Agenda Items Included in Presentation

• Revisions to Bulletin 137 – *Criminal Background Checks*
• Revisions to Bulletin 139 – *Criminal Background Checks*
• Revisions to Bulletin 137 – *Other Changes*
• Revisions to Bulletin 139 – *Other Changes*
• Update on Developmental Screenings and Special Education Supports
• Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report – Quarter 2
Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 137 and Bulletin 139: Criminal Background Checks
New Child Care Criminal Background Checks

**Louisiana must implement a comprehensive criminal background check system in order to comply with the new federal law.**

The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 seeks to make child care safer by seeking to ensure that the adults working with or in proximity to children have not committed violent crimes, child abuse or sexual offenses.

Louisiana:
- Must establish and manage a statewide system for conducting Child Care Criminal Background Checks (Child Care CBCs) for use in determining eligibility for child care purposes for staff, volunteers and contractors who work at licensed early learning centers and individuals who work at or live within a home-based provider that is registered for child care assistance.

**Child Care CBCs will impact all licensed programs, not only publicly-funded programs, all registered in-home providers, school staff that visit centers, and contractors who provide services in centers when children are present.**
What is a Child Care Criminal Background Check?

Components of a Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) – A CCCBC includes:

1. A fingerprint-based search of the La. Bureau’s criminal history record information (CHRI);
2. A fingerprint-based search of the FBI CHRI;
3. A search of the National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR);
4. A search of the La. Sex Offender Registry;
5. A request for a search of the La. Child Abuse and Neglect Registry; and
6. A name-based search of the following in each state in which the individual has resided in the past five years: state criminal repository, state sex offender registry, and state child abuse and neglect registry.

Based on a review of these results, the Department will determine whether an individual is eligible or ineligible for child care purposes.

Current state laws require state criminal background checks. But the federal law requires the CCDF Lead Agency to manage the process and institute a more comprehensive check.

The Department is working with other state agencies and private vendors in order to develop an efficient process that also maintains an individual’s privacy and legal rights.
Recent Changes in State Law (Act 423 of 2017)

There were recent changes in State law that give the Department the authority to conduct the Child Care CBCs and to collect fees.

Act 423 (HB 557):
- Authorizes the Department to request each of the components of the Child Care CBC from the Louisiana Bureau, FBI, DCFS, and other states;
- Repeals the SCR1 self-disclosure requirement;
- Requires a person to have a determination of eligibility for child care purposes prior to being present or providing services at a center;
- Allows provisional hiring for a person for whom the Department has received a satisfactory Louisiana or FBI criminal history record check;
- Requires that a provisionally employed staff member must be monitored at all times, until the eligibility determination is made; and
- States that the Department may charge a $15.00 fee for its administrative costs and may collect the fees charged by other entities.

The changes in Act 423 align the state law with the CCDF requirements.
Proposed CBC Changes to Bulletin 137

In order to comply with the CCDF criminal background check requirements the Department proposes changes to Bulletin 137.

Proposed changes to Bulletin 137 include:
- Reorganization of criminal background check requirements to make the requirements easier to locate;
- Definitions of the previous and new criminal background checks and terms related to the new Child Care CBC;
- Components of the Child Care CBC;
- Who needs a Child Care CBC;
- Transition periods for obtaining Child Care CBCs to lessen economic impact on providers;
- Rules regarding provisional employment and monitoring;
- Rules for appeal of accuracy of CCCBC results;
- Fee and schedule of fees from other agencies; and
- Rules regarding termination based on ineligible determinations.

The proposed changes reflect a concerted effort to focus on the provider’s needs and concerns while keeping the health and safety of children as the priority.
The background check requirements were previously located in five different sections. It is proposed to start a new chapter that will contain all of the background requirements.

- The Background check requirements were previously located in Sections 505 and 507 for owners and 1701, 1703 and 1705 for staff, volunteers and contractors.

- For better organization, the requirements are now located in a new chapter titled Chapter 18: Child Care Criminal Background Checks.

- This reorganization should make it easier for providers to know what the changes are and how to meet the requirements.

The proposed changes should make the Child Care CBC requirements easier for providers to navigate and know what is expected of them.
How CCCBC Process Will Work

A provider or approved entity applies for an individual. Note that provider only receives eligibility or ineligibility status. If found to be ineligible, the applicant receives the details and appeal rights.

Provider or approved entity/individual logs into Department system to apply and pays fees

Department system sends requests to partner agencies

Applicant provides fingerprints and pays fees while concurrent searches are being done for Sex Offender, Child Abuse and Neglect, Out of State checks

The Department reviews results and issues Eligibility or Ineligibility Determination

Provisional employment will be allowed for persons for whom the Department has received a satisfactory, fingerprint-based Louisiana or federal criminal history information record pending completion of the eligibility determination; however, monitoring is required.
The definitions that are proposed by the Department were necessary in order to have a phased implementation and clarify new terms that will be used by the Department.

- Additional definitions that are proposed include:
  - **Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC)** - This definition was added to distinguish between the previous Criminal Background Check (CBC).
  - **Criminal Background Check (CBC)** - This definition was added to distinguish the CBC that is to be phased out with the CCCBC that is to be phased in.
  - **Child Care Purposes** - A definition is given for child care purposes in order to give providers clarity of when a CCCBC will be needed.
  - **Bus Monitors** - The definition is unchanged, but the word “Bus” was added. The definition was previously referred to as “Monitors”.
  - **Eligibility Determinations** - Defines the new status that will be assigned by the Department.
  - **Monitors of Provisionally Employed** - Defines the role of the monitoring staff member.

The proposed changes are intended to support providers in ensuring they are aware of what is required of them through the Child Care CBC process.
These entities/persons must obtain a CCCBC-based determination of eligibility for any of their employees or contract employees that provide services in early learning centers when children are present.

- Local public schools that provide services to children in early learning centers
- Resource and referral agencies that are approved by BESE and under contract with the Department
- Entities approved by BESE and under contract with the Department to provide mental health consultations
- Teacher preparation programs approved by BESE, for their employees, contract employees and enrolled students
- Lead agencies approved by BESE and under contract with the Department
- Louisiana Department of Health, which provides IDEA, Part C services for children in early learning centers
- Third party contractors approved by BESE and under contract with the Department to provide services in early learning centers
- Entities approved by the Department that provide services in early learning centers
- The Department, which provides services in early learning centers, for its employees and contract employees

Persons approved by the Department who provide services in early learning centers shall obtain a CCCBC-based determination of eligibility for child care purposes from the Department.

Right to reviews and affidavits would no longer be valid.
Causes for Ineligibility

The prohibited offenses include those listed in La. R.S. 15:587.1 and now include others required by federal law.

In addition to those prohibited offenses listed in La. R.S. 15:587.1, a person shall also be ineligible if the person:

• refuses to consent to a child care criminal background check (CCCBC);
• knowingly makes a materially false or incomplete statement in connection with the CCCBC;
• has been convicted of or plead guilty or nolo contendere to any of the crimes listed in La. R.S. 15:587.1(C), or those of a jurisdiction other than Louisiana which would constitute a crime under the provisions cited in La. R.S. 15:587.1(C);
• is registered or required to be registered on the Louisiana Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry, other state sex offender registry, or the National Sex Offender Registry;
• the Department receives written notice from DCFS that the person’s name is recorded on the State Central Registry within DCFS as a perpetrator for a justified finding of child abuse or neglect;
• that the person’s name is recorded on another state’s registry or repository of child abuse and neglect as having a confirmed finding of child abuse or neglect; or
• the Department receives written notice from another state that the person is ineligible for child care purposes.
Provisional Employment and Monitoring

Provisional Employment:
• Will be allowed for persons for whom the Department has received a satisfactory, fingerprint-based Louisiana or federal criminal history information record pending completion of the CCCBC-based determination of eligibility.
• Provisionally-employed staff members may be counted in child-to-staff ratios, but must be monitored by an employee with an eligible CCCBC at all times.

The center must:
• Designate a monitor for each provisionally employed staff member present at the center; and
• Have at least one monitor physically present at all times in any room during naptimes if a provisionally employed staff member is present.

Note: The center may designate 1 monitor for up to 5 provisionally employed staff members at any given time.

The monitor must:
• be physically present at the center at all times when the provisionally employed staff member is present;
• remain within close enough physical proximity to their provisionally employed staff members to be able to intervene at any time; and
• perform at least 1 visual observation of each designated provisionally employed staff member every 30 minutes.

Balancing federal requirements and Act 423, provisional employment can help ensure that the child care industry can maintain child-to-staff ratio in times of staff transitions.
Monitoring Policy

The center must develop and implement a written policy describing the monitoring procedures. The monitoring procedures shall:

• Include all the requirements as previously discussed;
• Require the center to post a copy of the policy in the center in a place visible to all parents and staff; and
• Require the center to provide copies to each parent/legal custodian of enrolled children, center staff members and provisionally employed staff and obtain signed documentation verifying receipt.

Monitoring Log

• The center shall have a log or other written documentation of the monitoring of provisionally employed staff members that identifies each provisionally employed staff member, the designated monitor for each, and the times of the visual observations.

Monitoring is done in an effort to protect the health and safety of children when cared for by a provisionally employed staff member.
Appeal Process

Appeals of ineligible determinations will be allowed to address the accuracy and completeness of the CCCBC results received by the Department and used to make the eligibility determination.

Individuals will be given the opportunity to submit a request for an appeal of an ineligible determination based on inaccuracy or incompleteness of the results of the CCCBC received by the Department and used to make the eligibility determination.

- The person must submit the request within 45 days of the issuance of a notice of ineligibility (NOI).
- The requestor remains ineligible throughout the appeal process.
- The Department will render a final decision on the appeal within 30 days of receiving all documents and information necessary to review the appeal and make a final determination.
- If as a result of the appeal process, a person is determined to be eligible, for child care purposes, the Department will issue an eligibility determination to both the requestor and the requesting provider.

A person shall remain ineligible and is prohibited from being at the center during the appeal process.
Total Fees for CCCBC

The $15 fee charge by the Department will contribute to an effort to make the process as efficient and user-friendly to the providers as possible.

- **Fees Collected by the Department:**
  - $15 LDOE administrative fee
  - $25 DCFS fee for search of State Central Registry for Child Abuse and Neglect
  - $15 fee per state for record searches in any other state in which the person has resided during the past five years (to be sent to other state agencies). This will only be charged if the person lived in another state in the last 5 years.

- **Fees Collected by La. State Police or Sheriff’s Office:**
  - $26 fee for Louisiana Bureau for Louisiana criminal history information record
  - $12 fee for FBI for federal criminal history record

  Note: There will be an additional fingerprinting fee of between $10-15 charged at the fingerprinting location.

The total fees are expected to be between $88-$93 per Child Care CBC; note that the federal regulations prevent agencies from charging more than cost.
CCCBC for CCAP Home-Based Providers

Bulletin 139 changes are basically the same as in Bulletin 137 with 2 exceptions.

- Provisional Employment is not allowed for home-based providers.
- Child Care Criminal Background Checks will be completed every 5 years but staff will search the Louisiana Sex Offender Registry annually for home-based providers.

Home-based providers are often alone with children; therefore, stricter requirements are needed for the health and safety of children.
Implementation of CCCBCs

Transition Periods will be stated within Bulletin 137 to outline the phased approach that the Department plans to implement.

The Transition Periods will be implemented as follows:

- **March 1, 2018** – All New Hires and Others without an Existing Satisfactory CBC must have a CCCBC prior to being present at or providing services at a center when children are present.

- **April 1 and May 31, 2018** – All existing owners, directors, director designees and staff-in-charge for whom a center had an existing satisfactory CBC on March 1, 2018;

- **May 1 and June 30, 2018** – Any volunteers and staff members employed for five or more years for whom a center had an existing satisfactory CBC on March 1, 2018;

- **June 1 and July 31, 2018** – Any volunteers and staff members employed between two and five years, and all visitors and independent contractors for whom a center had an existing satisfactory CBC on March 1, 2018, including those independent contractors with CBC affidavits and CBC annual letters issued prior to March 1, 2018 for the 2017-2018 school year; and

- **July 1 and August 31, 2018** – Any volunteers and staff members employed for two years or less for whom a center had an existing satisfactory CBC on March 1, 2018.

The transition plan developed by the Department takes into consideration feedback from providers, turnover rates, and the need to be in compliance by September 2018.
Here is the implementation timeline.

June 2017
Act 423 was passed

July 2017
Department brings proposed changes to Bulletins 137 and 139 to Advisory Council.

August 2017
State Board reviews the proposed changes to Bulletin 137 and 139.

August - Nov 2017
Public engagement via webinars, road shows and CCAL conference.

March 2018
Changes to Bulletin 137 and 139 become effective
Initiate Child Care CBC process for new hires

March-Sept 2018
Child Care CBC process in a phased approach to be in compliance by September 30, 2018
Other Changes to Bulletin 137 - Licensing
At this point, the Department is only proposing technical or immediate health and safety changes to Bulletin 137. All other changes will be considered during the tri-annual review.

§705. Access
• Licensing staff must have access to all records, including recordings and video.

§707. Fees
• All fees to be paid electronically.

§713. Renewal and Other Inspection Procedures
• Formally describes the Licensing Deficiency Review Process which is already in existence.

§1515. Child Records and Cumulative Files
• Requires all early learning centers to provide a written copy of health related policies to parents or guardian of child(ren) enrolled.

Note that verbiage in §1515 was added to be in compliance with Act 256 and must be done only if a center has these policies in place.
§1709. Director Qualifications
• Clock hours of training must be in child care, child development or early childhood education.

§1711. Child to Staff Minimum Ratios/§1713. Supervision
• Technical change that moves Rest-time Supervision from Child to Staff ratios to Supervision section.

§1717. Records for Independent Contractors and Student Trainees
• Clarifies required information on student trainees which is similar to other employees.

§1721. Continuing Education
• Cleans up language regarding Type I early learning centers and allows college credit hours in child care, child development, or early childhood may be accepted with transcripts as proof.

§1723. CPR and First Aid Certifications
• Cleans up language regarding Type I early learning centers.

§1725. Medication Management Training
• Cleans up language regarding Type I early learning centers.
§1903. Physical Environment
• Early learning center shall be separate from any other facility or dwelling.

§1907. Furnishings and Equipment
• When feeding tables are used, children’s feet must rest comfortably on a foot rest and furniture shall be developmentally appropriate.

§1909. Safe Sleep Practices
• Each infant present in the center shall have a safety approved crib available.

§1919. Food Service and Nutrition
• Food should be served to children using individual utensils, plates, cups as appropriate.
• Bottled formula/breastmilk to be labeled with child’s name.

§2103. Daily Transportation (Contract or Center Provided)
• At least one staff member in a vehicle shall have current CPR and First Aid certification.
According to R.S. 17:407.40, BESE shall conduct a comprehensive review of all standards, rules and regulations for licenses every three years

- Task force or work group will consist of a set of stakeholders that represent different provider types.
- Each section in the Bulletin will be reviewed.
- Office of State Fire Marshal and the State Sanitarian will be involved to ensure alignment.

Fall 2017
Working Group will meet to review Bulletin 137

February 2018
Revised Bulletin 137 presented to the Advisory Council

March 2018
Revised Bulletin 137 presented to BESE

Summer 2018
Revised Bulletin 137 will go into affect
Other Changes to Bulletin 139 – Household Eligibility
These changes clarify eligibility in light of the wait list as well as improper payment recovery.

§509. Certification Requirements for Non-Categorically Eligible Households
• Allows 90 calendar days for families experiencing homelessness to submit remaining eligibility documentation.

§513. Prioritization of Funding
• Adds households with children requiring special needs, children experiencing homelessness and children participating in EHS-CC Partnerships to the prioritization list so they do not go on the waiting list and updates the priority of the waiting list based on receipt date/time of the completed application.

§521. Recovery of Payments Made on Behalf of Ineligible Households
• Adds language to allow recovery of improper payments based on ineligible services.
Update on Developmental Screenings and Special Education Supports
In March 2017, the ECCE Advisory Council requested additional information about the existing resources and supports that exist for young children with special needs.

In response to this request, several agencies and programs have collaborated to provide an update to the ECCE Advisory Council:

• Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Bureau of Family Health)
• Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks (CoIINs)
• Project LAUNCH- Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health
• CLASS Special Learners Pilot and Development Screening Guidebook (Louisiana Department of Education)
• Louisiana University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (LSU-HSC)
• EarlySteps

By identifying current programs and available options, we can seek opportunities to increase coordination for families.
Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant
Bureau of Family Health

The Title V MCH Block Grant supports programs and activities to promote the health and well-being of women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and youth with special health needs.

Title V Block Grant:
• Also known as the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.
• Works to increase the percent of children, ages 10-71 months, that receive a developmental screening using a parent completed tool.
• Aims to improve the state Developmental Screening (DS) and Early Intervention (EI) systems of care for Louisiana children

• National Performance Measure Goals:
  • Increase by 10% the number of primary care physicians that implement the Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines biennially
  • Develop a development screening and early intervention monitoring mechanism framework by September 2018.
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks (CoIINs):

- Enhance early childhood systems building and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based children’s developmental health and family well-being indicators.
- Collaborate with the Vermilion Parish School Board clinic and a local pediatrician to track referrals and identify how many children with a positive screen are eligible for school services.
- Partner with the Morehouse Community Medical Center Pediatric Clinic and local child care centers to increase referrals and the number of children receiving a developmental screen.

Goal of COINN is that participating communities will show a 25 percent increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills among their community’s children birth through age 3 within 60 months.
Project LAUNCH promotes the wellness of young children ages birth to 8 by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development.

Project LAUNCH- Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health:

- Develop an early childhood coordinated service system focused on well-being across all developmental domains targeting children from birth to 8 years.
- Increase awareness and skills of parents and caregivers to support healthy development and well-being of young children.
- Currently collaborating with 10 pediatric providers in Acadia, Vermilion and Lafayette parishes.
- Provides onsite behavioral health consultations.
- Developed and published an interactive information website for providers and families in Region 4 [http://louisianalaunch.org/](http://louisianalaunch.org/)
Updates from the Department
CLASS Special Learners Pilot and Developmental Screening Guidebook

*Through the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA) and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) the Department has promoted initiatives to increase access to resources for children with special needs.*

**CLASS Special Learners Pilot:**
- Provided research-based classroom interventions and supports to help programs improve the kindergarten readiness of children with disabilities through improving teacher-child interactions.
- Pilot ran from October 2016-May 2017.
- Included three targeted professional development programs, which trained 76 coaches and impacted over 800 teachers.

**Developmental Screening Guidebook:**
- Provide consumer resources to early childcare providers to support the families they serve identify the most appropriate developmental screening resource.

**Increase in Rate(s) and Flexibility for CCAP Families with Children with Special Needs:**
- Increased the daily rate for children with disabilities that are a part of the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Increased flexibility for families in meeting work and school requirements.
Louisiana University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (LSU-HSC)

Louisiana University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities provides leadership and innovation in education, community service, research, and dissemination of information that strengthens the capacity of local communities to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**
- Incorporated developmental screening guidelines (ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, MCHAT, SEEK) into Early Head Start program
- Trained over 80 child care providers and administrators on importance of developmental surveillance, screening, and communicating with parents regarding child development
- Provided technical assistance to four child care centers in developing screening program

**Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)**
- Provided year long training to nine graduate students on screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention
- Provided training on DSS to 84 health care providers
- Provided interdisciplinary autism evaluation for 12 families of young children
EarlySteps provides services to families with infants and toddlers aged birth to three years (36 months) who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays.

EarlySteps:

- Identify approximately 2.1% of children in Louisiana between the ages of birth and 3 years who meet the EarlySteps Criteria.
- In 2015-16, EarlySteps received almost 13,000 referrals and conducted developmental screening on approximately 6,000 of the children referred for developmental delay.

To improve child outcomes resulting from early intervention, EarlySteps has aligned improvement activities with the LDOE:

1. Regional staff participate in local network activities to increase awareness of early intervention services
2. Improving the number of referrals from Early Care and Education settings through outreach and network activities
3. Improving early intervention supports provided in child care settings through a focus on caregiver priorities for meeting child needs.
There are various opportunities for collaboration across the many programs that provide services to families and young children with developmental disabilities.

**Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Workforce Development Technical Assistance Project:**
- Engaged an interagency team focused on strengthening and coordinating developmental screening service systems.
- Identified a pilot site to test systems level changes; overlapping work with Project LAUNCH and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems CoIN.
- Working to build provider capacity around expanded screening services and early intervention referrals.

**Child Care and Development Block Grant:**
- Department of Education and Bureau of Family Health collaborated on a strategic plan to accomplish the Development Block Grant consumer education requisites.
- Opportunities for potential expanded collaboration across agencies and programs with the initiation of the next state plan.
- Agencies will be able to work together to interpret new federal requirements, assess statewide needs, and develop an appropriate plan for the future CCDF grant.
Ongoing Collaboration (1 of 2)

There are various opportunities for collaboration across the many programs that provide services to families and young children with developmental disabilities.

Young Child Wellness Collaborative:
- Cross-sector action learning collaborative convened by the Office of Behavioral Health and the Office of Public Health, that is building an agenda to support the health, development, and wellness of children.
- Assembled a multi-disciplinary developmental screening workgroup to provide guidance around early childhood screening.
- The workgroup established an operationalized definition for developmental screening and presented recommendations for expanded screening services in the state (Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines).
Update on Membership for the ECCE Advisory Council
The members of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council serve a three year term at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Background:
• In October 2014, the ECCE Advisory Council was established by BESE.
• During the first meeting, the ECCE Advisory Council determined that all members would serve a three year term at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Timeline for Membership:
• **August 2017**- An application will be released for positions which have been held by the same member since October 2014.
  • Application will be announced in the Early Childhood Newsletter and will be posted on the Department website.
• **End of August 2017**- Applications will be due back to the Department.
• **September 2017**- Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be conducted as needed.
• **October 2017**- BESE will review applications for BESE appointed positions.
Early Childhood Community Networks
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department and Community Networks have continued to support local sites to implement the early childhood accountability system.

Supported Close Out of the 2016-2017 School Year:
- Teachers completed the third and final checkpoint for Teaching Strategies GOLD®.
- Lead agencies coordinated all spring CLASS™ observations while programs reviewed scores.
- Lead agencies worked closely with the Department through office hours and supervisor collaborative events.

Completed Coordinated Enrollment Activities:
- Communities completed Coordinated Information Campaigns, providing information to families regarding enrollment.
- Communities participated in meetings with the Department to continue to improve their system for coordinating and supporting enrollment.

Began Preparation for Upcoming School Year:
- Programs considered participating in the new pilot of the abbreviated GOLD® assessment.
- Programs submitted assurances for academic approval, committing to participating in their early childhood community network for the 2017-2018 year.
- Programs received access to new features in the updated Teaching Strategies GOLD® system.
Supporting Teachers to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has increased access to instructional supports for child care teachers.

Purchasing and Using High-Quality Curriculum:
• Over 110 child care centers purchased and began planning to implement a Tier I curriculum.
• The Department announced the plan to continue supporting the Child Care Curriculum Initiative over the next year.

Reviewing Feedback from Teachers and Families:
• The Department released reports from the 2016 Early Childhood Family Survey.
• Families provided feedback on programs and enrollment in the 2017 Family Survey.
• Teachers shared thoughts and suggestions related to the professional development supports they have received in the 2017 Teacher Survey.

Sharing Lessons Learned and Collaborating Across Programs:
• Over 500 early childhood teachers attended the 2017 Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans.
• Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood Cohort 1 programs shared lessons learned on the national stage in a series of Ed Week blog entries.
Supporting Licensed Centers
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has continued to support the staff and teachers working in licensed child care centers.

Revisions to the School Readiness Tax Credits:
- BESE reviewed and approved revisions to the School Readiness Tax Credits to better align the credits with the unified early childhood system.
- The revisions will recognize sites and directors for their ratings based on the Performance Profiles, and will reward teachers for making a professional commitment to child care through the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate.
- The revised tax credits will be in place for 2018.
The Department has revised the work requirements for CCAP to provide more access for families that are in need of assistance.

Preparation for the CCAP Wait List:
- Due to increased demand for the Child Care Assistance Program, the Department began preparing for a CCAP Wait List, which went into effect July 1, 2017.
- Since 2015, the State Board, in collaboration with their Early Childhood Advisory Council, has increased payment rates, reduced co-pays and adopted more flexible eligibility criteria in order to serve more working families.
- CCAP currently serves nearly 18,000 Louisiana children whose parents are working or are in school.

Implementation of the CCAP Wait List:
- Applications are screened for eligibility and, if eligible, placed on the wait list until funds are available.
- Families currently receiving CCAP will not be placed on the wait list when it is time to re-certify their eligibility. They will continue to receive services if eligible.
- Children who are experiencing homelessness, children of families participating in STEP or Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, children in foster care and special needs children, if eligible, will not be placed on the wait list.
The Department has released a series of resources and information regarding the CCAP Wait List.

- Updated information about the wait list will be posted on the Department’s website at http://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/child-care-assistance-program.

- Resources for the CCAP Waitlist:
  - CCAP Wait List FAQs
  - CCAP Wait List Family Resource Checklist
  - CCAP Wait List One Page Overview
  - CCAP Wait List Presentation

- The Department has worked closely with Lead Agencies and Resource and Referral agencies to distribute information and guidance to families and to support them in identifying available alternative care options.

- The Department will also work closely with the Early Childhood Advisory Council and partners in the field to publish wait list statistics (statewide and by parish) and to communicate updates about the wait list.
There has been little change in Quality Start enrollment for Quarter 2.

June 2017 and July 2017 awards will reflect larger increases than typical based on new 1-star applications, which will count towards the 2017 SRTC.
Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Centers
Monitoring Change Over Time

There has been little change in the number early learning centers.

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