



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 15, 2020

Mrs. Sandy Holloway, President
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

President Holloway:

Pursuant to the authority granted to the BESE President in LAC 28: I.305.B. to make ad hoc decisions for the board in times of emergency, and subject to ratification by the board, I am requesting a waiver of BESE rules to support essential employees, early childhood centers, and educators during the recent COVID-19 public health emergency and an extension of some waivers set to expire on May 31, 2020. The length of each waiver is defined below, in order to address the needs of educators, children, and their families.

Rules impacting educators

- The following waiver supports educators, whose ability to move from the OS to the Level 1 or from the PL to the Level 1 was impacted due to the unavailability of Praxis exams. This extension is only available to educators who were employed in 2019-2020, as reported by school systems in the Profile for Educational Personnel (PEP).
 - Bulletin 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel: §309, Grant a one-year extension for out-of-state (OS) certificates for educators who were employed in 2019-2020.
 - Bulletin 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel: §313, Grant a one-year extension for Practitioner License (PL) certificates for educators who completed all requirements for the alternate certification program (with the exception of passing the Praxis exams) and who were employed in 2019-2020.

Rules impacting early learning centers

- The following waivers terminate on May 31, 2020. In order to support centers through the continuation of COVID-19 and post-COVID-19, an extension through June 30, 2020 is requested.
 - Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, §315. Inspections. Waive the inspection requirements in order to allow the Division of Licensing discretion as to whether or not it is safe and appropriate to inspect an early learning center; while prioritizing complaints that affect the health and safety of children. This waiver shall terminate on June 30, 2020.
 - Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, §707.A.1. Waive fees for initial licensure (\$25.00) and for change requests (\$25.00) until June 30, 2020.



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- Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, §313 and §707.A.2. Waive the license fees for Early Learning Centers until June 30, 2020.
- Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, §701.E.6. Waive the requirement to pay the full initial licensure fee. This waiver shall terminate on June 30, 2020.
- Bulletin 137 §1815.B. and C. Fee for Child Care Criminal Background Check. Waive the \$15.00 Department fee for background checks and the \$15 fee for out of state applicants until June 30, 2020.
- The following waiver terminates on May 15, 2020 and will need to be waived for the entirety of Spring 2020.
 - Bulletin 140, Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network, §515.A.3.c and §515.A.4. Waive the requirement for spring observations to be completed and reported.

If approved, these waivers of BESE rules will be subject to the ratification of the state board at its next regularly scheduled meeting and will be immediately communicated to impacted persons and entities as they attempt to respond to this unprecedented public health emergency. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Beth Scioneaux
Acting State Superintendent of Education

Approved: _____

Sandy Holloway, President
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: _____