



June 21, 2018



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

In April, BESE approved a set of changes to Bulletin 140 that represent learnings from the work of Louisiana providers and communities since the first set of pilots in 2012. With nearly three years of full implementation, data, and feedback, Louisiana is ready to make four key changes that will advance the statewide early childhood network, and improve the quality of and access to early childhood programs for children birth to five:

1. Implement a fifth level of High Proficient that differentiates higher performing Proficient sites for the 2018-2019 Performance Profiles that are released in fall 2019.
2. Beginning in August 2018, require low Approaching Proficient and Unsatisfactory sites to participate in an improvement planning as a condition of receiving public funding and/or licensure.
3. Starting August 2018, align eligibility for all pre-K programs to the K-12 definition of at-risk, which includes Medicaid eligibility, thus enabling more simple and streamlined processes.
4. Integrate infant classrooms into the unified rating and improvement system over the next two years, with all infant classrooms observed for practice in 2019-2020.

In addition to these larger shifts to increase quality and access, smaller revisions to adjust and clarify policy include:

- Clarify that observations should be of the typical experiences of children in the classroom;
- Update disaster considerations section;
- Clarify and strengthen rules for observing mixed age classrooms; and
- Allow for informational metrics to be collected for classrooms that open in the spring.

Together, these changes will continue to move forward the work you are doing every day for Louisiana's children. More information about the implementation of these policy shifts will be provided in August, as part of the Department's back to school communications.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lead Agency Office Hours (lead agencies only) - June 26 and July 3 at 3:00 p.m.
 - [K-2 Performance Tools Pilots Webinar](#) - June 27 at 11:00 a.m.
-

TEACHING AND LEARNING

EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE - RENEWAL PACKET

All teachers who have earned the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate must renew their certificate at no cost every three years. Teachers can find information about the renewal requirements by reading the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Renewal Packet](#) and [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#).

The renewal application and the initial application for the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate can now be submitted online through the new [Teach LA Live](#) system. Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate applicants can follow the directions for educators posted [here](#).

As a reminder, all lead teachers working in Type III child care centers must have an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate or above by July 2019. Lead teachers must have the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate within 24 months of their start date as lead teacher. Questions related to the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate should be submitted through [Teach LA Live](#).

NEW: 2018-2019 K-2 PERFORMANCE TOOLS PILOTS

In response to feedback from school and school system leaders, and informed by the recommendations from a K-2 educator working group, the Department plans to pilot a system of age-appropriate, standards-aligned tools to evaluate K-2 classroom experience and student mastery of fundamental skills. These pilots will build on schools' experience with CLASS™ and reinforce the priorities outlined in the state's ESSA plan for school redesign.

The Department estimates it will award 40-48 sub-grants to LEAs to pilot grade K-2 performance tools in the 2018-2019 school year. A brief application will be released in the coming weeks. Additionally, interested LEAs are invited to join our webinar or contact [Jill Slack](#) for more information.

Meeting Name: K-2 Performance Tools Pilots

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

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

WEBINAR - NEXT STEPS FOR GOLD IN 2018-2019 WEBINAR

This webinar discussed 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 detailed the different options and supports available for users in 2018-2019. If you have any questions, contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

Webinar Recording: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/pwkmvac2dzwk/>

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.

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 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This change will go into effect in August. In order to provide guidance on how this change should be implemented, the Department presented an updated eligibility webinar. You may view the information presented in the webinar [here](#). If you have any questions, contact [Lindsey Bradford](#).

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

CHOOSE SAFE PLACES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The Louisiana Department of Health's Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology (SEET) has partnered with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to reduce children's risk of being exposed to dangerous chemicals during their care through a program called Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE). The goal is to protect children in early care and education programs from potential exposure to chemicals such as arsenic, lead, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). By educating child care professionals about the risks of exposure and by providing guidance to child care professionals, we hope to prevent exposures. SEET has developed a [questionnaire](#) for child care providers to use as they consider possible locations for their facility. Please click on the [link](#) to access the survey.

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 regularly to ensure all staff members are eligible. If hired, an ineligible staff member must 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.

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR SEARCHING THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (CCCBC)

A webinar was 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 was given Wednesday, June 20. The webinar slideshow deck can be viewed [here](#). Please keep in mind, the searches of the [State Central Registry](#) will begin **July 1, 2018**.

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 re fresh 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 26
- July 3

BUDGET DEADLINES FOR LEAD AGENCIES

- 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
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OTHER

ECCE ADVISORY COUNCIL - JULY 11 MEETING CANCELED

There has been a change in the scheduled Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council meeting dates for 2018. The ECCE Advisory Council will not meet on July 11, 2018.

The next meeting for the ECCE Advisory Council will be on the previously scheduled date of Wednesday, September 12, 2018. To view an updated list of the 2018 meeting dates, click [here](#). If you have any questions, contact [Leslie Doyle](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[In Case You Missed It: Louisiana Early Childhood Leaders win \\$10,000 at Zaentz Early Education Innovation Challenge at Harvard Graduate School of Education](#) (*Louisiana Believes* , June 12, 2018)

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