



July 5, 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,

Over the past three years, child care teachers in Type III centers have been working hard to earn the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate in advance of the July 2019 lead teacher requirement. More than 4,500 individuals have already earned their certificate through a qualifying credential. These certificates signal an investment in the skills and knowledge needed to support children to be ready for kindergarten and beyond.

This July marks another milestone towards Louisiana's goal of providing high-quality training and preparation to all child care teachers. It is now the expectation that teachers who are completing training for a CDA (awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition) or a technical diploma attend a [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program](#).

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs are high-quality teacher preparation programs that prepare child care teachers to earn their CDA or technical diploma. Child care teachers in publicly-funded child care centers are able to access [Louisiana Pathways Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Scholarships](#) to support the cost of tuition.

Louisiana now has 21 approved programs across the state and will continue to expand options for child care teachers throughout the year.

As of July 1, 2018, teachers that have recently started training for a CDA (have less than 36 hours completed) must attend a [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program](#). Also as of July 1, 2018, teachers that are starting a technical diploma must attend a [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program](#). Please read the article below, "Earning the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate: Attending Approved Programs," or [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#) for further details. Questions related to the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate should be submitted through [Teach LA Live](#).

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 Webinar/Conference Call (*lead agencies only*) - July 10 at 3:00 p.m.
  - [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate - Updates for Summer 2018](#) - July 13 at 12:00 p.m.
- 

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

## EARNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE: ATTENDING APPROVED PROGRAMS

As of July 1, 2018 the following credentials and training providers can be used to earn the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#) :

Qualifying Credential	Requirements for Completing Qualifying Credential
1. CDA	Training for CDA credential (120 hours) must be completed at a <a href="#">BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program</a> . *Exception: Individuals who had completed more than 36 hours of CDA training prior to July 1, 2018, may complete their training at any location or program.
2. Technical diploma in early childhood	Coursework must be completed at a <a href="#">BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program</a> . *Exception: Individuals who began coursework prior to July 1, 2018, may complete their course of study.
3. Associate's degree in early childhood	Degree must be completed at a regionally accredited college or university.
4. Bachelor's degree or higher	Degree must be completed at a regionally accredited college or university.

A list of [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs](#) has been posted. An [approved program waiver](#) is available for teachers who cannot access a BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program due to geographical availability.

## WEBINAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE

The Department will host a webinar discussing the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate on Friday, July 13. This webinar will provide additional details regarding the credentials and training providers that qualify for the certificate. The webinar will be recorded and shared in future versions of the [Early Childhood Connection Newsletter](#).

**Meeting Name:** Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate - Updates for Summer 2018

**Date and Time:** Friday, July 13, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

**Join the meeting:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/252810899>

## 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 (Every Student Succeeds Act) plan for school redesign.

The Department estimates it will award 40-48 subgrants to LEAs to pilot grade K-2 performance tools in the 2018-2019 school year. A brief [application](#) is now available. Additionally, interested LEAs are invited to watch our [webinar](#) or contact [Jill Slack](#) for more information.

## GOLD® 2018-2019 TRANSITION BACK TO ONE LICENSE

On July 1, 2018, the Abbreviated Pilot licenses (AB1 and AB2) shut down and all users will return to using the original 'Comprehensive' license.

- For more information about the transition to one license, review the [2018-2019 GOLD® Guidance](#) or watch the [2018-2019: Next Steps for Early Childhood GOLD® Users](#) webinar.

- If users have forgotten login credentials for the original license, they should use the 'Forgot Password' or 'Forgot Username' options on GOLD®'s website to have their password reset.
- Beginning July 1st, the Department has set up sites and administration accounts for all new sites that were never in the original license. Administrators for those sites should anticipate receiving an email with instructions to set up their account.
- If you have any questions about using GOLD® in 2018-2019, contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

### EARLY CHILDHOOD: ALTERNATE BIRTH TO FIVE ASSESSMENT WAIVER FOR 2018-2019

Programs proposing to use an assessment in place of GOLD® must complete and submit a [waiver](#) application by Friday, July 21, 2018, to [Ivy Starns](#). The assessment must include domains in GOLD®: Social-Emotional, Physical, Language/Literacy, Cognitive (Approaches to Learning), Math, Science/Technology, Social Studies, and Arts. Programs with approved waivers will be expected to provide results on the [LDE template](#) at the standard checkpoint periods in October, February, and May.

Programs using the assessments embedded in a Tier I or Tier II curriculum **DO NOT** need to submit an assessment waiver application and should continue to use the GOLD® system. Documentation from curriculum assessments should be uploaded into children's portfolios created in the GOLD® system.

NOTE: Waivers are granted for a period of **one year**, and programs must reapply for subsequent years.

---

## FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

### CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2018

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 passed by Congress included additional discretionary funding for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) grant for all states. This means that Louisiana will receive a one-time allotment of an additional \$39 million in CCDF funds. At least \$27 million of these funds will help serve children on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) waiting list. Louisiana must use a certain percentage of the amount on other priorities in early childhood quality and education.

The Louisiana Department of Education would like your input on prioritizing the use of these funds. Please complete this [survey](#) to provide recommendations to the Department. In addition, we encourage you to forward this survey to other stakeholders who may be interested in providing input.

The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, July 13, 2018, at 11:45 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact the Department at 1-877-453-2721 or [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto: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](#).

### EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE POSTCARD - SRTC

Individuals with Early Childhood Ancillary Certificates may qualify for School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC). To qualify for the SRTC, individuals must work in the same participating Type III child care centers for a minimum of 6 months for an average of 30 hours a week.

Individuals currently holding an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate should receive a postcard notification of the SRTC in early July.

The SRTC qualifying levels are managed by Louisiana Pathways ([pathways.nsula.edu](http://pathways.nsula.edu)). To potentially qualify for the SRTC, the Department needs to share information about current EC Ancillary Certificate holders with Louisiana Pathways. The Department will securely share contact information, qualifying credential, and social security number of current Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate holders with Louisiana Pathways. Louisiana Pathways will contact individuals with information about the SRTC.

If EC Ancillary Certificate holders do **NOT** want their information to be shared and do not wish to participate in this tax

credit opportunity, please send a written notice of this, including your name and certificate number to [certification@la.gov](mailto:certification@la.gov) . All notices must be emailed by **July 31, 2018**.

---

## 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.

### BULLETIN 137 UPCOMING REVISIONS

BESE recently approved revisions to [Bulletin 137](#), Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, and the tracked changes can be found [here](#). The Louisiana Department of Education will notify all licensed centers when the proposed changes are anticipated to be effective and will conduct provider training prior to the effective date. Also, there was an emergency rule change to Bulletin 137 concerning crimes of fraud for owners, directors, and director designees in relation to Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBC). This change will become effective on July 20, 2018 and can be found [here](#).

### CRITICAL INCIDENT REPORTS

According to [Bulletin 137](#), §1103, Critical Incidents and Required Notifications, providers must notify Licensing of all critical incidents on the [Critical/Reportable Incident form](#) . This form must include an accurate and detailed description of the incident. This form is located on the website in the [Licensed Centers Library](#) as well as under the Hot Topics section on the [Child Care Facility Licensing Information page](#). If additional space is required to provide accurate and detailed information, please use an additional sheet of paper and send to [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov) .

### 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 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. *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. A minimum of two staff members must be present when children are engaged in water activities. See §1711-L.1.-3. [Bulletin 137](#).

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. See §1913. Water Activities. [Bulletin 137](#)

### WEBINAR SLIDES: IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR SEARCHING THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY (SCR) FOR CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (CCCBC)

On June 20, 2018, a webinar was given to provide updates on how the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) fee for the State Central Registry will be collected as a mandatory component of the CCCBC. The webinar slides can be viewed [here](#). Please keep in mind, the searches of the [State Central Registry](#) have started as of **July 1, 2018**.

For more information about Child Care Criminal Background Checks, visit the [website](#) or email [Valerie Black](mailto:Valerie.Black) .

---

## LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

### WEEKLY WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team holds A 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 to the new Zoom webinar account has been sent to all lead agency contacts. Contact [kaye.eichler@la.gov](mailto:kaye.eichler@la.gov) if you have questions.

## Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- July 10

### BUDGET DEADLINES FOR LEAD AGENCIES

July 15 - Last day to submit lead agency claims for 2017-2018 expenditures and 6/30 PERs are due

---

## 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

[Early Childhood Training Holds Graduation](#) (KATC.com, June 23, 2018)

---

## 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](#)