



June 6, 2019



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Superintendent's Message](#)
- [Upcoming Events and Deadlines](#)
- [Teacher Leader Summit](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Child Safety and Welfare](#)
- [Funding and Enrollment](#)
- [Director Support](#)
- [Lead Agency Support](#)
- [Other](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

This month, the Department is excited to announce a new leadership opportunity for directors of Type III centers. The Louisiana Early Leaders Academy is a comprehensive professional development program piloting in Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany Parishes; it will eventually scale to serve directors across the state. The Academy aims to build directors' instructional leadership skills to implement high quality early childhood education and to increase their influence in Louisiana.

Over a ten-month period, the program will provide:

- Leadership training on guiding teams, systems thinking and supporting teachers and learners for success
- Job-embedded coaching to implement feedback structures and improvement
- Communities of practice to build strong networks of leaders who work collaboratively to problem solve and grow the field.

We know that skilled leaders are a key ingredient in programs that positively prepare Louisiana's children for successful futures. I hope that you will apply for this exciting opportunity. We look forward to the continued work of the dedicated field of early learning leaders that our shaping the future of our state. For more information about the Louisiana Early Leaders Academy, please email Emmy.Odwyer@la.gov.

Additionally, I want to provide you with an update on funding for early childhood. The headline, and the good news, is that the legislature appears to have heeded the strong voices of early childhood leaders, advocates, and educators across our state, and took important steps toward increasing support for early learners. This year's state budget includes roughly \$20 million in state funding above and beyond past commitments to early childhood education. This funding prevents a decrease in pre-kindergarten services due to loss of federal funds and increases the number of slots available for childcare for low income, working families. While our state has a long way to go to eradicate cruel and unfortunate waitlists, these are important steps in the right direction.

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

- [Teacher Leader Summit](#) - June 26-28

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- All [appeals](#) for 2018-2019 CLASS® observations due - July 1

MORE IMPORTANT DATES

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

2019 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

2019 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT REGISTRATION

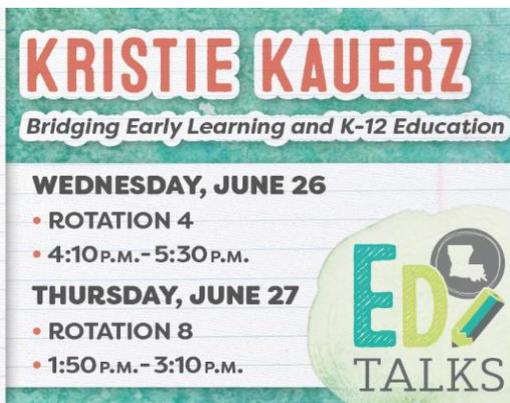
The 2019 Teacher Leader Summit will take place June 26-28, 2019 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. There will be more than 70 unique sessions offered for early childhood professionals. To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, LDOE will charge a small registration fee for the 2019 Summit. This fee will cover admission to the conference, conference sessions, and lunch. Educators can receive a discount by registering for all three days at once. For more information, view the [2019 Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#).



SIGN UP FOR SUMMIT SESSIONS IN ADVANCE USING THE APP

Build your Summit session schedule now to guarantee your seat in the sessions that you want to attend. The Summit app became available Friday, May 3. All registered participants should have received an email notification from Sched, the app provider, with instructions for downloading the app. If you did not receive this message, check your junk/spam mail folder. You can also find the Summit app by going to the app store and searching "Teacher Leader Summit." You must register for all sessions on the Summit app in advance in order to secure your spot in sessions you'd like to attend. Do this by "starring" sessions to add them to your schedule. **Session registrants will show their phones at the door to claim their seat in a session.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED TALK



KRISTIE KAUERZ
Bridging Early Learning and K-12 Education

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

- ROTATION 4
- 4:10 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

- ROTATION 8
- 1:50 P.M. - 3:10 P.M.

ED TALKS

The graphic for the Ed Talks session features a portrait of Kristie Kauertz on the left. To the right, the name "KRISTIE KAUERZ" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Below the name is the subtitle "Bridging Early Learning and K-12 Education" in a smaller, italicized font. The dates and times for the sessions are listed in bold black text. At the bottom right of the graphic is the "ED TALKS" logo, which includes a stylized "ED" in teal and yellow-green, a pencil, and a map of Louisiana.

LOOKING FOR PRESCHOOL AND HEAD START TEACHERS ATTENDING THE SUMMIT

Are you a teacher of three- and four-year-olds with experience teaching children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)? Did you receive solid CLASS® scores this year for your classroom? If so, and you are willing to share your experience with the CLASS® tool during a session at the Summit, please contact [Kaye Eichler](#).

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP) AT THE SUMMIT

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will host 3 informative sessions at the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit. The sessions will focus on programmatic expectations for all CCAP stakeholders. Participants will learn and be refreshed on the latest updates. Topics of discussion include the Waiting List, CCAP Application procedures, Payments, and Tracking of Time Services (TOTS).

CCAP Sessions Schedule:

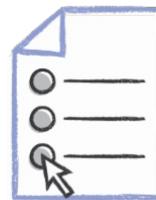
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 10:20 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

Thursday, June 27, 2019 11:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE (ECAC) - REMINDER FOR 2019

As part of the Academic Approval assurances, directors will verify that as of July 1, 2019, all of the lead teachers working in their center for 24 months or more will have met the requirements to obtain an ECAC as set forth in Bulletin 140, or have a plan to meet these requirements by July 1, 2020. Lead teachers employed in the center who do not have the ECAC must earn it within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher.



GET HIRED + QUALIFY + CERTIFY

The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC):

- 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; and
- May qualify teachers for the highest levels of School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC).

For more information, you can view a recorded informational webinar titled ["Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate."](#)

Additional information can be found in the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#) and the [ECAC Staffing Map for Directors](#). For questions, please contact [Michelle DeMeulenaere](#).

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

DAILY ATTENDANCE RECORDS

We have noticed an increase in deficiencies for daily attendance records. Daily attendance records for owners, staff, and children shall be maintained and accurate at all times.

Daily attendance records for children shall include:

- the child's first and last name,
- arrival and departure times,
- the first and last name of the person or entity to whom the child is released, and
- shall be used to sign in and out if a child leaves and returns to the center during the day. [Bulletin 137](#), §1507.A.

Daily attendance records for staff and owners shall include:

- the first and last name of the staff member or the owner, and
- arrival and departure times. [Bulletin 137](#), §1507.B.

These records shall be updated as children, staff members, and owners leave and return to the center during the day for any reason.

REMINDER ABOUT WARM WEATHER AND CHILDREN IN VEHICLES

Warm weather is here and temperatures inside vehicles rise quickly! Licensed early learning centers are required to:

- conduct visual passenger checks of all vehicles used to transport children,
- ensure that no child is left in the vehicle,
- have a staff person must physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all enclosed spaces and recesses in the vehicles interior.

This requirement for a visual inspection of vehicles used to transport children should be completed if the vehicle is provided by you, a contractual arrangement, or parent provided. Click [here](#) to review the regulations.

WATER ACTIVITIES VS. WATER PLAY ACTIVITIES

As we are in warmer weather, please be reminded of the difference between water activity and water play activity. Water Play Activity is defined as a water-related activity in which there is no standing water, including but not limited to sprinklers, slip and slides, and water tables. Water Activity is defined as a water-related activity in which children are in, on, near, accessible to, or immersed in a body of water, including but not limited to a swimming pool, river, lake, or beach. A minimum of two staff members must be present when children are engaged in water activities. [Bulletin 137](#), §17111-L.1.-3.

Children under age three shall not engage in water activities. When children use a pool or other body of water with a depth of more than 2 feet, a certified lifeguard must be present and supervising the children and may be counted in the child to staff ratio. Staff must actively supervise children engaged in water activities and must be able to see all parts of the swimming pool, including the bottom. [Bulletin 137](#), §1913.

If you have questions, please contact your consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail LDELicensing@la.gov.

CCCBC SYSTEM UPDATES

The Child Care Civil Background Check System has been enhanced to provide more efficient processing times, increased security, and more search options. Check out the new features in the updated [User Manual](#). You may also view the [webinar recording](#) or review the [webinar slides](#).

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

LA 4 TANF REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS

The Department signed an agreement with DCFS regarding reimbursements for LA4 TANF. Under the terms of this agreement, **LEAs will have until the 20th of each month to submit reimbursements for expenses incurred the prior month.**

It is critically important to note that DCFS WILL NOT reimburse claims that are submitted after the 20th of the month following the expense.

- By May 20, LEAs were required to submit claims for April LA4 TANF expenses. .
- By June 20, LEAs must submit all May LA4 TANF expenses.
- By July 5, LEAs must submit all June LA4 TANF expenses.

We will send a reminder to you each month. However, we regret that **we cannot extend these deadlines for any LEA.** They are set by DCFS.

Please contact Lindsey.Bradford@la.gov if you have any questions.

DIRECTOR SUPPORT



THE LOUISIANA EARLY LEADERS ACADEMY

The Early Childhood Department is proud to announce the launch of an executive-level leadership program for Type III directors launching in Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany parishes. The ten-month program will help develop instructional leadership skills to improve quality and build the skills necessary to be an early childhood leader in your community, state and nation. **Applications are open from June 6, 2019 to July 5, 2019.** Learn more about the program [here](#). Apply online [here](#).

LEADERS' LAGNIAPPE

Each month, Leaders Lagniappe will feature the story of a child care center leader who is moving the needle for children. In June, [Sherrel Pointer of Treasures from Heaven](#) shares how she is preparing for infant CLASS® by extending what she does year-round in her program.



SHARED SERVICES: SAVING MONEY THROUGH STATE CONTRACTS

Learn how to save money through state contracts on everything from milk to gas and school buses at the Teacher Leader Summit.

Session Title: Saving Money Through State Contracts

Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 from 4:10-5:30 p.m.

This presentation will also be shared via webinar:

Webinar Registration: [https://www.lde.la.gov/registration/2019-06-26-4-10-5-30-pm](#)

Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, July 25, 2019 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/569597081>

NEW DIRECTORS: WEBINAR

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: July 31 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/757559151>

Webinar Phone Number: (646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 757 559 151

View the presentation [here](#).

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

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

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:

- June 11
- June 18

OTHER

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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](#)