June 20, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:
Superintendent's Message
Upcoming Events and Deadlines
Teacher Leader Summit
Teaching and Learning
Child Safety and Welfare
Funding and Enrollment
Article Title

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the state's legislative session ended in early June. The session was a good one for education. For early childhood, in particular, the legislature dedicated an additional $20 million to early childhood education. It was the first time in a decade the state has increased funding for early childhood education. Thanks to all of you who have built an early childhood system that folks can understand and value, and thank you to those who advocated tirelessly for it.

Of the $20 million, about $8.8 million will fill the void of an expiring federal grant that provides pre-kindergarten services to four-year-old children. Those allocations, which will benefit more than 870 children, were today approved by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. In addition, nearly $2.3 million will be used to support a federally-required increase in the amount of money families currently participating in the Child Care Assistance Program receive, and about $8.9 million will be used to pay for more than 1,400 additional seats for children of working families birth through age 3, the age group most in need of services.

The Louisiana Department of Education today began the process of serving those children. Notices will be mailed to children of families eligible to be removed from the waiting list this week.

In other good news, the RAND Corporation recently released a set of detailed reports that describes and interprets improvement efforts undertaken in Louisiana schools since 2012. The reports highlight changes in the state's approach to early education, curriculum and professional development, educator preparation, and postsecondary pathways to college and work. It is a rare and valuable look at an unusually comprehensive and enduring statewide plan for improvement.

I hope you'll get a moment this summer to take a look at the reports, and to reflect on the important, noble work going on in our early learning centers and schools every hour of every day - work we are each greatly blessed to be a part of.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe
UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

UPCOMING EVENTS
- **Teacher Leader Summit** - June 26-28

UPCOMING DEADLINES
- All **appeals** for 2018-2019 CLASS® observations due - July 1

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

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**2019 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT**

**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](#).

**SIGN UP FOR SUMMIT SESSIONS IN ADVANCE USING THE APP**
Build your Summit session schedule now to **guarantee your seat in the sessions that you want to attend**. The Summit app became available Friday, May 3. All registered participants should have received an email notification from Sched, the app provider, with instructions for downloading the app. If you did not receive this message, check your junk/spam mail folder. You can also find the Summit app by going to the app store and searching "Teacher Leader Summit." You must register for all sessions on the Summit app in advance in order to secure your spot in sessions you'd like to attend. Do this by "starring" sessions to add them to your schedule. **Session registrants will show their phones at the door to claim their seat in a session.**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD ED TALK**

**LOOKING FOR PRESCHOOL AND HEAD START TEACHERS ATTENDING THE SUMMIT**
Are you a teacher of three- and four-year-olds with experience teaching children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)? Did you receive solid CLASS® scores this year for your classroom? If so, and you are willing to share your experience with the CLASS® tool during a session at the Summit, please contact Kaye Eichler.

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP) AT THE SUMMIT**
The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will host informative sessions at the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit. The sessions will focus on programmatic expectations for all CCAP stakeholders. Participants will learn and be refreshed on the latest updates. Topics of discussion include the Waiting List, CCAP Application procedures, Payments, and Tracking of Time Services (TOTS). Check the Summit app for dates and times for this presentation.

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**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**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.

**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).

For more information, you can view a recorded informational webinar titled "Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate."

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.

**CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE**

**TYPE III CENTERS - UPDATE LEAD TEACHERS LIST**
The Department is asking that Type III centers send an updated list of lead teachers to LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov by September 1, 2019. This will help the Department to ensure they are correctly categorized in the CCCBC system based on their role. New lead teachers applying for a CCCBC should note their role as lead teacher on their application.

**EMERGENCY PRACTICE DRILLS - A CHILD LEAVING LICENSED SPACE**
Centers shall conduct emergency practice drills at least two times a year to include all children and these drills shall be documented. The director shall consult with appropriate state and local authorities and shall establish and follow a written multi-hazard emergency and evacuation plan to protect children in the event of emergencies. Bulletin 137, §1921. Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Planning

As you update your plan and conduct practice drills, consider incorporating the steps that you and/or staff members should take when a child leaves licensed indoor or outdoor space. This will ensure that your center has a plan of action that includes locating the child, notifying emergency personnel, parents, law enforcement (as applicable), and other appropriate agencies such as Child Welfare in a timely manner.

**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,
- ensure that no child is left in the vehicle,
- have 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, a 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.

**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.

**FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT**

**LA 4 TANF REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS**
LA 4 TANF REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS
The Department signed an agreement 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 May 20, LEAs were required to submit claims for April LA4 TANF expenses.
- By June 20, LEAs must submit all May LA4 TANF expenses.
- By July 5, LEAs must submit all June LA4 TANF expenses.

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.

Please contact Lindsey.Bradford@la.gov if you have any questions.

DIRECTOR SUPPORT

THE LOUISIANA EARLY LEADERS ACADEMY
The Early Childhood Department is proud to announce the launch of an executive-level leadership program for Type III directors launching in Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany parishes. The ten-month program will help develop instructional leadership skills to improve quality and build the skills necessary to be an early childhood leader in your community, state and nation. Applications are open from June 6, 2019 to July 5, 2019. Learn more about the program here. Apply online here.

LEADERS’ LAGNIAPPE
Each month, Leaders Lagniappe will feature the story of a child care center leader who is moving the needle for children. In June, Sherrel Pointer of Treasures from Heaven shares how she is preparing for infant CLASS® by extending what she does year-round in her program.

SHARED SERVICES: SAVING MONEY THROUGH STATE CONTRACTS
Learn how to save money through state contracts on everything from milk to gas and school buses at the Teacher Leader Summit.

- **Session Title:** Saving Money Through State Contracts
- **Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 from 4:10-5:30 p.m.

This presentation will also be shared via webinar:
- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/569597081](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/569597081)

NEW DIRECTORS: 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:** July 31 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/757559151](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/757559151)
- **Webinar Phone Number:** (646) 876-9923
- **Meeting ID:** 757 559 151

View the presentation here.

Please contact Emmy O'Dwyer with any questions.
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:

- June 25 - no webinar
- July 3 - no webinar
- July 9 - webinar resumes

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