

August 29, 2019



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana's early learning centers play a critical role in our education system and are often operating with tight budgets. Funding discussions during the last legislative session underscored the importance of prioritizing investments in early education. We will continue to push for increased state funding to build greater access to quality care, as the [Early Childhood Care and Education Commission](#) begins its second year. Please consider participating in these discussions.

While these advocacy efforts resume, the Department is committed to building efficiencies that save centers time and money in any way we can. At this year's [Teacher Leader Summit](#), we launched a [Saving Money Through State Contracts](#) page that guides directors to utilize state contracts to save money. Type I, II, and III centers are eligible to access savings on everyday purchases and equipment in the same way that Louisiana's state agencies and school systems do. You can learn more about this opportunity by visiting the website, attending a webinar (linked below in the Directors Corner), or looking for a training near you this fall. If you are already using this system and saving money, please [share your story](#) with us. If you have any questions, please direct them to [emmy.odwyer@la.gov](mailto:emmy.odwyer@la.gov).

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

- Saving Money Through State Contracts [Webinar](#)- September 12
- Early Childhood Care and Education [Advisory Council](#)- September 18
- Early Childhood Care and Education [Commission](#)- September 19
- New Directors [Webinar](#)-September 25

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Submit updated list of lead teachers to [idechildcarecbc@la.gov](mailto:idechildcarecbc@la.gov) - September 1

## MORE IMPORTANT DATES

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

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

## CLASS® RESOURCES

<a href="#">CLASS® Observation System User Guide</a>	Provides <a href="#">detailed information</a> for setting up the <a href="#">CLASS® Portal</a> , scheduling observations, and entering observation data.
<a href="#">CLASS® Observation System</a> training	Webinar links for on-demand, self-paced trainings for <a href="#">Observers</a> , <a href="#">Site Coordinators</a> , and <a href="#">Lead Agencies</a> designed by the Department's Early Childhood Team.
<a href="#">CLASS® Appeal Form</a>	Download and use to appeal local scores, third-party scores, or a replacement score where a local observation was not conducted. Use these <a href="#">guidelines</a> to assist you in determining if an observation should be appealed.
<a href="#">CLASS® Portal Error Correction Form</a>	Download this form and use throughout the year to correct errors in the <a href="#">CLASS® Observation System</a> . Submit to <a href="mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov">earlychildhood@la.gov</a> .
<a href="#">CLASS®/Compass Guidance</a>	Information for districts about the choice to use <a href="#">CLASS®</a> as an option to evaluate professional practice.
<a href="#">CLASS® Third-Party Observation Guide</a>	Information about the third-party observation process used to audit local <a href="#">CLASS®</a> observation systems. Also contains guidance for local protocols.
<a href="#">Performance Rating Calculator</a>	The calculator is updated with the option to include infant scores. The <a href="#">CLASS® Portal</a> also now includes a " <a href="#">CLASS® Calculator Roster</a> " report to use with the calculator. Details can be found in this webinar.

## 2019-2020 LOUISIANA PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP

The Department announced the 2019 Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Tash Jolivet-Jones, of Iberia Parish, has been awarded the Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship for the 2019-2020 school year. Jolivet-Jones will spend the next year focusing on how schools and teachers can foster better early learning through play. "I hope to establish a framework for child-centered learning that supports rigorous standards in kindergarten without sacrificing developmentally appropriate practice," she continued. "My goal is to create a model, establish a system of support, and then promote play throughout my school district."

Launched in 2018, the Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship allows one educator, selected from the previous year's list of Louisiana Teacher of the Year finalists following a competitive application process, to spend a school year advocating for an education initiative of their choosing. The fellowship is supported by a \$50,000 stipend of state funding that is paid directly to the recipient's school system.

## MINI GRANTS FOR THE HEAD START COMMUNITY

Owens Burton Consulting is awarding three (3) \$500 Mini Grants to members of the Head Start Community in celebration of the publishing of the book, *What Color Is Your Imagination?*:

- One (1) for a Head Start Program,
- One (1) for a Head Start Staff Member, and
- One (1) for a Head Start Parent.

The deadline for applications will coincide with the release date of the book, on September 10, and the awardees will be announced and awarded in November. More information, including criteria guidelines and the application, can be found on the Owens Burton Consulting website.

## SAVE THE DATE: 2020 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Save the date for the 2020 Summit, which will take place May 27-29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

The 2019 Teacher Leader Summit was our largest and most successful event to date. It is so inspiring to see so many talented, dedicated educators from across the state come together to share innovative ideas and time-tested best practices in the name of improving outcomes for our children. A special thank you to the many early childhood leaders who led sessions at the Summit. You can find the 2019 Summit session materials in the Summit app and the [Teacher Leader library](#).

## BACK TO SCHOOL WITH GOLD®

[GOLD®](#) has developed a set of resources designed to help new and returning teachers successfully kick off their school years. The [GOLD® Getting Started Checklists](#) are designed to provide all teachers with tactical first steps that will help them feel confident at this important time of year.

- [The Getting Started Checklist for New GOLD® Administrators](#)
- [The Getting Started Checklist for Returning GOLD® Administrators](#)
- [The Getting Started Checklist for New GOLD® Teachers](#)
- [The Getting Started Checklist for Returning GOLD® Teachers](#)

For technical support, please explore the [GOLD® Support Portal](#), [submit a case](#) to the GOLD® technical services team, or call the Louisiana support line at 866-248-2575.

To learn more about how GOLD® is used in Louisiana, read the [Louisiana GOLD® Guidance](#) document.

### UPDATING GOLD® IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Each year, child records should be updated in GOLD®:

- \* [Create new records](#) for children who are new to your program.
- \* Depending on your preference, [archive](#) or [delete](#) records for children who are not returning to your program.
- \* [Transfer records](#) for children who are moving to different classes.

## CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

### OPERATIONS

We have seen an increase in deficiencies for centers operating outside of the services designated on their license. An early learning center shall operate within the licensed capacity, age range, hours of operation and other services designated on its license. For example, if your center's capacity is 26, at no time shall more than 26 children be present. If your center's age range is from 3-5 years of age at no time shall a child who is 2.5 years of age be present in the center. A request should be made in CAFÉ to add or remove services and approval received from the Department prior to implementing the changes. [Bulletin 137](#) §1501.A.

### VEHICLE CHECKS

Hot weather is here and the temperatures inside vehicles can rise quickly! It is imperative that children are not left in hot vehicles for any length of time!

Licensed early learning centers that provide transportation shall:

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

NOTE: A visual inspection is required for vehicles used to transport children if the vehicle is provided by the center, a contractual arrangement, or parent provided.

If a child is left on the center's vehicle for any amount of time, it is a critical reportable incident! The parent, the Department and Child Welfare must be notified immediately of the incident. [Review](#) the regulations to learn more.

If you have questions, please contact your Licensing Consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov)

## DIRECTOR SUPPORT

### SAVING MONEY THROUGH STATE CONTRACTS

Did you save money on state contracts? [Share your story](#) with us!

**Fuel Savings:** The Department has developed a [Guiding document on discounted fuel](#) for applying for the fuel credit card used with state contracts. The document describes how public, private, and non-profit organizations might access discounts if they are eligible for the card.

**Missed learning about Saving Money Through State Contracts?** Check out the [website](#) or join the next webinar. Participants will learn how early learning centers of all types can **save money** on purchasing everything from milk to gas and school buses.

**Webinar Date and Time:** September 12 at 12:00 p.m.

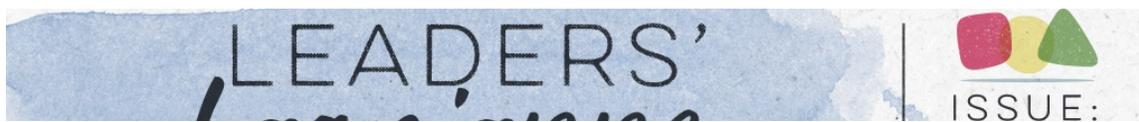
**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/974596163>

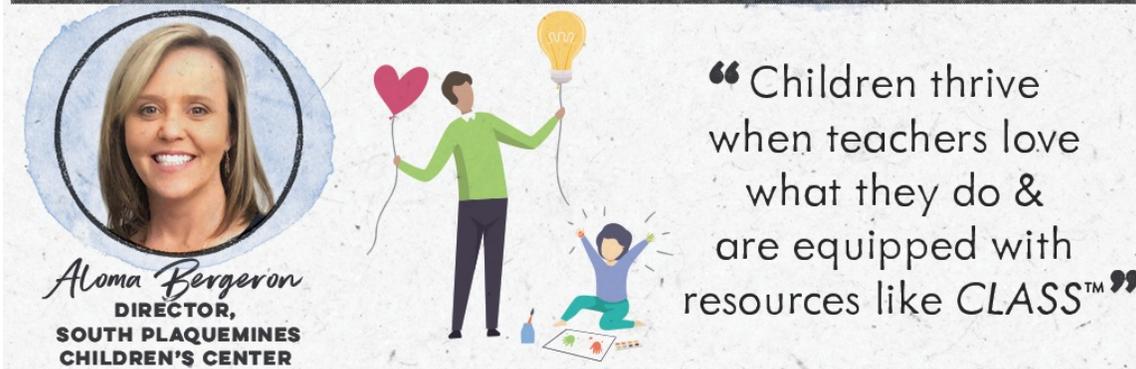
**Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923

**Meeting ID#:** 974 596 163

### LEADERS' LAGNIAPPE

This month, learn about [Aloma Bergeron](#) from South Plaquemines Children's Center, an Excellent center. She attributes much of the success of their program to fully utilizing GOLD® and has tips for directors to incorporate the tool.





*Aloma Bergeron*  
DIRECTOR,  
SOUTH PLAQUEMINES  
CHILDREN'S CENTER

“Children thrive when teachers love what they do & are equipped with resources like CLASS™”

### 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:** September 25 at 1:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/405067659>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923

**Meeting ID:** 405 067 659

The presentation is now available to [review](#).

Please contact [emmy.odwyer@la.gov](mailto:emmy.odwyer@la.gov) with any questions.

## LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

### EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS

During 2019-2020, the Department is holding collaboration meetings exclusively for early childhood stakeholders. These meetings will occur in September, November, and February. We are inviting lead agencies, Head Start directors, Resource and Referral agencies, and Early Childhood Ancillary Certification programs. Ideally, you should attend the meeting closest to you so that you are interacting with stakeholders in your community and region. The dates and locations for the September meetings are below. **All meetings will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon.**

September 9	Vermilion Conference Center 326 Gauthier Rd, Lafayette, LA 70501
September 11	Bossier Instructional Center 2719 Airline Dr, Bossier City, LA 71111
September 12	Jefferson Parish School Board Office 501 Manhattan Blvd, Harvey, LA
September 13	Claiborne Conference Center 1201 N 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

### 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 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) with questions.

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

- September 3
- September 10 - No webinar scheduled

- September 10 - NO webinar scheduled.
- September 17

## BI-WEEKLY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL FOR READY START NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

Every other Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Ready Start Network Lead Agencies convene to discuss their progress and solve problems. If you are a lead agency contact and interested in "listening in" to learn more about what Ready Start Networks are doing, please email [kaye.eichler@la.gov](mailto:kaye.eichler@la.gov) to receive the information to connect to the webinar.

## COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

On July 29, the Department released the [Revised Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment](#). All community networks will be required to complete and [submit answers](#) by September 3. A [recorded webinar](#) was hosted on July 31 to share the new revisions and provide lead agencies with an opportunity to ask questions. If you are a lead agency contact and interested in accessing the webinar, email [amanda.colon@la.gov](mailto:amanda.colon@la.gov) for more information.

## OTHER

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND COMMISSION - SEPTEMBER 19

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will take place on September 19, at 12:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. An overview of the ECCE Commission and 2019 meeting dates are now [available](#), as well as a recording of the [August 20 Commission meeting](#). For additional information, please email [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov).

*NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov) at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.*

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Early education pilot programs coming to Northeast Louisiana](#) (KNOE)

[Roundup: BESE pilot programs](#) (Greater Baton Rouge Business Report)

[Early childhood education focus of pilot program](#) (American Press)

[Louisiana Department of Education improving early childhood education](#) (KNOE)

[Children's Coalition of Northeast Louisiana gets \\$200K for Ready Start Network](#) (News Star)

[Three pilot programs coming to Calcasieu, Jeff Davis Parish School Systems](#) (KPLC)

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