



October 26, 2017



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Ensuring that a prepared, professional teacher is available within every classroom is essential to unifying early childhood in Louisiana. Over the course of the past two years, teacher preparation programs across the state have put forth proposals to provide high-quality preparation opportunities to child care lead teachers through Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs.

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs provide high-quality training and applied practice experiences for child care lead teachers that are interested in obtaining their CDA or technical diploma. Louisiana's child care lead teachers attend Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs at little to no cost through [Louisiana Pathways Scholarships](#). Currently, Louisiana has eleven [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs](#). Each of these programs participated in previous rounds of the Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood grant.

Last week BESE approved ten new programs to participate in Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood Cohort 3. This third cohort of programs will receive funding and intensive technical support to develop an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program.

The recipients of Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood Cohort 3 represent a diverse set of future options for teachers. Cohort 3 programs include technical and community colleges, online training providers, four-year universities, as well as a high school that is seeking approval to offer the [Early Childhood Jump Start Pathway](#).

Through Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood Cohort 3, Louisiana will continue to expand the number of BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs, resulting in options that meet the needs of all child care lead teachers. Cohort 3 programs are essential to supporting teachers to meet the policy requirement that all lead teachers in publicly-funded centers obtain their [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#) by July 2019.

For any questions about Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood or Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs contact [Erin Carroll](#).

And 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:

- Lead Agency Office Hours- *lead agencies only*: October 31 at 3:00 p.m.
- Division of Licensing Provider Training: November 15 at 1:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- **By October 31:** Lead agencies submit October 1 child count
- **By October 31:** Enter informational metrics as of October 1 for all classrooms in all publicly-funded sites
- **Due October 31:** Fall Checkpoint for all publicly-funded children

TEACHING AND LEARNING

GOLD® INFORMATIONAL METRICS- DUE OCTOBER 31

Sites should enter informational metrics found on the Performance Profiles within GOLD® in order to meet the October 31 deadline. The metrics include: Teacher Name, Ratio (1, 2 or 3 Star), Name of Curriculum, and Teacher Certificate Number. Administrators should also review the status for their classes by accessing the Assessment Status Report (located under the Reports tab).

If you have any questions or need assistance, please email [Ivy Starns](mailto:ivy.starns@dcyf.vt.gov).

PREPARATION FOR COMPLETING FIRST CHECKPOINT IN GOLD®

Teachers should finalize their first GOLD® Checkpoint in order to meet the October 31 deadline. Teaching Strategies® offers an array of resources available to anyone with an account through the "Help?" feature. Check out the Teaching Strategies® webpage for more information. Administrators can review the status of finalized Checkpoints by accessing the Assessment Status Report (located under the Reports tab). Administrators should also read the Messages on their log-in page to find up-to-date information from Teaching Strategies and the Department.

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](mailto:ivy.starns@dcyf.vt.gov).

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

OCTOBER 1 CHILD COUNT

Bulletin 140 requires that all publicly-funded children are counted as they were enrolled on October 1, and that the count be submitted to the Department by **October 31**.

For the purposes of these counts, children are considered part of the age cohort they belong to on September 30, for the entire 2017-2018 school year. For example, if a child is three on September 30, but turns four on November 22, that child is counted as part of the three-year-old age cohort for the 2017-2018 school year. Please work with your Lead Agency to submit accurate October 1 child counts.

For questions please contact [Dominick Robinson](mailto:dominick.robinson@dcyf.vt.gov).

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

NEW: THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK WAIVER EXTENSION

On September 26, 2017, the Department approved a criminal background check (CBC) waiver requested by the Child Care Association of Louisiana (CCAL). The waiver now terminates on **December 31, 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.

For more information, [click here](#).

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

NEW CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION

Thank you to all that have been attending the webinars. For those that were unable to attend, you can now view the webinar [here](#).

There were several roadshows held in September and October that provided information on the upcoming new Child Care Criminal Background Check (Child Care CBC). The [presentation slides](#) and a detailed [hand-out](#) on the important changes to the child care criminal background requirements can be found on the Department's [website](#). Please keep in mind, these changes will go into effect **March 1, 2018**.

For more information about Child Care CBCs, please email [Valerie Black](mailto:Valerie.Black).

DIVISION OF LICENSING TO HOLD PROVIDER TRAINING

A licensing training session will be held on **Wednesday, November 15 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** at the Claiborne Building, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located at 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge. This training is for new directors, experienced directors, director designees and owners who need a refresher on the licensing regulations in Bulletin 137.

All attendees must register to attend. Please click [here](#) to register.

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

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

When there are 42 or more children present at the early learning center, the director or director designee duties must only consist of performing administrative duties or there shall be another individual present whose duties consist solely of administrative duties. [Bulletin 137](#), §1707.C.

GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

An early learning center must have a working landline phone capable of incoming and outgoing calls available at the center. Cellular phones are not acceptable and land line phone numbers should not be forwarded to cellular phone numbers. If the early learning center is located inside of a church or school, there must be a landline phone in the licensed area. [Bulletin 137](#), §1901.A.

GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

A center shall maintain in force at all times current commercial liability insurance for the operation of the center to ensure medical coverage for children in the event of accident or injury. The center is entirely responsible for payment of medical expenses of an injured child while in the center's care. Parents shall not be required to waive the center's responsibility but may elect to use their own insurance. [Bulletin 137](#), §1503.

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

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

- October 31

OTHER

MARKET RATE SURVEY

Postcards have been sent to child care providers inviting them to complete the Market Rate Survey. This survey is required to be done every three years before the new CCDF state plan is due. The survey provides information that is used to determine CCAP reimbursement rates.

The Department has contracted with LSU to conduct the survey and to provide a report. All survey responses will be received by LSU and are completely confidential. A paper version of the survey is available and will be sent later to all providers who did not complete the survey online.

The survey for child care centers can be found [here](#). The survey for family homes can be found [here](#).

It is important that all providers complete the survey. The data gathered will be used to estimate the cost of care necessary to support health, safety, quality instruction, and staffing. It will also help ensure that all children have access to high quality child care.

If the providers have questions about the survey, they can contact Belinda Davis at (225)578-2129 .

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