July 18, 2019

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Last month more than 6,500 educators were brought together for the 7th Annual Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit, held in New Orleans. More than 600 early childhood leaders and teachers, representing every community network in the state, spent the week attending and delivering professional development training, collaborating with peers, and learning how they can play an active role in shaping the future of early childhood education in Louisiana.

This Summit celebrated early childhood by bringing together educators—from all corners of the state and from different backgrounds, centers, schools and communities—with state and national education leaders to learn, share, and work together to ensure all Louisiana children can find success in their educational journeys, including preparing all children to enter kindergarten ready.

The Teacher Leader Summit, now in its seventh year, was created at the urging of the field which needed a greater voice in statewide decisions. This year, child care, Head Start, and pre-K leaders and teachers participated in sessions that covered improving interactions and instruction, implementing high quality curriculum, and using Teaching Strategies GOLD® to support children's learning and development. The Department provided several key updates in Assistant Superintendent Jessica Baghian's presentation "The State of Early Childhood in Louisiana." Our Ready Start Networks also had the opportunity to gather, share progress, and learn more as they plan to move forward as leaders in driving improvement for young children in our state.

I look forward to the work ahead as we begin planning for our upcoming school year.

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

- Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council - July 24
- Saving Money Through State Contracts webinar - July 25
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New Directors webinar - July 31

UPCOMING DEADLINES
- Louisiana Early Leaders Academy applications due - July 26
- Submit updated list of lead teachers to LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov - September 1

MORE IMPORTANT DATES
Please see the LDOE School System Support Calendar.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE (ECAC) - REMINDER FOR 2019
As of July 1, 2019, directors are responsible for verifying that lead teachers in Type III early learning centers have the ECAC as a minimum credential within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher. As part of the Academic Approval assurances, directors who cannot verify this must assure they have a plan to meet this requirement by July 1, 2020. Of the 983 centers that have submitted their Academic Assurances, 74% verified that their lead teachers were ready to meet this requirement.

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.

LICENSE RENEWAL
In an effort to get your license renewed timely, your renewal application must be submitted prior to the first day of the month in which the current license expires. For example, if your license expires August 31st, your renewal application should be submitted no later than July 31st. Please remember a complete renewal applications includes: current approvals from the Office State Fire Marshal, Department of Health, City Fire (if applicable) and current insurance. Bulletin 137

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 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.
CPR AND FIRST AID CERTIFICATIONS

Taking a training class and educating yourself in CPR and First Aid could be one of the most important things you can do. CPR and First Aid are life-saving techniques that can be used to respond to emergencies until paramedics arrive with more advanced care.

All Early Learning Centers shall have documentation of current certification in infant/child/adult CPR and Pediatric First Aid for at least 50% or 4 staff members on the premises of a center and accessible to children. Bulletin 137 §1723 A.B.C. Copies of the certifications for each staff member shall be on-site at all times. Bulletin 137 §1723 D.

Pediatric first aid and infant/child/adult CPR training may count as continuing education in the anniversary year it was taken. Bulletin 137 §1721.F. The continuing education may count up to no more than 4 hours for both CPR and PFA. Documentation may consist of a roster that indicates all of the staff that took the training, the date of the training, the name of the trainer, and the time frame of the training. In-class training is preferred.

NEW FINGERPRINT LOCATIONS ADDED FOR CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

There are two additional LDOE-designated fingerprint locations in West Baton Rouge and Livingston Parish. Please check the new fingerprint location list on Louisiana Believes, CBC page.

FINGERPRINT VENDORS - DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE

Due to scheduled maintenance the fingerprint vendor used for Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBC) will not be accepting payments or fingerprinting beginning the evening of Friday July 26th through 12pm on Monday July 29th. Regular processing can resume Monday afternoon on July 29th. Please send any concerns to LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov.

DIRECTOR SUPPORT

PILOT REGION EXTENDED: THE LOUISIANA EARLY LEADERS ACADEMY

The Early Childhood Department is extending the pilot region for an executive-level leadership program for Type III directors to include St. Bernard, Lafourche, St. Charles, Plaquemines, and St. John, as well as 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. The application deadline is July 26, 2019. Learn more about the program here. Please note that the timeline shown in this document applies to Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany. Interviews for the expansion communities in St. Bernard, Lafourche, St. Charles, Plaquemines, and St. John will be held on August 5 and 6. Apply online here.

SAVING MONEY THROUGH STATE CONTRACTS

In case you missed the presentation on significant cash savings at Teacher Leader Summit, learn how early learning centers of all types can save money on purchasing everything from milk to gas and school buses.

The Department will host a webinar:
Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, July 25, 2019 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/569597081

LEADERS’ LAGNIAPPE

Need some inspiration and practical tips on leading your early learning center? Check out our Leaders’ Lagniappe library to learn from exceptional directors.

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
Webinar Phone Number: (646) 876-9923
Meeting ID: 757 559 151

View the presentation here.

Please contact Emmy O'Dwyer with any questions.

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

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 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:
- July 23
- July 30
- August 6

BI-WEEKLY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL FOR READY START NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES
Every other Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Ready Start Network Lead Agencies convene to discuss their progress and solve problems. If you are a lead agency contact and interested in "listening in" to learn more about what Ready Start Networks are doing, please email kaye.eichler@la.gov to receive the information to connect to the webinar.

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - JULY 24
The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will take place on Wednesday, July 24, 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.

NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact Leslie Doyle at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT
How Louisiana Uses Early Childhood Performance Ratings to Fuel Site Improvement (CEELO.org, July 9, 2019, written by Nasha Patel)
Families of 1,400 Louisiana Children Will Soon Be Added to Child Care Assistance Program (NOLA.com, June 19, 2019)

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