

Share:  Like 0  Share



[Join Email List](#)

Powered by
Constant Contact



September 14, 2017



IN THIS ISSUE:

[Superintendent's Message](#)

[Important Dates for Early Childhood Programs](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Funding and Enrollment](#)

[Child Safety and Welfare](#)

[Lead Agency Support](#)

[Other](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

We need your assistance. The Department is conducting a survey of all child care providers to better understand the costs of caring for and educating young children in Louisiana. The survey, called the Market Rate Survey, helps us set Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reimbursement rates, evaluate the costs related to licensing and develop support programs such as the Child Care Curriculum Initiative.

If you are an early learning center, you will receive a postcard from Louisiana State University (LSU) this month. LSU will conduct the survey so as to keep your responses completely confidential. Following the postcard, you will receive an email with the link to complete the survey online. Please complete the online survey as soon as you receive the link.

We know how busy your days are. But we hope that you can find time to complete the survey as it will help us better partner with child care providers in our state.

If you are not an early learning center, please encourage directors in your area to complete the survey. The more people that complete the survey, the better information we will have. Again, this information will be kept confidential and will not be attributed to any individual center.

If you have any questions about the survey, please email [Nancy Beben](#).

And 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:

- Child Care Criminal Background Check Webinar- *all programs*: September 15 and 20 at 12:00 p.m.
- Lead Agency Office Hours- *lead agencies only*: September 19 at 3:00 p.m.
- Child Care Criminal Background Check Roadshow- *all programs*: September 18 at 10:00 a.m., Lafayette

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- **By September 15:** Lead Agencies will submit Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment.
- **By September 30:** Deadline for school systems to submit CLASS™ for Compass rubric waiver and return to Compass@la.gov.
- **By October 1:** All pre-K and toddler classrooms in publicly-funded sites must be set up in CLASS™

TEACHING AND LEARNING

USING CLASS™ FOR COMPASS IN 2017-2018

Local Education Agencies and Charter Organizations are encouraged to use CLASS™ as the rubric for evaluating professional practice of public school pre-K teachers in all or some of their schools. For more information please see the [Compass Choices for Early Childhood Networks 2017-2018](#). LEAs that choose to use CLASS™ as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for public school pre-K teachers for 2017-2018 must complete the waiver and return to Compass@la.gov by **September 30**.

LOCAL CLASS™ OBSERVATIONS

All pre-K and toddler classrooms in publicly-funded sites must be set up in the CLASS™ System, with observation orders scheduled by **October 1**. Note all classrooms must be set up with the correct classroom configuration by **October 1**. Fall observations must be completed by **December 15**.

If a network is choosing to use just-in-time scheduling for any sites, the opt-in form is located in your FTP. The opt-in form must be completed by October 1 and uploaded to the FTP folder.

The following enhancements have been made to the CLASS™ System

- Lead Agencies have the ability to assign read only access to site coordinators.
- Third party feedback form will be available in the CLASS™ System.

Any guidance needed on the CLASS™ system can be found in the [CLASS™ System User Guide](#).

For questions, please contact [Tara Baylot](#) or [Nasha Patel](#).

SETTING UP CLASSROOMS IN GOLD®

GOLD® has a new look! Through MyTeachingStrategies™, users have access to either the comprehensive GOLD® assessment tool (with all objectives) or one of the abbreviated versions. Whether your program is using the original GOLD® tool or one of the abbreviated versions, the process for adding teachers, classes and other users such as Principals, co-directors, etc. has changed. Program administrators can use the [Directions for Adding Sites and Classes in GOLD®](#) sheet for instructions on performing those functions.

If you have any questions, contact [Ivy Starns](#).

2017-2018 CURRICULUM INITIATIVE

In 2016-2017 child care centers were able to choose instructional materials that best meet the needs of the children and families they serve. The Department supported programs in identifying curricula appropriate for early childhood birth to five that are grounded in helping teachers provide quality interactions and instruction by rating and reviewing [early childhood curriculum](#).

Through the first [Child Care Curriculum Initiative](#) grant, child care centers were eligible to receive reimbursement for a portion of the costs of a Tier I curriculum. Over 200 child care centers have benefited from this grant. The Department is committed to supporting

teachers in the classroom by continuing this initiative for Type III child care centers for the 2017-2018 school year. Centers that purchased curricula last school year will be allowed to purchase up to two additional curriculum kits this year. Centers are encouraged to consult with their local [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency](#) before purchasing curricula.

For more information, child care centers should reach out to their Resource and Referral Agency or to [Mary Jo Smith](#).

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

2017 COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

This August, the Department is conducting the fourth annual Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment. All communities are required to convene to discuss the level of coordination in their process during 2016-2017 to enroll children for the 2017-2018 school year, and submit one unified survey as a response. Program partners should work with their lead agencies to complete the Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment by **September 15**.

For questions regarding the assessment, please contact [Nasha Patel](#).

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE


NEW CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK WEBINAR AND UPCOMING ROADSHOW DATES

Thank you to all that attended the [September 6 webinar](#). Due to the overwhelming response and complexity of this new process, Early Learning Centers are invited to attend the upcoming Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) webinars on **Friday, September 15 at 12:00 p.m. and Wednesday, September 20 at 12:00 p.m.** Please use the following information to join the webinar:

Meeting Name: Important Changes to the Child Care Criminal Background Check Requirements

Date and Time: Friday, September 15 at 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 20 at 12:00 p.m.

To join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>

Audio Access: Toll access number (Toll): 1-646-307-1380  Toll free access number (Toll Free): 1-855-240-2575 

Along with the additional webinars, roadshows that address the launch of the new Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) will continue. These changes will go into effect **March 1, 2018**.


CCCBC Roadshow Schedule		
Lafayette	Monday, September 18 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Clifton Chenier Center 220 W. Willow St. Lafayette, LA 70501
Alexandria	Tuesday, September 19 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Zion Hill 312 Hunter St. Pineville, LA 71360
New Orleans	Monday, October 2 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Parkview Baptist Church 6301 Camphor St. Metairie, LA 70003
New Orleans	Thursday, October 5 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Educare 3801 St. Bernard Ave. New Orleans, LA 70122
Baton Rouge	Friday, October 6 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Louisiana Department of Education Claiborne Building Louisiana Purchase Room 1201 N. 3 rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

To view the September 6 webinar, click [here](#).

For more information about CCCBC, please email LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov.

THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK WAIVER

On August 3, 2017, the Department approved a criminal background check (CBC) waiver requested by the Child Care Association of Louisiana (CCAL). The waiver terminates on September 30, 2017. This waiver allows some relief on the CBC requirements due to unexpected delays. The waiver includes several stringent requirements in order to maintain the safety and health of children. This waiver applies to anyone who has recently submitted a fingerprint-based CBC request and has not received a response. [Click here](#) for more information.

For questions regarding this waiver, call Andrea Burl at 225-342-9905  or email LDELicensing.

REQUIRED NOTIFICATION

Incidents related to the health, safety, or well-being of a child must be reported to the Division of Licensing and Child Welfare. The Critical Incident Report Form is in the [Licensing Library](#). You may also fill out this form online and e-mail to LDELicensing@la.gov.

In the event that a child's primary emergency contact cannot be reached, the next emergency contact designated should be notified. Efforts to reach an emergency contact should continue until you speak with someone in regards to the child's condition.


For questions, please call your Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905  or e-mail LDE Licensing.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We are now in the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season. The Department would like to remind centers to be prepared for hurricanes and other regional disasters. In preparation, one of the steps should include packing important documents in waterproof containers and having duplicates in another location.

If an emergency occurs and your center is impacted, please inform the Division of Licensing immediately.

The Department will closely monitor conditions out of concern for your safety and for the safety of the children and families you serve. Please visit the Department's [Emergency Preparedness page](#).

For additional questions, please call your Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905  or e-mail LDELicensing@la.gov.

UNDERSTAND HOW TO IDENTIFY HOMELESS CHILDREN

According to recent data, children and youth in homeless situations are often very young. In fact, over 40 percent of children living in homeless shelters are under the age of five. In an effort to assist providers in identifying and serving children experiencing homelessness and their families, please review the recently published [homeless flyer](#). Also, click [here](#) for a list of homeless liaisons in your area who can assist with transportation and homeless resources.

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

OFFICE HOURS FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team is holding weekly conference call question and answer sessions for lead agencies. The calls will be scheduled for **Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** and all lead agency staff are invited to join. The Early Childhood team will provide updates and reminders. Additional topics covered will be determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information will be sent to all lead agency contacts.

Upcoming Schedule for Office Hours

- September 19
- September 26

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - OCTOBER 4

The next Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, October 4 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 can be live streamed. Please click [here](#) for directions on accessing live streamed meetings.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

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

LDOE Contacts

LDOE Links

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

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