



January 3, 2019



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Superintendent's Message](#)
- [Important Dates for Early Childhood Programs](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Child Safety and Welfare](#)
- [Director Support](#)
- [Lead Agency Support](#)
- [Other](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you had time over the holidays to relax, reflect, and be with family. In 2018, we accomplished a great deal on behalf of our youngest learners. Now more children are in high quality programs, more programs are using powerful tools like high quality curriculum and assessment, and programs are funded at more equitable levels.

To help continue our success, [Louisiana has been awarded nearly \\$8 million to enhance the quality of early childhood education](#) in communities across the state. The bulk of this funding, about \$7.1 million, comes from a competitive federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG B-5), and about \$800,000 comes from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as part of a private match required by the grant process. This grant, which serves as a one-year planning grant, will help drive faster rates of improvement and equip more classrooms with fully prepared teachers. Louisiana has worked diligently to create an integrated, efficient early childhood education system through policies that better serve our children and our families. This award is a validation of the state's approach and sets us up to take ambitious next steps.

The funding will allow Louisiana to:

- Equip communities to make informed decisions to improve local early care and education;
- Pilot supports for family homes aligned with the statewide early childhood network;
- Enhance the quality of early childhood education provided to young learners; and
- Improve systems that inform the statewide network of early childhood education providers.

While this one-year planning grant cannot be used for seats, it will fund critical efforts to improve access to and quality of early childhood programs in communities across Louisiana. There is a lot to be accomplished in 2019. I am looking forward to working together to make it happen.

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 AND DEADLINES:

- [New Child Care Director/Pre-K Administrator Webinar](#) - January 23 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#) - January 31 at 12:00 p.m.
- **GOLD®** Winter Checkpoint - February 28

TEACHING AND LEARNING

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

The 2019 Teacher Leader Summit will take place June 26-28, 2019 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the LDOE will charge a small registration fee for the 2019 Summit. This fee will cover admission to conference, conference sessions, and lunch. Educators can receive a discount by registering early and by registering for all three days at once. For more information, view the [2019 Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#).

GOLD® CORNER

Beginning in January 2019, we will be sharing a piece of helpful information about TeachingStrategies **GOLD®** in each newsletter. Be on the lookout for guidance coming by the end of January for adding optional items at the site level.

This week's tip: **Using Documentation Strategically**

To document children's development and learning, you need to know what information to gather. The **GOLD®** progressions help you understand how what children say and do demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities related to the objectives and dimensions. An efficient way to add documentation in **GOLD®** is to enter observations that can be associated to multiple objectives and dimensions. You can then associate preliminary levels to this documentation, which will give you an accurate representation of where children's skills, knowledge, and abilities are at checkpoint time. For more information on adding documentation, please review this article: [How do I add documentation in MyTeachingStrategies®?](#)

Reminder: February 28, 2019 is the deadline to complete the winter checkpoint in **GOLD®**.

SCHOOL READINESS TAX CREDIT (SRTC)

Louisiana's unique package of School Readiness Tax Credits benefit families, teachers, directors, providers, and businesses connected to Type III centers. Below are a few reminders related to the tax credits as staff and providers begin preparing to file for 2018.

- **Staff:** Louisiana School Readiness Tax Form R-10615 "For Child Care Director and Staff Members" will be mailed from Louisiana Pathways. As a reminder directors and staff members will receive two copies of this tax form: one should be returned back to Louisiana Pathways and the other is for tax filing purposes. Please be reminded that in order to claim School Readiness Tax Credits for 2018, all type III directors and staff members must be enrolled with Louisiana Pathways.
- **Families:** In December, Centers were mailed Louisiana School Readiness Tax Form R-10614 "Child Care Expense Credit" for parents. If your center has not received or needs additional Louisiana School Readiness Tax Form R-10614 "Child Care Expense Credit" for parents, email demita.walker@la.gov and include:
 - Center's license number
 - Center's mailing address
 - Number of additional forms needed

Additional Resources:

- The Department has released NEW FAQs for 2018 School Readiness Tax Credits for [businesses](#), [providers](#), [staff and directors](#), and [parents and families](#).
- The Department has also published the [2017](#), [2018](#), and [2019](#) School Readiness Tax Credit Star Levels, linked in the [Quality Providers Library](#) under "School Readiness Tax Credit".
- The Department has also made available the November 2018 webinar on School Readiness Tax Credit, entitled [Updates for Claiming 2018 SRTC](#), linked in the [Quality Providers Library](#) under "School Readiness Tax Credit".

EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE - REMINDER FOR 2019

Beginning July 1, 2019, lead teachers working in Type III child care centers will need an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher.

The [Early Childhood \(EC\) Ancillary Certificate](#):

- Can be earned at no cost by presenting a qualifying credential or degree.
 - CDA training and technical diploma training should be completed at a [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program](#), which can often be accessed at no cost through Louisiana Pathways Scholarships.
- Is valid for three years, and can be renewed for free by demonstrating ongoing professional development
- May qualify teachers for the highest levels of School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)

The Department will host an informational webinar for directors, site leaders, and teachers titled, ["Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate."](#)

Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, January 31 at 12:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/232513862>

Additional information can be found in the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#) or in the [October 2018 Letter to Directors](#). For questions, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

OBSERVERS IN LICENSED CENTERS

Independent Contractors are individuals hired by the center to render professional, therapeutic, or enrichment services within a center. Because Third Party Observers are not hired by the center, they are not considered Independent Contractors. For Licensing purposes, when third party observers come to an early learning center, they should complete the center visitor's log and have documentation of an eligible CCCBC on the date of their visit. If the observer is not added to your CCCBC roster, this documentation shall be printed and made available upon Division of Licensing's visit to your center.

YOUR LICENSING CONSULTANT

Each Early Learning Center has a Licensing Consultant. Please use the chart below to identify your Licensing Consultant.

First Letter of the Center's Name	Licensing Consultant
A, C, D, L, U	Connie Meyers - Connie.Meyers@la.gov
K, M, N, O, P, V, W, Z	Michelle Amos - Michelle.Amos2@la.gov
B, Q, S, T	Stacey Legard - Stacey.Legard@la.gov
E, F, G, H, I, J, R, Y	Shannan Smith - Shannan.Smith@la.gov

Feel free to contact your Licensing Consultant at their email address listed above or via phone at 225-342-9905.

CHILD CARE CIVIL BACKGROUND CHECK FEE INCREASE STARTING JANUARY 1, 2019

As of January 1, 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) increased their criminal record search fee by **\$1.25**. The fee for the FBI portion was \$12.00. On January 1, 2019 that fee increased to \$13.25. This results in an increase of the total amount of CCCBC fingerprint fees through the fingerprint vendor. The total fingerprint fee (excluding the LDOE and DCFS fee) was \$48.00. **As of January 1, 2019 the fingerprint fees total \$49.25.** Any questions should be directed to [Valerie Black](#).

DIRECTOR SUPPORT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The Department will offer a new webinar every other month especially designed to support **new child care directors and school-based pre-K administrators**. The webinar will address:

- Louisiana's unified early childhood rating system and Performance Profiles
- Classroom observations for teacher-child interactions as measured by CLASS™
- Community partners that support the early childhood system

Webinar Date and Time: January 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/773271562>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 773 271562

Please contact [Emmy O'Dwyer](#) with any questions.

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The beginning of the new year is the perfect time to take stock of your early childhood community network. Do you need a New Year's resolution to reshape or reorganize your local network? This [link](#) is a perfect resource for lead agencies and their partners to read together and plan next steps.

WEEKLY WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team holds a weekly webinar/conference call question and answer session for lead agencies. The sessions are held on most Tuesdays from **3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The Early Childhood Team provides updates and reminders. Additional topics are determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information to the Zoom webinar account has been sent to all

lead agency contacts. Contact [Kaye Eichler](#) if you have questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- January 8
- January 15

COMMUNITY COORDINATED ENROLLMENT PLAN

Bulletin 140 requires that each Lead Agency submit a Coordinated Enrollment Plan for their community by February 1 each year. To provide support and training to complete the Coordinated Enrollment Plan, the Department conducted a webinar at noon on Wednesday, December 5. The recorded presentation can be found [here](#). Any questions about the Coordinated Enrollment Plan should be directed to [Lindsey Bradford](#).

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMISSION - JANUARY 29

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. For a commission overview, click [here](#). For additional information, please email [Emmy O'Dwyer](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- [Louisiana Awarded Nearly \\$8 Million to Enhance Early Childhood Education](#) (*Louisiana Believes*, January 2, 2019)
- [Early Childhood Education to Get Nearly \\$8M Boost in Louisiana](#) (*The Advocate*, January 2, 2019)
- [Louisiana Receives \\$7.9 Million to Support Early Childhood Education](#) (*The Times-Picayune*, January 2, 2019)
- [Louisiana Receives \\$8 Million Early Childhood Education Grant](#) (*WGNO*, January 2, 2019)
- [Louisiana Awarded Nearly \\$8M Grant to Improve Classroom Development for Young Children](#) (*WAFB*, January 2, 2019)

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

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

LDOE Contacts

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

LDOE Links

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