



June 7, 2018



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Last week we brought together nearly 7,000 Louisiana Teacher Leaders for the [6th Annual Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit](#), held in New Orleans. More than 600 early childhood leaders and teachers, representing every community network in the state, spent the week attending and delivering professional development training, collaborating with peers, and learning how they can play an active role in shaping the future of early childhood education in Louisiana.

This Summit celebrated early childhood by bringing together educators--from all corners of the state and from different backgrounds, centers, schools, and communities--with state and national education leaders to learn, share, and work together to ensure all Louisiana children can find success in their educational journeys, including preparing all children to enter kindergarten ready.

The Teacher Leader Summit, now in its sixth year, was created at the urging of the field which needed a greater voice in statewide decisions. This year, child care, Head Start, and pre-K leaders and teachers participated in sessions that covered improving interactions and instruction, implementing high quality curriculum, and using Teaching Strategies GOLD™ to support children's learning and development.

The Department also provided several key updates and presentations during the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit. Sessions covered updates to the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#), [Child Care Assistance Program Basics](#), and reminders about the new [Child Care Criminal Background Check](#). The Department also covered critical updates related to Teaching Strategies GOLD™, which will be further reviewed in a webinar on June 12 (details below). If you or your team were not able to attend this year's Summit, you can access all of the [collaboration materials](#) in the Department's resource library.

I hope that the energy and excitement from last week's 2018 Teacher Leader Summit impacted you in the same way it has inspired me. I look forward to the work ahead as we begin planning for our upcoming school year.

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

John

John White

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Lead Agency Office Hours (*lead agencies only*) - June 12 and June 19 at 3:00 p.m.
 - [Next Steps for GOLD in 2018-2019 Webinar](#) - June 12 at 12:00 p.m.
 - [Updates to Pre-K Eligibility Webinar](#) - June 13 at 12:00 p.m.
 - [Important Updates for Searching the State Central Registry for Child Care CBCs Webinar](#)- June 20 at 10:00 a.m.
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TEACHING AND LEARNING

WEBINAR - NEXT STEPS FOR GOLD IN 2018-2019 WEBINAR

This webinar will discuss lessons learned from the GOLD Abbreviated Pilot and the plan for GOLD implementation in 2018-2019. Users of GOLD in 2018-2019 will be under one license but will continue to have the flexibility to use an abbreviated item set as well as a more comprehensive version. This webinar will detail the different options and supports available for users in 2018-2019. If you have any questions, contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

Meeting Name: Next Steps for GOLD in 2018-2019

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Join the meeting at: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

CHANGES TO CHILD CARE QUALITY BONUSES FOR 2018

In February 2018, centers received the last bonus payment based on 2017 star ratings as well as the last payment for the quarterly Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) pilot bonus. The first unified CCAP quarterly bonus, based on 2018 ratings, was paid to centers in May 2018. For additional questions, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

WEBINAR - NEW ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR PRE-K PROGRAMS

In April 2018, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in an effort to align the "at-risk" definition for Early Childhood programs to K-12's "economically disadvantaged" definition, approved a change to Bulletin 140 that increases the income limit for school-based pre-K programs to Medicaid income limits. This change will go into effect in August. In order to provide guidance on how this change should be implemented, the Department will present an updated eligibility webinar. If you have any questions, contact [Lindsey Bradford](#).

Meeting Name: Updates to Pre-K Eligibility Guidelines

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Join the meeting at: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/prekeligibility/>

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

NEW STAFF IN EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

The provider of an early learning center or an entity identified in §1809 shall request from the Louisiana Department of Education a new CCCBC-based determination of eligibility for child care purposes for each required person. After a request has been made, the provider shall wait on a CCCBC-based determination of eligibility (Eligible or Provisionally Eligible) from the Department prior to the person being present or performing services at the center when children are present. Please note: a status of In Progress does not constitute as a determination of eligibility. Your CCCBC Roster should be checked and updated regularly to ensure all staff members are eligible. If hired, an ineligible staff member should be terminated immediately. [Bulletin 137](#)

LIABILITY INSURANCE DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of commercial liability insurance shall consist of the insurance policy or current binder that includes the name of the early learning center, physical address of the center, name of the insurance company, policy number, period of coverage, and explanation of the coverage. §1503.C. [Bulletin 137](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905 or email LDELicensing@la.gov.

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 to ensure that no child is left in the vehicle. 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 vehicle's interior.

The visual inspection should be completed for the vehicle(s) that are provided by the center, contractual arrangement, or parent provided. §2107. Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks. [Bulletin 137](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905 or email LDELicensing@la.gov.

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR SEARCHING THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR CHILD CARE CBCS WEBINAR

A webinar will be given to provide updates on how the fee for the State Central Registry will be collected as a mandatory component of the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC). This webinar will be given on Wednesday, June 20 at 10:00 a.m. Please keep in mind, the searches of the [State Central Registry](#) will begin July 1, 2018.

Meeting Name: Important Updates for Searching the State Central Registry for Child Care CBCs

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Join the meeting at: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>

CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FINGERPRINT UPDATE

Louisiana State Police is no longer taking fingerprints for Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) applicants. There is an alternative location in East Baton Rouge. You can view [Fingerprint Locations](#), [FAQs](#), and find many forms in the CCCBC 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 Criminal Background Checks, please email [Valerie Black](#) .

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team holds weekly webinar/conference call question and answer sessions for lead agencies. The sessions are held on most Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. , and all lead agency staff are invited to join. The Early Childhood Team will provide updates and reminders. Additional topics 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

- June 12
- June 19

BUDGET DEADLINES FOR LEAD AGENCIES

- June 15 - Last day to submit lead agency budget revisions
- June 30 - Last day to expend lead agency funds/receive goods and services
- July 15 - Last day to submit lead agency claims for 2017-2018 expenditures and 6/30 PERs are due

OTHER

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Louisiana Hopes New Early-Childhood Credential Will Professionalize Workforce](#) (*Education Week* , May 31, 2018)

[Affordable Child Care Top Need, Outgoing State Official Says](#) (*The Advocate*, May 22, 2018)

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