



February 5, 2016



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**SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Colleagues,

You may have received a notice indicating that the increased Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates are now in effect. Families who benefit from CCAP have also received letters informing them of the changes. Starting with the next payout from the state, providers will receive higher rates and families will have reduced or no co-pays. This will help low-income families better afford quality early child care and raise funding levels for qualified child care centers and teachers.

Please note that neither providers nor families need to take any action at this time. The rate changes will be automatic. To understand the potential impact on your center, please try out our new [Rate Calculator](#).

As of February 1, families will also be eligible for CCAP for at least a year, even if parents lose their job. The policy changes, part of the statewide effort to unify the system of early childhood education and to prepare all children for kindergarten, put an end to the practice of stopping child care assistance when a parent or guardian has a change in work or school status. In turn, this will increase stability for children as they will be able to attend for a full school year.

We ask for your help in informing families about the changes. Here is an [easy-to-understand overview](#) of how the process works. Families who may be eligible can apply online through the [CAFE](#) application portal. Together we can help more Louisiana families access quality options that help prepare their children for kindergarten.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

**John**

John White  
Louisiana Department of Education  
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

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**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**FEBRUARY GOLD™ UPDATES**

By the end of February, teachers should finalize the developmental levels for the second checkpoint for all publicly-funded children birth

through Pre-K. Teaching Strategies® offers an array of resources on this process including *Quick Start Guides* for Teachers and Administrators. These resources are available to anyone with a Teach Strategies GOLD account through the "Help?" feature. Additionally, users have access to a web page devoted to the checkpoint process that includes "User Guides and FAQs", "Webinar Support", "How to Videos", and "Support from the Teaching Strategies® Blog". These resources can be found [here](#).

Administrators can review the status of finalized checkpoint completion for their classes in order to determine support needed by their teachers by accessing the *Assessment Status Report* (located under the "Checkpoint" tab of Teaching Strategies GOLD account). If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact [ivy.starns@la.gov](mailto:ivy.starns@la.gov).

## SAVE THE DATES - TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

**SAVE THE DATE** for the next **Teacher Leader Summit** in New Orleans at the Morial Convention Center from May 31 to June 3, with an Early Childhood track tentatively scheduled for May 31 - June 1. This event will offer sessions for Lead Agency Supervisors, program partners, teachers, coaches/mentors, curriculum specialists, etc. across all settings. We anticipate offering slots for approximately 750 representatives from birth to five programs.

*Calls for Session Proposals* as well as registration information will soon be forwarded to Lead Agencies.

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## FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

### COORDINATED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION - RECORDED WEBINAR

Coordinated Eligibility Determination is a major component of the Coordinated Enrollment process. To assist Lead Agencies and interested partner providers, the Department conducted an Eligibility Determination webinar which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). The presentation can be accessed by clicking [here](#), and an optional [Eligibility Worksheet](#) has also been posted to the Early Childhood Library.

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## CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (GOHSEP) CONTACT INFORMATION

Bulletin 137 Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, Section 1921 Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Planning requires all early learning centers to have an emergency and evacuation plan.

- If you are in need of assistance, each of the State's 64 parishes has an emergency management program. The name, email address and telephone number for your parishes' point of contact can be found [here](#).
- Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide can be downloaded [here](#).

If you would like more information about emergency alerts, you may find information about uploading emergency alert and warning systems to your mobile device [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact the Division of Licensing at [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov) or 225-342-9905.

### LICENSING REGULATIONS (BULLETIN 137) ONLINE TRAINING - COMPLETE COURSE SERIES

In an effort to support new and existing early learning center providers, Licensing has designed a four part series of online courses that will provide an overview of Bulletin 137 - Louisiana's Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations.

All of the course have been released, and can be accessed below:

- [Course 1 \(Chapters 1-9\)](#)
- [Course 2 \(Chapters 11-15\)](#)

- [Course 3 \(Chapter 17\)](#)
- [Course 4 \(Chapter 19 and 21\)](#)

Each course includes lectures, activities and quizzes that provide information related to Bulletin 137. Participants will receive training hours for each completed course. This course is designed for all administrators, directors, teachers and other support staff that own, operate and/or work in licensed "out of home" early learning centers. For questions, please contact Licensing at 225-342-9905 or [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov).

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## LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

### SAVE THE DATE - FEBRUARY 1 CHILD COUNT WEBINAR FOR LEAD AGENCIES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Bulletin 140 requires all communities to count all of publicly-funded children being served on February 1, 2016, who have not yet entered kindergarten. To complete this count, Lead Agencies will be requesting counts of publicly-funded children by funding source from all publicly-funded sites. Please work with your Lead Agencies to provide this information in a timely manner. The February 1 Child Count must be completed by February 29.

To provide support and training to complete the child count, the Department will conduct a webinar on **Wednesday, February 10**. The webinar will be recorded.

**What:** Child Count Webinar for Lead Agencies

**When:** Wednesday, February 10

**Time:** 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

**Link:** <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/childcount/>

### WEEKLY EARLY CHILDHOOD LEAD AGENCY OFFICE HOURS

The Early Childhood team is offering weekly Office Hours for Lead Agencies. This will be a reoccurring opportunity for Lead Agencies to call in with any questions they may have about their current work and receive additional clarification.

**NOTE: There are no office hours on Tuesday, February 9 due to Mardi Gras.**

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## OTHER

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - VACANCY NOTICE

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and Louisiana Department of Education are seeking applications for membership on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council. **Currently, there is a vacancy in the role of one representative of a local education agency that is operating publicly funded early childhood programs other than Head Start. The application can be found [here](#).**

The ECCE Advisory Council is comprised of representatives and stakeholders within the field of early childhood care and education provides input and guidance to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Department on matters related to publicly-funded early care and education programs.

**Deadline for submitting an application is March 11, 2016.** Completed applications, as well as questions about the ECCE Advisory Council position, can be sent to [erin.carroll@la.gov](mailto:erin.carroll@la.gov).

### WEBINAR ON THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN

The Department will conduct a webinar to share all final changes to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan on Thursday, February 11 at 11 a.m. The webinar will be recorded.

**What:** CCDF State Plan

**When:** Thursday, February 11

**Time:** 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Link:** <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ccdfstateplan>

## SAVE THE DATE - PRE-K EXPANSION GRANT SUMMIT - APRIL 7-8, 2016

The Department will be hosting a Pre-K Expansion Grant Summit for Y1 and Y2 grantees. More information will be provided regarding registration and agenda. To view the save the date, please click [here](#).

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## SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

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

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### LDOE Links

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