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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

The rain continues to fall over our state today. Please be safe, and please ensure the same for the children and employees in your care. Please also pray for the people of coastal Texas, who are experiencing the all too familiar horrors of flooding. Scenes from Houston and elsewhere on the Gulf Coast recall those of the Red River and August floods of last year, and of course of hurricanes from years past. Like many Louisianans' lives, theirs will be uprooted for a time, in a period of great loss and long recovery.

Our staff will continue to be in contact with all affected community networks and sites. We will also continue to support shelters to aid young children in distress and to explore how to help families access early childhood programs. If there is anything we can do to assist in managing the circumstances, please let us know.

While it is unlikely that the storms will result in movement of families and children from parish to parish in the magnitude seen after past events, it is likely that a significant number of children will be coming to our programs from out of state. This has begun to occur already in communities across Louisiana. It goes without saying, but please work closely with families to find options, especially our most vulnerable families. If there are any questions about eligibility or funding, please contact us at early.childhood@la.gov.

I thank you in advance for ensuring our communities are ready to serve in this critical way at this time.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

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- Child Care Criminal Background Check Webinar- *all programs*: September 6 at 11:30 a.m.
- Lead Agency Office Hours- (*lead agencies only*): September 6 at 3:00 p.m.
- Child Care Criminal Background Check Roadshow Kickoff- *all programs*: September 11 at 1:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- **By September 1:** ECCE Advisory Council Application due.
- **By September 15:** Lead Agencies will submit Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment.
- **By September 30:** Deadline for school systems to submit CLASS™ for Compass rubric waiver and return to Compass@la.gov.

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**.

For questions regarding the assessment, please contact [Nasha Patel](#).

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

REMINDER ABOUT IMMUNIZATIONS

Please be reminded that state law (R.S. 17:170) indicates that children entering licensed early learning centers for the first time (at the time of registration or entry), must show proof of immunizations according to the schedule set forth by the Louisiana Department of Health. However, it is important to note that the parent or guardian is allowed to present a written statement from a physician stating that immunizations is contraindicated for medical reasons or present a personal immunization dissent in lieu of having the immunizations.

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

PHYSICAL/CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Physical or corporal punishment is prohibited in all early learning centers. This includes but is not limited to yelling, slapping, hitting, spanking, yanking, shaking, pinching, exposure to extreme temperatures or other measures producing physical pain, putting anything in

the mouth of a child, requiring a child to exercise, or placing a child in an uncomfortable position. This includes children of early learning center employees while on the premise of that center.

SUPERVISION

Children shall be supervised at **all** times while in care of an early learning center. **At no time should a child be left unsupervised.** This includes when children are exiting the center, on the playground, on field trips, on non-vehicular excursions and during all water activities and water play activities.

CRITICAL INCIDENT REPORTING

Immediately following a critical incident, parents of the child(ren) involved in the incident, Division of Licensing, and other appropriate agencies shall be contacted. The Division of Licensing shall be notified of the critical incident by written report within 24 hours or the next business day on Licensing's critical incident form. When in doubt, **report**. This [Critical/Reportable Incident Form](#) can be submitted online for your convenience.

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

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

OFFICE HOURS FOR LEAD AGENCIES TO RESUME

The Early Childhood Team will resume weekly conference call question and answer sessions for lead agencies beginning **September 5**. The calls will be scheduled for Tuesdays from 3:00 P.M.-4:00 p.m. and all lead agency staff are invited to join. The Early Childhood team will provide updates and reminders. Additional topics covered will be determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information will be sent to all lead agency contacts.

Upcoming Schedule for Office Hours

- September 5
- September 12 - no call due to Supervisor Collaboration events
- September 19
- September 26

OTHER

MARKET RATE SURVEY

Child care providers will soon be receiving information regarding the Market Rate Survey. This survey is required to be done every three years before the new CCDF state plan is due. The survey provides information that is used to determine CCAP reimbursement rates.

The Department has contracted with LSU to conduct the survey and to provide a report. All survey responses will be received by LSU and are completely confidential. Shortly after Labor Day, providers will receive a postcard introducing the survey. The postcard will be followed by an email containing the link to complete the survey online. A paper version of the survey is available and will be sent in early October to all providers who did not complete the survey online.

Providers are encouraged to complete the survey. The data gathered will be used to estimate the cost of care necessary to support health, safety, quality instruction, and staffing. It will also help ensure that all children have access to high quality child care.

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.


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