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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

With [Act 3](#) of 2012 as a guidepost, Louisiana has worked to unify publicly-funded early childhood care and education to increase access to, and improve the quality of child care, Head Start, and preschool programs. This work has led to innovative community networks that operate under a unified system of standards. Yet, even with significant progress, many families still need access to quality care and education options. The work is difficult, but we know our communities can thrive when they are positioned to meet the care and education needs of families and their young children.

Currently, the responsibilities of community network lead agencies are primarily administrative. However, [Act 639](#) of 2018 creates a set of pilots through which locals will lead, not just support, the improvement of quality and outcomes for their communities. **Later this week, the Department will release a Request for Applications (RFA) asking community networks that are ready to be part of a ground-breaking pilot to step forward so that the Department can support them to drive improvement by (a) locally allocating seats and (b) providing development through coordinated local governance.**

The success of these pilots will lead their communities to increase the percentage of at-risk children served, birth to five, and to improve quality across early learning classrooms. The work will inform future policy. An information webinar will be scheduled and linked in the RFA.

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*) - September 4 and 11 at 3:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Care and Education Commission - September 6 at 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council - September 12 at 1:00 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 BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program . *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 BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program . *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.

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

The Department hosted a webinar discussing the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate on Friday, July 13. This webinar provided additional details regarding credentials and training for providers qualifying for the certificate. You are invited to watch our [webinar](#) or contact [Erin Carroll](#) for additional information.

NEW TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR GUIDES FOR GOLD® 2018-2019

On July 1, 2018, the Abbreviated Pilot licenses (AB1 and AB2) shut down, and all users returned to using the original 'Comprehensive' license of TS GOLD for the 2018-2019 school year.

- For general 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.
- [TeachingStrategies®](#) released new step-by-step guidance for teachers and administrators. These guides will be especially helpful if a site chooses to complete a checkpoint using more or less than the 70% default license.
- [GOLD® Administrator Guide](#)
- [GOLD® Teacher Guide](#)

If you have any questions about using GOLD in 2018-2019, contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

USING CLASS FOR COMPASS IN 2018-2019

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 visit the [Compass Choices for Early Childhood Networks 2018-2019](#). LEAs that choose to use CLASS™ as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for public school pre-K teachers for 2018-2019 must complete the waiver and the [Compass Choices for Early Childhood Networks 2018-2019](#).

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

CCAP WAITING LIST REMOVAL OVERVIEW

The Louisiana Department of Education started the process of removing and serving 4,500 children from the waiting list for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which provides financial assistance to low-income families who are working or attending school. Families eligible to be removed from the list will start receiving digital and mailed Waiting List Verification Forms, and the first previously waitlisted family will be able to access child care CCAP funding in the week following Labor Day. This Waiting List Verification Form is tailored to that family and is not transferable.

The Department [established a waiting list for eligible families](#) who apply to CCAP on July 1, 2017, as the result of overwhelming demand from working parents and a shortage of funding. The waiting list currently comprises 17,000 children, and that number continues to grow. A link to the number of children coming off the waiting list by parish can be found [here](#).

Please see this [link](#) to view a presentation for providers, lead agencies, resource and referral agencies, etc. concerning the CCAP waiting list, how processing will occur for families, and timelines for all involved. A video of the webinar is available [here](#) and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet is available [here](#). For additional questions, please contact the Department by phone at 1-877-453-2721 or by email at LDECCAP@la.gov.

CCAP APPLICATION SMART DEVICE FUNCTION

The Louisiana Department of Education has been working to improve the Child Care Assistance Program application process. The Department partnered up with several providers across the state to test implementation of the "Smart Device Upload Feature" within [CAFE](#). This feature allows applicants to upload verification documents with their application using a smart device such as a tablet, mobile phone, etc. Applicants may now utilize this Smart Device Upload Feature to ensure a more streamlined application submission process.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

PROVISIONALLY EMPLOYED STAFF

Each center shall develop and implement a written policy describing the monitoring procedures that shall be used at the center when staff members are employed on a provisional basis due to an incomplete CCCBC-based determination of eligibility for child care purposes. The monitoring policy shall include all requirements for the monitoring of provisionally employed staff members set forth in §1811.D. The center shall post a copy of the policy in a place visible to all parents and staff. The center shall provide copies of the written policy to each parent/legal custodian of enrolled children, center staff member and provisionally employed staff member, and the center shall obtain signed documentation from each that a copy of the policy has been received. §1509-A.12. [Bulletin 137](#)

The center shall have a log or other written documentation of the monitoring of provisionally employed staff members that identifies each provisionally employed staff member, the designated monitor for each, and the times of visual observations. §1811-D.3. [Bulletin 137](#)

CCCBC ROSTERS

Providers should regularly check their CCCBC Roster to ensure all staff members are eligible. When Licensing Specialists request to review a center's records for CCCBC-based determination of eligibility, providers will be required to pull up their CCCBC Roster. Also effective July 1, 2018, DCFS began to respond to requests sent from the Department to search the Louisiana state central registry of child abuse and neglect. This recent search may cause a provider whose status was once ELIGIBLE to change to INELIGIBLE. As a reminder, a status of "In Progress" does **not** constitute as a determination of eligibility. [Bulletin 137](#)

IMPORTANT: ALL STAFF MUST SUBMIT A CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

The deadline for existing staff to apply for the CCCBC is September 30th. Send staff as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delays. There will be an additional \$25 fee for searching the State Central Registry (SCR) for criminal background checks for applications submitted after September 30, 2018.

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

DIRECTOR SUPPORT

DIRECTORS' CORNER

Many of our child care centers are in full-swing year-round. However, the "back-to-school" season often marks a time when children may join a new center, move to new classrooms, and/or begin new units of study. While this transition year creates many new administrative tasks, directors who are instructional leaders are clear about why it all matters...building a strong foundation in learning that lasts a lifetime.

At the Teacher Leader Summit, some of our state's many quality providers shared their approaches to instructional leadership. Were you in the audience? Directors who are instructional leaders of their programs have a wealth of knowledge of curriculum and assessment through quality interactions with children in the classroom. These leaders coach teachers to support continuous growth in their teaching practice. Their leadership creates a culture of collaboration, teamwork and learning, where each and every child can meet his or her fullest potential.

How do you lead your program with a focus on outcomes for children? Share your strategies and a picture of your program with [Emmy O'Dwyer](#), to possibly include in a future "Directors' Corner."

REMINDER EARLY CHILDHOOD SITE LEADER SURVEY

Early Childhood Site Leaders: RAND Corporation needs your help! RAND ("Research AND Development") is a nonprofit organization offering research to understand how Louisiana's education policies affect people like you, and how you can help. RAND is currently conducting a survey with early childhood teachers and children every day. Please take 15-20 minutes out of your day to complete RAND's Early Childhood Site Leader Survey. After you complete the survey, RAND will send you an electronic link to a survey completion certificate and an Amazon gift card as a thank you for your time. If you would be willing to take the survey, please click on this [link](#). Your valuable input will help RAND provide a well-rounded picture of how the state is supporting early childhood education. Make your voice heard!

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

WEEKLY WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL 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 4:00 p.m.** The Early Childhood Team will provide support 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](#) if you have questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- September 4
- September 11

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Louisiana has worked to establish a foundation of fundamental quality standards in early childhood care and education. To address the challenges of access and quality, the Department will release a Request for Application (RFA) this week seeking community networks ready to lead the state with bold ideas. An informational webinar will be scheduled and linked in the RFA. Please contact [Kaye Eichler](mailto:Kaye.Eichler@la.gov) with any questions or for more information.

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMISSION - MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 6

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, established through [Act 639](#) of the 2018 Legislative Session, has been charged with creating a vision and framework for the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, September 6, 2018, at 12:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. You will be able to view a live stream of the meeting [here](#). A schedule of 2018 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission meeting dates and a list of commission members can be found [here](#). For additional information, please email earlychildhood@la.gov.

ECCE ADVISORY COUNCIL - MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 12

Louisiana's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council was created through Act 868 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session to inform policies related to the unification launched by Act 3 of the 2012 legislative session, which established unified expectations for child care, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten programs.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. You will be able to view a live stream of the meeting [here](#). A schedule of the 2018 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission meeting dates and a list of advisory council members can be found [here](#). For additional information, please email earlychildhood@la.gov.

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LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)
State Superintendent of Education
(toll-free) 877.453.2721
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

[LDOE Link](#)
[LDOE Webs](#)
[Contact](#)