](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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