



August 17, 2017



IN THIS ISSUE:

[Superintendent's Message](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Funding and Enrollment](#)

[Child Safety and Welfare](#)

[Other](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

This month schools and centers are opening their doors to children across the state. The start of the school year always marks an exciting time for early childhood. And, each year, we are called to greater ambitions for our youngest learners. We believe that every child can learn and every child deserves to enter kindergarten ready. As a result, the essential work my team and I will be focused on will not change. We will support you in unifying early childhood systems, implementing top-tier curriculum, preparing future teachers and improving enrollment to make it easier for families to choose the best option for their children.

Some particular, new initiatives are worth highlighting as we start the year.

- The Department will roll out the first real Performance Profiles for all publicly-funded programs through an interactive new website;
- More funding will be made available to reimburse child care centers that purchase and implement high quality curriculum;
- Additional Believe and Prepare programs will launch this winter, thus increasing the number of teachers who can earn their Early Childhood Ancillary Certificates
- A new vendor will be selected to provide an online Ancillary Certificate preparation program option to every community in Louisiana, enabling all child care teachers to earn their Ancillary Certificates, regardless of where they are located;
- New resources for the field to help connect early childhood with early elementary so that communities ensure that children not only enter kindergarten ready but reach third grade on level; and
- The roll-out of new criminal background checks for all licensed centers starting in March 2018, helping ensure that we always keep our youngest learners safe. For more information about these new criminal background checks, please attend a webinar or in-person meeting. Details are included below.

Each year the Department also produces a back to school guide that includes a set of key resources for teachers, principals, child care and Head Start site leaders and school system leaders. Click [here](#) for this resource.

The start of the school year is among the most exciting times of the year. All possibilities lie ahead. I look forward to more extraordinary things from Louisiana's children and from the educators who teach them so capably.

And as always, thank you for all you do for our children.

John

John White

TEACHING AND LEARNING

USING CLASS™ FOR COMPASS IN 2017-2018

Local Education Agencies and Charter Organizations are encouraged to use CLASS™ as the rubric for evaluating professional practice of public school pre-K teachers in all or some of their schools. For more information please see the [Compass Choices for Early Childhood Networks 2017-2018](#). LEAs that choose to use CLASS™ as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for public school pre-K teachers for 2017-2018 must complete the waiver and return to Compass@la.gov by September 30, 2017.

2017-2018 CURRICULUM INITIATIVE

In 2016-2017 child care centers were able to choose instructional materials that best meet the needs of the children and families they serve. The Department supported programs in identifying curricula appropriate for children age birth to five that are grounded in helping teachers provide quality interactions and instruction by rating and reviewing [early childhood curriculum](#).

Through the first [Child Care Curriculum Initiative](#) grant, child care centers were eligible to receive reimbursement for a portion of the costs of a Tier I curriculum. Over 200 child care centers have benefited from this grant. The Department is committed to supporting teachers in the classroom by continuing this initiative for Type III child care centers for the 2017-2018 school year. Centers that purchased curricula last school year will be allowed to purchase up to two additional curriculum kits this year. Centers are encouraged to consult with their local [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency](#) before purchasing curricula.

For more information, child care centers should reach out to their Resource and Referral Agency or to [Mary Jo Smith](#).

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

2017 COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

This August, the Department is conducting the fourth annual Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment. All communities are required to convene to discuss the level of coordination in their process during 2016-2017 to enroll children for the 2017-2018 school year, and submit one unified survey as a response. Program partners should work with their lead agencies to complete the Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment by **September 15**.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

UNDERSTAND HOW TO IDENTIFY HOMELESS CHILDREN

According to recent data, children and youth in homeless situations are often very young. In fact, over 40 percent of children living in homeless shelters are under the age of five. In an effort to assist providers in identifying and serving children experiencing homelessness and their families, please review the recently published [homeless flyer](#). Also, click [here](#) for a list of homeless liaisons in your area who can assist with transportation and homeless resources.

THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK WAIVER

On August 3, 2017, the Department approved a criminal background check (CBC) waiver requested by the Child Care Association of Louisiana (CCAL). The waiver terminates on September 30, 2017. This waiver allows some relief on the CBC requirements due to unexpected delays. The waiver includes several stringent requirements in order to maintain the safety and health of children. This waiver applies to anyone who has recently submitted a fingerprint-based CBC request and has not received a response. [Click here](#) for more information.

For questions regarding this waiver, call Andrea Burl at 225-342-9905 or email [LDElicensing](#).

CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK WEBINAR AND ROADSHOW DATES

All Early Learning Centers are invited to attend the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) webinar on **Wednesday, September 6** at 11:30 a.m. Please use the following information to join the webinar:

Meeting Name: Important Changes to the Child Care Criminal Background Check Requirements

To join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>

Audio Access: Toll access number (Toll): 1-646-307-138, Toll free access number (Toll Free): 1-855-240-2575

This webinar will provide information regarding the launch of the new CCCBCs. The webinar will review changes in the background check requirements in Bulletin 137 and Bulletin 139 and how the Department will implement the changes. The webinar will describe what a new Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) will consist of and the timeline for providers and their staff to obtain a new CCCBC.

In addition, the Department has scheduled a series of roadshow dates that will address the launch of the new Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC). These changes will go into effect **March 1, 2018**.

CCCBC Roadshow Schedule		
Baton Rouge	Monday, September 11 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Louisiana Department of Education Claiborne Building Louisiana Purchase Room 1201 N. 3 rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Shreveport	Wednesday, September 13 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	NSU Child & Family Network 1800 Warrington Place Shreveport, LA 71101
Monroe	Thursday, September 14 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana 1363 Louisville Ave. Monroe, LA 71203
Lafayette	Monday, September 18 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Clifton Chenier Center 220 W. Willow St. Lafayette, LA 70501
Alexandria	Tuesday, September 19 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Zion Hill 312 Hunter St. Pineville, LA 71360
New Orleans	Monday, October 2 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Parkview Baptist Church 6301 Camphor St. Metairie, LA 70003
New Orleans	Thursday, October 5 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Educare 3801 St. Bernard Ave. New Orleans, LA 70122
Baton Rouge	Friday, October 6 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Louisiana Department of Education Claiborne Building Louisiana Purchase Room 1201 N. 3 rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

Prior to a change in ownership, the new owner must submit a new application and fee in CAFÉ to obtain a new license. When a change of ownership takes place prior to receiving approval from the Division of Licensing, the current license becomes null and void.

The following constitutes a change of ownership:

1. Change in federal tax ID number;
2. Change in state tax ID number;
3. Change in profit status;
4. Any transfer of partial or full ownership of the center from an individual or juridical entity to any other individual or juridical entity;
5. Termination of child care services by one owner and beginning of services by a different owner without a break in services to children.

If you have questions, please contact your consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail [LDE Licensing](#).

IT TAKES A TEAM TO COMBAT THE SUMMER HEAT: THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS JOINING FORCES WITH LOCAL, STATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO KEEP LOUISIANA KIDS' SAFE

In just **10 minutes**, the temperature in a vehicle can heat up by 20 °F. Children left in parked vehicles have died of **heatstroke** in shaded areas in 80°F or less. A few minutes in a hot car can be fatal for children because their bodies' heat up 3 to 5 times faster than adults' bodies. Leaving children alone in a vehicle is against the law in [Louisiana](#).

Heat illnesses are preventable. Working as a team, we can keep the children in our care as well as those in our community safe. If you

see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call 911 right away.

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL- APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RELEASED

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and Louisiana Department of Education are seeking applications for membership on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council. The ECCE Advisory Council is comprised of representatives and stakeholders within the field of early childhood care and education, as described in the Early Learning Center Licensing Act (Act 868 of the 2014 Legislative Season).

The ECCE Advisory Council provides input and guidance on matters related to publicly-funded early child care and education programs. All voting members are appointed by the authority identified in the Early Learning Center Licensing Act.

An application has been released for all positions that are selected by BESE or the State Superintendent of Education.

The application and more information about position requirements can be found [here](#). Applications are due by **September 1**.

Final selections for the ECCE Advisory Council will be made public at the October 18 BESE meeting. The selected members for the ECCE Advisory Council are expected to meet for the first time in 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](#)