

September 12, 2019



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Last month, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved six additional community networks to pilot local strategies to increase access to and improve the quality of publicly-funded early childhood care and education. These community networks, called Ready Start Networks, join the initial seven Ready Start Networks approved in January 2019.

The thirteen Ready Start Networks are coalitions of individuals committed to creating and implementing a bold local vision for early childhood education in their communities. They have received funding to develop a blueprint for their work, expand their local coalition with new partners from their community, develop local governance, and create local fundraising strategies. The Department is proud of these local leaders for stepping up to provide models for the rest of the state.

The Ready Start initiative represents the state's next phase of empowering and supporting local responsibility. Rather than acting only as a consortium of care providers, community leaders will take a collaborative approach to building a strong local system of early childhood services. Providers who want to learn more about Ready Start are encouraged to speak with their lead agency. For lead agencies who are interested in learning more about what Ready Start can mean for your community, this newsletter provides information about the [Get Ready Cohort](#), an upcoming opportunity to learn more, receive funding, and prepare for the next Ready Start Request for Applications that will be issued in February 2020. The Department encourages all community networks to take advantage of this opportunity.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Early Childhood Care and Education [Advisory Council](#)- September 18-  **canceled**
- Early Childhood Care and Education [Commission](#)- September 19
- New Directors [Webinar](#)-September 25
- Early Childhood Care and Education [Commission](#)- October 21- **canceled**

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Get Ready Cohort [application](#) due- September 27

## MORE IMPORTANT DATES

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

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2019 FORUM SCHEDULE**

The Department will be hosting a series of forums across the state that will cover several topics related to child care centers. For more information, contact the Provider Help Desk at 225-342-1879.

FORUM SCHEDULE			
Parish	Date	Time	Location
Ouachita (Monroe)	September 20	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Children's Coalition for NELA 117 Hall St. Monroe, LA 71203
	September 21	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	
Caddo/Bossier (Shreveport)	September 27	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	NSU Nursing School 1800 Line Ave. Shreveport, LA 71101
	September 28	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	NSU Child & Family Network 1800 Warrington Ave. Shreveport, LA 71101
Rapides (Alexandria)	October 4	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Rapides Parish Media Center 502 Beauregard St. Alexandria, LA 71301
Calcasieu (Lake Charles)	October 11	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Assessment Building Library 1618 Mill St. Lake Charles, LA 70601
Lafayette	October 18	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Vermillion Conference Center 326 Gauthier Rd. Lafayette, LA 70501
	October 19	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Vermillion Conference Center 326 Gauthier Rd. Lafayette, LA 70501
St. Tammany (Covington)	October 25	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	TBD
Tangipahoa (Hammond)	October 26	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	TBD
Orleans (New Orleans)	November 1	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Mahalia Jackson Elem. School 2405 Jackson Avenue New Orleans, LA 70113
	November 2	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary 3939 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70126
Baton Rouge	November 9	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Claiborne Building Thomas Jefferson
Baton Rouge	November 15	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Claiborne Building Thomas Jefferson

## UPCOMING GOLD® WEBINARS

GOLD® is offering a series of webinars to support teachers as they prepare for the first documentation checkpoint due October 31. [Register](#) for the free live webinars, or access the archived information at a later date.

- [MyTeachingStrategies™ Back-to-School Support for Teachers](#)
- [Adding and Viewing GOLD® Documentation in MyTeachingStrategies™](#)
- [Exploring the Teach Area in MyTeachingStrategies®](#)

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.

## ENGAGING FAMILIES WITH GOLD®

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

The MyTeachingStrategies™ Family platform enables families to access notifications from their child's teacher, download conference forms, and share checkpoint data. [The Resources Library](#) helps educators partner with families to share resources that promote family engagement while strengthening children's development and learning.

These resources can be found under the Family tab in teacher or administrator GOLD® accounts.

## CLASS® VIDEO LIBRARIES

To support Louisiana's publicly funded early childhood programs, the Louisiana Department of Education, offers two video libraries featuring Louisiana classrooms that are available to stakeholders and the communities they serve. These video libraries are designed to promote deeper understanding of the PreK and Toddler CLASS® tools.

# CLASS VIDEO LIBRARY

Video Library	Description	Supporting Materials
<a href="#">Louisiana Believes CLASS® Video Library</a>	Available at the Louisiana Believes website, these short-format video clips for teachers are quality examples of CLASS® domains and dimensions from the PreK and Toddler versions of the CLASS® tool.	A focus text of each clip relating to the categorized CLASS® dimension is hyperlinked below the video.
<a href="#">Early Childhood CLASS® Portal Calibration Videos</a> * a CLASS Portal login is needed to access these videos.	Full video lessons used as calibration activities to promote a deeper understanding of the Pre-K and Toddler CLASS® tools.	Each video has a hyperlinked codebook that provides the correct scoring for each dimension, with notes and descriptions of the interactions at the indicator level.

Please contact [taylor.dunn@la.gov](mailto:taylor.dunn@la.gov) with questions regarding video libraries.

## CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

### CAFE PROVIDER PORTAL ASSISTANCE

Have you been working to complete a Renewal Application only to have the system time out? Are you unable to sign into your account? Is a white screen appearing every time you click "Submit" or "Report Changes"?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, we are here to help! The Provider Help Desk is available to assist you with all of your CAFÉ Provider Portal issues. Please submit a ticket [here](#) to schedule a 2-hour appointment to remote into a Department laptop to complete the licensing application or change report.

The Provider Help Desk (Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) is available for all CAFÉ Provider Portal issues at 225-342-1879 or via the [Provider Help Desk Ticket System](#).

## REQUESTS FOR INITIAL LICENSURE, RENEWALS OR CHANGES TO SERVICES

In an effort to ensure applications and requests are completed in time for services to be provided to children, the Department wants to share the expected time frames for requests to be reviewed and approved once all required documentation has been submitted.

- Application for Licensure or Change of Location - up to 90 days
- Application for Change of Ownership - up to 30 days
- Change request for Capacity increase - up to 30 days
- Change request for Age Range - up to 30 days
- Change request for adding Transportation - up to 30 days
- Change request for adding a Director/Designee - up to 30 days

Examples:

- If target opening date is December 1, the application should be submitted by September 1.
- If the license renewal month is October, the renewal application should be submitted by September 30.
- If the licensed center wants to start providing transportation before the school year starts in August, it is recommended that the request be made in CAFÉ no later than June 30.

## SUPERVISION

While supervising a group of children, staff shall devote their entire time to supervising the children, meeting the needs of the children, and participating with them in their activities. Staff duties that include cooking, housekeeping or administrative functions shall not interfere with the supervision of children. [Bulletin 137](#) §1713.E. & F.

## DIRECTOR ON-SITE

Directors are responsible for the day to day operation, management, and administration of the center. To ensure the early learning center is operating at its best, the director or director designee shall be on-site, full-time, and physically present at the center Monday through Friday for at least 32 hours during the daytime hours of operation (prior to 9:00p.m.). When the director is not an on-site full-time employee at the licensed location, there shall be a qualified director designee who is an on-site full-time employee at the licensed location. [Bulletin 137](#) §1707.A.1.

## 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.

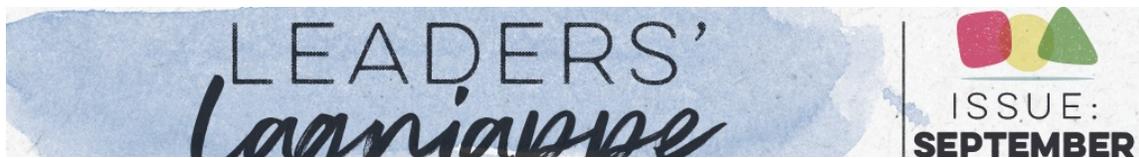
**If a child is left on the center's vehicle for any amount of time, it is a critical reportable incident.** The parent and the Department and Child Welfare should be notified immediately of the incident. Please [review](#) the available regulations.

Please contact your licensing consultant with any questions at 225-342-9905 or e-mail [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov).

## DIRECTOR SUPPORT

### 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.

### SHARED SERVICES: WEBINAR

**Have you saved money using the state's discounted contracts?** Please complete a brief [survey](#) to share how much you have saved.

**To learn more about Saving Money using State Contracts, join the next webinar.**

**Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, September 12 at 12:00 pm

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

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1-646-876-9923

**Meeting ID#:** 974596163#

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

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

## LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

### GET READY COHORT ANNOUNCED

The Get Ready Cohort is an opportunity for community network lead agencies interested in becoming a Ready Start Network, but not sure whether to apply, to learn more about the four pillars of the RSN model: blueprint, coalition, governance, and fundraising. Get Ready community networks will participate in weekly interactive webinars that will explore each pillar, feature current Ready Start Network leaders, and provide guidance to prepare for the Ready Start Network Cohort 3 application in the Spring of 2020. Lead Agencies participating in the Get Ready Cohort will receive \$25,000 to support Ready Start Network activity, and will receive technical assistance and feedback as they develop their blueprint and preliminary application components.

All lead agencies interested [need to apply](#) by September 27 at 12:00 p.m. Learn more about the [Get Ready Cohort](#) and contact [kaye.eichler@la.gov](mailto:kaye.eichler@la.gov) with questions.

### 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 17

- September 24

## 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. Lead agency contacts who are 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.

## OTHER

### ECCE ADVISORY COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING CANCELED

There has been a change in the scheduled Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council meeting dates for 2019. The ECCE Advisory Council will no longer meet on September 18.

The next meeting for the ECCE Advisory Council will be on the previously scheduled date of Wednesday, November 13. An updated list of the 2019 meeting dates is now [available](#). Any questions regarding the Advisory Council can be directed to [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov).

### 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. This meeting will be [livestreamed](#). An overview of the ECCE Commission and the updated 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.*

### EARLY LITERACY COMMISSION

On Monday, Sept. 9, the Louisiana Department of Education convened for the first time the Louisiana Early Literacy Commission, a group of state leaders, educators and parents tasked with studying and recommending ways Louisiana can develop and implement an aligned system to provide effective, evidence-based reading instruction for children from birth through third grade.

The Early Literacy Commission, which was [established by the Louisiana Legislature](#) during the 2019 regular session, will continue to meet each month to:

- gather and analyze data to determine the degree to which evidence-based reading is being implemented with fidelity in the state's public schools and early childhood care and education settings;
- conduct an assessment of the number of practicing educators, including K-3 teachers, special education teachers, and reading specialists, with training and skills in evidence-based reading instruction; and
- assess the degree to which state colleges of education and alternative certification programs provide a program of study on evidence-based reading practices for K-3 teachers, special education teachers, and education specialists.

A recording of the meetings will be available on the [State Advisory Council page](#). The commission's report of recommendations will be completed in January. Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with questions.

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Expanding Early Childhood Programs is Critical](#) (US NEWS)

[Early childhood education leaders cite gains amid rising demand](#) (The Advocate)

[Louisiana Launches Leadership Program to Enhance Early Learning](#) (Louisiana Believes)

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