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# NEWSLETTER

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## News for Early Childhood Educators

June 4, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Louisiana Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment of Dr. Cade Brumley to be the next State Superintendent of Education. The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) appointed Dr. Brumley to lead Louisiana's school system at its May 20, 2020, meeting. His official start date will be June 8, 2020.

BESE President Sandy Holloway [issued](#) the following statement following the confirmation:

"I applaud the Senate for their confirmation of Dr. Brumley today. These are unprecedented times; strong leadership will be important to the success of our short- and long-term work to address unfinished learning due to COVID-19 closures and to ensure that students and schools are positioned for a strong start next year. This will be a huge responsibility, but we have the right leader for it. Not only does Dr. Brumley have extensive K-12 experience and a proven track record of success, but he possesses perhaps the number one quality which BESE sought: the ability to effectively and harmoniously bring all parties to the table to move education forward. Louisiana needs a visionary leader, but more importantly we need an empathetic, cooperative, adaptable and trusting leader."

Please join us in welcoming him and to supporting his transition.

Additionally, Gov. Edwards announced Monday that following continued improvement in Louisiana's COVID-19 outlook and a significant increase in testing capacity and contact tracing, [Louisiana is ready to move to Phase 2](#) of the White House's reopening strategy on June 5. In order to ensure the health and safety of children and staff, centers must continue to follow the required guidelines detailed in the [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#). Sites will be able to increase group size while maintaining correct ratios. The Department is continuing to support our child care providers as they become operational again by funding a second round of LaCAP Relief Grants. Approximately \$9M in grant funds are expected to be released to eligible publicly-funded providers who submitted an application by the second week of June.

I am also pleased to note the [Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series is now underway](#), with nearly 6,000 educators in attendance. The event will continue through June 5.

For those who are not registered, the Department is [broadcasting live on YouTube](#) one session per rotation. In addition, following the full event, all recorded sessions, along with their supporting materials, will be posted to the Department's [Teacher Leader Library](#).

I have been humbled and honored to serve alongside you during the past few months. Your dedication and hard work to support children, educators, and families is truly inspirational. Thank you for all you do for every child, every day.

In service,

Beth Scioneaux  
Acting State Superintendent  
Twitter @La\_Believes

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#### **Upcoming Deadlines**

- [Community Child Care Recovery grants](#) application - *due June 12*

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series- *May 28-June 5*

#### **More Important Dates**

Please see the [LDOE School System Support Calendar](#).

## **COVID-19 Updates**

### **Office of Public Health Guidelines for Centers**

The Office of Public Health and the Louisiana Department of Education have developed required and suggested [guidelines](#) for child care centers to use as they reopen, informed by the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control. Throughout these phases, restrictions will be gradually relaxed. On June 1, Gov. Edwards announced that following continued improvement in Louisiana's COVID-19 outlook and a significant increase in testing capacity and contact tracing, Louisiana is ready to move to Phase 2 of the White House's reopening strategy on June 5. In order to ensure the health and safety of children and

staff, centers must continue to follow the required guidelines detailed in the [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#).

### **Phase 2 Child-to-Staff Ratios and Maximum Group Sizes**

Now that Louisiana is approaching Phase 2 on June 5, the Department wants to ensure Providers of Early Learning Centers are aware of the child/staff ratios vs maximum group size. Please [reference the guidance](#) for maximum group sizes and ratios permissible for Type I, II, and III centers.

## **Strong Start 2020**

To sustain the progress Louisiana has made as a state and to prepare for a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year, it is critical that early childhood communities take steps to support the child care sector and to ensure that children continue to learn and thrive.

- All **child care centers have the tools and resources they need to reopen safely** and in accordance with Office of Public Health guidelines.
- **Communities sustain and/or increase access** to opportunities for early childhood care and education in the near and long-term.
- **Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions** for children every day.
- **Families are supported to re-enroll** children in early childhood programs **or to provide quality care and education in their homes** if programs are unable to reopen or remain open.

[The Department's Strong Start 2020 page](#) includes information, guidance, and resources to support early childhood providers, school systems, educators, and families accomplish these goals.

### **Reopening Resources: Sample Disclosure form for Families and Teachers**

Is your center reopening? The Department's [Strong Start 2020](#) resources can support you in developing a thoughtful reopening process, with considerations for health, safety, and operations as well as classroom quality, continuous learning, and family engagement. A new form has been added to the [Health and Safety Resource guide](#). Included is a sample disclosure agreement that outlines the risks and responsibilities of families and teachers. This sample is provided for informational purposes only—please consult a lawyer before using

## **Updates for Teaching and Learning**

### **New: Back-to-School Resources**

This week, the Department released a suite of free resources to help parents and educators address unfinished learning from the 2019-2020 school year and ensure a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year. The 2020-2021 back-to-school resources include:

- The [2020-2021 Educator Resource Guide](#), which highlights instructional priorities and resources to support educators with a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year. The guide is located in the School System, Principal, and Teacher Toolboxes and will be updated each month.

- An updated [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#), which details training sessions, virtual support, tools and resources, and communication streams designed to support educators.
- [Parent Back-to-School Guides](#) that provide families with information and resources to support learning, whether it takes place in the traditional classroom or at home, for the 2020-2021 school year. Guides are currently available for parents of students in grades pre-K–2, 3–12, English Learners, and students with disabilities. Translated versions will soon be available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic.
- [School Plan Family Presentation](#), which, as required by law, provides a template for school leaders to communicate school performance data, their school improvement plan, timelines for implementation and attainment of performance goals, and implications to families.

Please contact [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov) with questions.

**Free Teaching Strategies Resource: 7 Essentials for Transformative Family Partnerships**

Teaching Strategies has released a free eBook, [7 Essentials for Transformative Family Partnerships](#), to help schools and early childhood providers to deepen and scale family engagement initiatives, during remote learning and beyond helping every child learn, grow, and thrive. This resource provides supports in creating a framework of family engagement that will:

- Support families by offering rich, ongoing opportunities to bond and connect with their children;
- Help sites feel more connected to and ready to partner with families; and
- Allow providers to walk away with insights that inform future instruction.

For questions regarding family engagement, please contact [amanda.colon@la.gov](mailto:amanda.colon@la.gov)

**Webinar Series: Deepen Your Understanding of the Science of Reading**

Learn from today’s pre-eminent professionals with this Science of Reading Webinar Series. These informative webinars explore what the science of reading is, how it is taught, and why it is critical to teaching students to read.

*Webinar: [How Executive Function Affects Early Childhood Language and Literacy Skills](#)*

Presented by Dr. Lucy Hart Paulsen

Explore [all webinars](#) in this series.

**New: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series**

**The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series** is now underway, with nearly 6,000 educators in attendance. The event will continue through June 5.

For those who are not registered, the Department is [broadcasting live on YouTube](#) one session per rotation. In addition, following the full event, all recorded sessions, along with their supporting materials, will be posted to the Department’s [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Please contact [LDOEEvents@la.gov](mailto:LDOEEvents@la.gov) with questions.

**GOLD® OSEP Exit Procedure Support and Guidance**

TS GOLD® OSEP Administrators must exit or transition child records on an IEP when one of the following

occurs:

- the child is no longer receiving early childhood special education services (ECSE);
- the child is transitioning to Kindergarten;
- the child turns 6 years old; or
- another reason for exit occurs, like the child moves out of the State.

As a result of transitioning from AEPS to *GOLD® OSEP*, it will not be required to send an end-of-year report. [Updated guidance](#) can be found in the Classroom Resources and Initiatives Library.

Questions regarding *GOLD® OSEP* can be directed to [brittany.braun@la.gov](mailto:brittany.braun@la.gov).

## Updates for Funding and Enrollment

### DirectMatch

This year, the Department is requiring that all community networks gain access to DirectMatch which allows networks a quick, easy, contact-free method for determining child eligibility. The LDOE is offering Technical Assistance sessions for anyone who would like a one-on-one hands on training in how to access and use the system. Sessions can be scheduled [here](#).

Please reach out to [lindsey.bradford@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.bradford@la.gov) for access or with any questions.

### LA 4/NSECD

During school closures, LA 4 and NSECD payments have continued based on enrollment rather than attendance.

- All LA 4 State General Funds payments through May have been issued as of April 21.
- TANF payments for April were issued on June 2. May payments are pending with DCFS.
- All NSECD payments through May have been issued as of May 1.

Any questions regarding LA 4 or NSECD can be directed to [lindsey.bradford@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.bradford@la.gov)

### Child Care Assistance Program - [Provider LaCAP Round 2 Grant](#)

CCAP will begin processing payments for disbursement to providers. Operational costs such as staff salaries, staff recoupment bonuses, supplies, rent, and utilities are allowable. There will be another grant opportunity in the next few months for those who are not ready to be open by June 1. For questions regarding CCAP, please contact [LDECCAP@la.gov](mailto:LDECCAP@la.gov).

### CCAP Fiscal End of Year

Due to the state's fiscal end of year financial processes and the July 4 holiday, there will be a delay in payments for Child Care Assistance (CCAP) for the week ending June 26. Providers should receive payment for this week no later than July 10.

## Updates for Licensed Centers

### **Notification of Operation**

If your early learning center is currently not in operation and an email notification has not been sent to [LDOECovid19Support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECovid19Support@la.gov) or your licensing consultant, please do so. Include the license number, name of early learning center/provider, and the date of reopening.

If your early learning center has notified the Department of your reopening date, but you have to close certain days for reasons such as low enrollment, please notify your licensing consultant via email of each reopening and closure. Include **the license number, name of early learning center/provider, reason for closure, and planned date of reopening.**

### **License Renewal Applications for June Providers**

The CAFÉ Provider Portal is currently down, preventing the submission of CAFÉ Renewal Applications. In order to process an application, please complete the Renewal Application using the form that will be emailed to you. Providers with June renewals who have not completed their application should do so by using the emailed form.

Please include the following with the Renewal Application form:

- Current approval from Office of Public Health;
- Current approval from Office of State Fire Marshal;
- Current approval from City Fire (if applicable);
- Current General Liability Insurance; and
- LDE Office of Early Childhood Academic Approval (if Type III center)

If you have any questions, contact a Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905 or [LDElicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDElicensing@la.gov).

### **State Emergency Preparedness - CCDF Annual Notice - Level 1**

COVID-19 will inevitably change the way all families and businesses in Louisiana prepare for regional disasters. FEMA and GOHSEP have committed to providing more resources for families and businesses to prepare during these extraordinary times.

The Department would like to remind centers to be prepared for hurricanes and other regional disasters during this time and access your current plans for necessary changes due to COVID-19. 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](#).

### **Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Updates**

Please refer to the updated list of [fingerprint locations](#), last revised May 29, and call ahead before sending applicants to be fingerprinted. The LDOE \$15.00 administrative fee, out of state fee, and the DCFS fee have been waived for the CCCBC application until June 30th. Fingerprint fees must still be paid prior to being fingerprinted.

Please contact [LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov](mailto:LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov) with any CCCBC questions.

## Updates for Directors

### New Directors, or new to Type III?

Are you a new director, or new to Type III?

This is just the webinar for you--to help you understand the system as well as the many benefits of being a Type III center.

**Webinar title:** New Directors Webinar

**Date and time:** July 10 at 12:00 pm

**Webinar link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95604650863>

**Meeting ID:** 956 0465 0863

### **Reminder: Applications for the Louisiana Early Leaders Academy (LELA) Close Tomorrow!**

Now, more than ever, early learning leaders need support to bring forth an ambitious vision for Louisiana's youngest. As center directors consider what the future may hold, the Louisiana Early Leaders Academy offers the opportunity to build leadership skills and a network of peers who support each other for their success and most importantly, ambitious goals for young children.



Year One fellows report that this program is transformative. Learn more through this short promotional [video](#) or by visiting the [LELA website](#).

Whether you are currently open or not, if you are a director of Type III center rated **Proficient or Above**, you are [eligible to apply](#). The deadline for applications is June 5.

The Leaders Academy is structured to provide and support the implementation of new learning into practice, including:

- Bi-monthly online training sessions;
- Personal coaching with an individualized focus;
- A community of peers; and
- Exclusive opportunities to learn from national and state leaders in early childhood education.

Please email [emmy.odwyer@la.gov](mailto:emmy.odwyer@la.gov) if you have any questions.

## Updates for Lead Agencies

### Office Hours: Every Tuesday is Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood Team provides a Weekly Webinar for **lead agency contacts**. The purpose is to provide time each week to collaborate with other colleagues, learn new ideas, Department updates, and answer questions for lead agencies. These sessions are held on most **Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m.** and usually last a half-hour. Contact [amanda.colon@la.gov](mailto:amanda.colon@la.gov) with questions.

### Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies[=

- June 9 at 3:00 p.m. Current events and updates
- June 16 at 3:00 p.m. Current events and updates

### Important Lead Agency Budget Dates:

- June 30 – All funds must be expended and all goods and services must be received by this date. At this time, funds will not be carried forward into FY 2020-2021.
- July 15– Reimbursement claims for all other state and federal awards ending June 30, 2020 are due in eGMS

Please reach out to [lindsey.bradford@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.bradford@la.gov) with any questions.

### Recent Lead Agency Resources

- Spring 2020 Collaboratives Webinar
- Engagement and Outreach Strategies
- [May 12 Office Hours webinar slides](#), LA 4 Enrollment and Survey
- [May 19 Office Hours webinar slides](#), Strong Start and Community Grants

## Other

### New: Every Child Counts – 2020 Census

New: Every Child Counts – 2020 Census By now, every home has received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.
- Maternal and child health programs.
- Planning, preparedness, and recovery efforts for national emergencies, including COVID-19.

Self-responses, which can be completed online, by phone, or by mail until October 31, ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students. View the most recent Louisiana 2020 Census Self-Response Weekly Highlights provided by the U.S. Census Bureau Atlanta Region.

The Department encourages school systems to explore the newly available 2020 Census Toolbox to find activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

Please contact [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## Early Childhood in the News

[Every child care provider in La. to receive free supplies to ensure safe reopening](#) (WAFB)

[Strengthening Child Care and Early Education: Learning from COVID-19](#) (New America)

[Jefferson Parish Child Care Centers Given PPE](#) (WDSU)

[‘Intergenerational Play’: New Teacher of the Year Tabatha Rosproy Leads Program Where Pre-K Students and Senior Citizens Learn Together](#) (The 74)

[With Six Days Until Deadline, 66 percent of Eligible Louisiana Families Apply for Pandemic EBT Program](#) (Louisiana Believes)



### Contact

For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact [LDOECOVID19@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19@la.gov)

For questions regarding licensing, or child health and safety, please contact [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov).

For questions regarding lead agencies, please contact [leadagencysupport@la.gov](mailto:leadagencysupport@la.gov).

For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).