

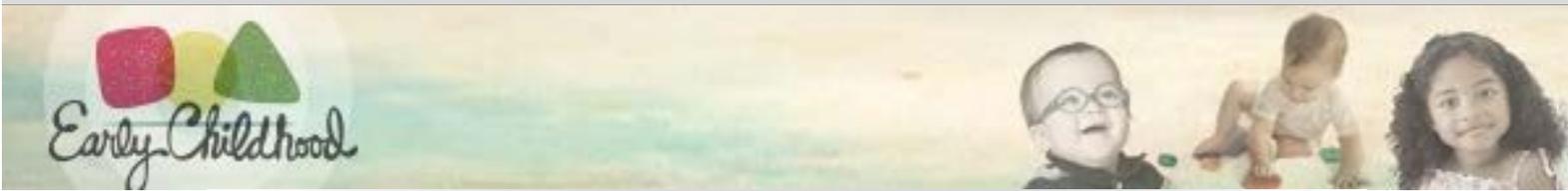
Share:  Like 0  Share

 Tweet



 Join Email List

Powered by
Constant Contact



April 26, 2018



IN THIS ISSUE:

[Superintendent's Message](#)

[Important Dates for Early Childhood Programs](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Funding and Enrollment](#)

[Child Safety and Welfare](#)

[Lead Agency Support](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Teachers are the heart of our early childhood classrooms. Every day they care for, engage with and educate our youngest learners - whether in a child care, Head Start or pre-K classroom. They are professionals who work hard to help every child learn language, build skills and manage their emotions and behavior so that he or she can be successful in school and in life. Thus, it is critically important that our teachers continue to help shape the statewide efforts to prepare all children for kindergarten. And we need your help to get teachers' input.

For the third year, the Department is conducting the annual statewide Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey. Last year, more than 4,200 early childhood teachers responded to the Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey, representing every community and every provider type. Thanks to their participation, we learned that:

- Only 70% of teachers observed reported that they received feedback results after every local observation, yet when they did receive feedback, more than 95% of teachers found it helpful to their growth and development.
- Nearly 88% of teachers felt supported or somewhat supported by someone to improve their teaching based on that feedback.
- Most importantly, 97% of those teachers who felt at least somewhat supported by someone to improve identified that support as helpful to their growth and development.

The 2017-2018 Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey was disseminated through *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® email addresses to teachers, and to providers where *GOLD*® email addresses were not available. Please note the following:

- This survey is only for Lead Teachers in all early childhood publicly-funded programs.
- The survey includes questions about CLASSTM observations, assessment, curriculum, and professional development.
- Individual results are confidential and will never be shared with programs or Community Networks.
- Results of the survey will be aggregated at the Community Network level and shared as an informational metric on the Community Network Practice Performance Profile.
- Surveys should be completed by May 31, 2018.

The responses to this survey are instrumental in improving instructional supports and professional development opportunities for teachers across the state. For questions, please contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

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:

- Lead Agency Office Hours- lead agencies only: May 3 and May 10 at 3:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- Submission of Program Partner Assurances for Academic Approval - May 4
 - Spring CLASS Observations Reporting Deadline - May 15
 - Early Childhood Family Satisfaction Survey - Complete by May 31
 - Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey - Complete by May 31
-

TEACHING AND LEARNING

2017-2018 EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY SATISFACTION SURVEY

To better understand the perspective of Louisiana families, the Department of Education, in [continued partnership](#) with United Way of Southeast Louisiana and the Louisiana Association of United Ways, released the third annual statewide [Early Childhood Family Survey](#). All families with children in early childhood programs served through public funds are encouraged to complete a brief online survey.

In addition, a sample of publicly-funded programs will receive paper surveys to distribute to select families. The survey is optional but we ask for your help in encouraging families to participate. To assist you, we have prepared a [one page letter](#) for families. Surveys must be completed by **May 31**. Contact [Nasha Patel](#) if you have questions.

UPDATE - NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Last week, BESE approved four additional [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs](#) that will begin offering coursework this year. Louisiana has a total of 18 BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs.

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs are teacher preparation programs that prepare child care lead-teachers to earn coursework that qualifies them for their CDA or technical diploma, while also providing high-quality opportunities for applied practice to support teachers to grow. Teachers may be able to use [Louisiana Pathways Scholarships](#) to support the cost of tuition.

Beginning in July 2018, all lead teachers in Type III centers that are seeking to earn their Ancillary Certificate through a CDA or technical diploma will be expected to attend a BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program. More information can be found in the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Frequently Asked Questions](#), or by contacting [Erin Carroll](#).

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2018 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

The [2018 Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place Wednesday, May 30 through Friday, June 1 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Registration opened on Monday, April 23 and is first-come, first served. There is no special code to register and seats are not being reserved or held for early childhood. [Register](#) early to ensure that you will be able to attend.

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

PROGRAM PARTNER ASSURANCES FOR 2018-2019 ACADEMIC APPROVAL

Each year early childhood community network program partners must sign and submit [Program Partner Assurances](#) indicating that they will comply with Bulletin 140, the Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network. Bulletin 140 requires that each publicly-funded program in Louisiana participate in its community network, the early childhood care and education accountability system, and the coordinated enrollment process. In addition, renewal of Academic Approval for Type III early learning centers is contingent upon submission of these assurances.

On **April 4**, the Department sent instructions for signing and returning Program Partner Assurances to all child care centers with a Type III license, school districts, and NSECD schools. This information was sent to the email address for each site that is on file with the Division of

Licensing and the Office of Early Childhood.

Center directors or authorized school or district personnel must sign and return the Program Partner Assurances to the Department by **Friday, May 4** in order to remain in compliance with Bulletin 140, and receive the center's Academic Approval Certificate for 2018-2019 if applicable.

Please contact ECAssurances@la.gov if you have any questions.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

REMINDER - UPDATED BULLETIN 137

A current version of Bulletin 137 - Louisiana's Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations has been placed on the website dated February 2018. This updated version contains some clarifications of the current regulations as well as additions in regards to the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCBC). These revisions were reviewed and approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Please take the time to review these changes with your staff. If you have any questions, please contact your Licensing Consultant at 225.342.9905. The revisions can be found here

[Bulletin 137](#).

CHANGES THAT HAVE AN EFFECT UPON A CENTER'S LICENSE

Providers please contact your Licensing Consultant prior to implementing the following changes at a center:

- Adding or removing a director
- Adding or removing transportation
- Change in hours, days, or months of operation
- Change of Location
- Change of Ownership (Tax ID number)
- Change in Name of Center
- Change in center's phone number
- Change in email address
- Change in license type
- Change in age range

CRITICAL INCIDENTS AND REQUIRED NOTIFICATION

Critical incidents and required notification shall be completed in a timely manner. An Early Learning Center shall make immediate notification to the Division of Licensing, the parent of the child or children involved, Child Welfare, emergency personnel, law enforcement and other appropriate agencies as applicable for the following types of critical incidents involving children: [Bulletin 137](#) (**This is not an exhaustive list** .)

- Death
- Serious injury or illness that requires medical attention
- Reportable infectious diseases and conditions listed in LAC51.II105
- Any child leaving the facility or play yard unsupervised
- Any child leaving the facility with an unauthorized person
- Any child left unsupervised on the on the play yard
- Any child left unsupervised in a vehicle
- Any child left unsupervised on a field trip
- Use of corporal punishment
- Suspected abuse and/or neglect by staff members
- Any child given the wrong medication
- Any child given an overdose of the correct medication
- Fire on the child care premises
- Any serious and unusual situation that affects the safety and/or well-being of a child or children in the care of the provider.

The Division of Licensing and other appropriate agencies shall be notified via email within 24 hours of the incident. The Division of Licensing shall be notified by written report within 24 hours of the incident or the next business day. The written notification shall be made on the Division of Licensing's critical incidents report form and shall contain all information requested on the form. [Bulletin 137](#) §1103.C.-D.

TRAINING FOR THE NEW CHILD CARE CIVIL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM WEBINAR

Two webinars were recently given regarding how the new Child Care Civil Background Check online system works. The training includes information on how to login, set up an account, apply for a background check, monitor the background checks, get results, and check eligibility.

The webinar recording can be viewed [here](#) . A [User Manual](#) is also available on the Department's [website](#) .

CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FINGERPRINT UPDATE

There are several new fingerprint locations for Child Care CBCs, including an alternative location in East Baton Rouge. You can view [Fingerprint Locations](#) , [FAQs](#) , and find many forms in the CBC download list, all of which can be found on the Department's [website](#) . For the most updated forms please be sure to delete your browser history and refresh your page.

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

STATE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - CCDF ANNUAL NOTICE - LEVEL 1

The Department would like to remind centers to be prepared for hurricanes and other regional disasters. If an emergency covers a large area such as a parish or region of the state, the Department will closely monitor conditions out of concern for your safety and for the safety of the children and families you serve.

Please know that should the Department determine your center to be included in a parish or region affected by a disaster, your license/certification may be suspended until you obtain post disaster approval and submit the required Re-Opening Form to the Department.

For more information about emergency preparedness and the CCDF Annual Notice-Level 1, please visit the Department's [Emergency Preparedness page](#).

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

OFFICE HOURS FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team is holding weekly webinar/conference call question and answer sessions for lead agencies. The sessions are held on **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 has been sent to all lead agency contacts. Contact [Kaye Eichler](#) if you have questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Office Hours

- May 3
- May 10

SPRING CLASS[®] OBSERVATION DEADLINE

All pre-K and toddler classrooms in publicly-funded sites must have their spring 2018 observations completed and entered into the portal by May 18, 2018. All error correction forms must be submitted by May 18, 2018 to earlychildhood@la.gov . For questions about submitting observations in the portal or completing error correction forms, please email [Nasha Patel](#).

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

The Department of Education has released a [Request for Applications \(RFA\) for Early Child Community Networks](#) . A state agency, a local public school system, a nonprofit or for-profit corporation having an educational or social services mission including but not limited to a nonprofit corporation of a philanthropic or policy nature, a Louisiana public postsecondary institution, or a nonprofit corporation established by the governing authority of a parish or municipality is eligible to apply. Successful applicants will serve for the period beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 20, 2020. Contact [Kaye Eichler](#) for further information.

OTHER

ECCE ADVISORY COUNCIL - DATE CHANGE FOR MAY

The next Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting will take place on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. This meeting will take place in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge.

Please note that this is a change in the previously scheduled date. An updated schedule for the 2018 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council dates can be found [here](#) .

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN

A public hearing for the draft Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at 10 a.m. at the Claiborne Building, Louisiana Purchase Room, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. A copy of the draft State Plan will be available [here](#) in early May. A streaming link will be provided in the next Early Childhood Newsletter.

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](#)