



September 13, 2018



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Superintendent's Message](#)
- [Important Dates for Early Childhood Programs](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Funding and Enrollment](#)
- [Child Safety and Welfare](#)
- [Director Support](#)
- [Lead Agency Support](#)
- [Other](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

This month the Department has taken huge steps towards supporting low-income families while parents are working or attending school. Nearly [4,500 children are coming off of the wait list](#) to receive quality care. Also, the Department has increased the safety of our sites by completing over 27,000 comprehensive child care criminal background checks (CCCBC).

The Department is pleased to announce that licensed centers, in-homes, and family homes will be eligible for reimbursement of their Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) fees paid for their staff, residents, and others in the licensed space. On October 1, 2018, the Department will release a reimbursement request process for the new Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBCs).

As a reminder, all employees and independent contractors must have submitted a CCCBC by September 30, 2018. More information and resources can be found on the [Early Childhood Criminal Background Check page](#) or by contacting [Valerie Black](#) at (225) 342-2716.

Beginning October 15, 2018, the Department's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will begin to pay registration fees for CCAP children. Registration fee payments will be made to providers on behalf of all eligible households once per annual certification period. Allowable registration fees are based on the amount recorded in the [Provider Certification Agreement](#) or the current market rate, whichever is lower. If no fee is listed by the provider in the agreement, no fee will be paid. More information can be found in the [Early Childhood Quality Providers Library](#), by contacting your regional specialist found in the [CCAP Provider Guide](#), or by calling the Provider Help Desk at (225) 342-1879 or (225) 342-7414.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

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- Lead Agency Webinar/Conference Call (*lead agencies only*) - September 25 at 3:00 p.m.
- ALL staff must submit a Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) - September 30

TEACHING AND LEARNING

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 limit.

- [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 [Compass@la.gov](#) by September 30, 2018.

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FORUMS

In order to strengthen the partnership between providers, Lead Agencies, and Resource and Referral Agencies, the Louisiana Department of Education will be hosting a series of forums across the state. The forums will begin in late September and cover several topics across divisions within The Department. Such topics will include *Child Care Assistance Program Waiting List, Provider Payment Calculations, TOTS, Provider Help Desk and Provider Certification Merge, Registration Fees/Graduated Phase Out, and the Complete Application Process*. A mass email will be sent to all providers, Lead Agencies, and Resource and Referral Agencies the week of September 17, 2018. Finalized locations, dates, and times. For more information, contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 342-1879 or (225) 342-7414.

CCAP REGISTRATION FEE PAYMENT

Louisiana Department of Education Child Care Assistance Program (LDOE/CCAP), in accordance with Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule and State Bulletin 139, will begin to pay registration fees for CCAP children once per annual certification period. Registration fee payments will be made to providers on behalf of all eligible households once per annual certification period. Allowable registration fees are based on the amount recorded in the Provider Certification Agreement or the current market rate, whichever is lower. If no fee is listed by the provider in the agreement, no fee will be paid. Changes to the provider agreement must be completed through the Provider Help Desk and Provider Certification Agreement. For more information, visit this [link](#) on the LDOE website for rate agreement information.

The federal regulation at §98.45(l)(3)(ii) limits the required payment to mandatory registration fees, which includes initial and annual registration fees, rather than including other types of fees such as school field trips, fundraiser fees, etc.

Registration fees will be paid beginning October 15, 2018 for cases that had an initial certification or re-determination in September 2018. When a family changes providers, during the certification period, another fee will not be paid until the next annual registration fee date. When changes occur during a certification period, including the addition of new children, another registration fee will not be paid until the annual date of the certification period. For additional questions, or to complete any changes, providers should contact their regional specialist or the Provider Help Desk at (225) 342-1879 or (225) 342-7414.

The design of the GPO period is specifically to help families transition as their income rises, and allows for appropriate co-payment adjustments. In accordance with the Federal Rule and Regulation, it is equally important that sharing not be a barrier to Louisiana families receiving CCDF assistance. The Department began implementing the GPO final rule at re-determination in April 2018 as outlined in Bulletin 139 Section 512 (B).

In accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Code at the time of re-determination, households whose income has risen above the initial state threshold for eligibility but remain below the federal threshold for eligibility of state median income, shall be eligible for 12 additional months of child care services under a second eligibility tier. Co-payments will be adjusted and split between two income levels within second eligibility tier. The second co-payments will be \$8 and \$10. The change in co-payment will begin in October. If you have any questions, please contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 342-1879 or (225) 342-7414.

Sliding Fee Scale 85% SMI and Graduated Phase-out Copayment Tiers

No. in HH	2 Persons		3 Persons		4 Persons		5 Persons		Family Co-Pay Tier
Income	\$2,404 -	\$3,058	\$2,685 -	\$3,417	\$3,258 -	\$4,146	\$3,779 -	\$4,805	\$8
	\$3,059	\$3,713	\$3,418 -	\$4,148	\$4,147 -	\$5,033	\$4,806 -	\$5,838	\$10
No. in HH	6 Persons		7 Persons		8 Persons		9 Persons		Family Co-Pay Tier
Income	\$4,300	\$5,472	\$4,398	\$5,597	\$4,496	\$5,721	\$4,593	\$5,845	\$8
	\$5,473	\$6,644	\$5,598	\$6,795	\$5,722	\$6,946	\$5,846	\$7,097	\$10
No. in HH	10 Persons		11 Persons		12 Persons				Family Co-Pay Tier
Income	\$4,691 -	\$5,867	\$4,789 -	\$6,094	\$4,837 -	\$6,194			\$8
	\$5,868	\$7,282	\$6,095	\$7,399	\$6,195	\$7,550			\$10

Co-payment adjusted at mid-point of phase-out

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

BULLETIN 137 ROADSHOW

There will be [updates](#) made to Bulletin 137 that will be effective on October 20, 2018.

We're taking our training session on the road to get the word out and make sure that licensed centers are aware of the upcoming changes. This training is for Director Designees, Directors, and Owners. All attendees must attend.

The Roadshow dates and locations are as follows:

Date	Location	Time	Register
Wednesday, September 19, 2018	Baton Rouge Claiborne Building, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Click here to register for this course.
Wednesday, September 26, 2018	Shreveport Northwestern State University (NSU Child & Family Network), 1800 Warrington Place, Shreveport, LA 71101	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Click here to register for this course.
Thursday, September 27, 2018	Monroe Ouachita Parish Public Library (Main Branch), 1800 Stubbs Avenue, Monroe, LA 71201	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Click here to register for this course.
Friday, September 28, 2018	Lafayette Lafayette Public Library (Main Branch), 301 West Congress Street, Lafayette, LA 70501	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Click here to register for this course.
Thursday, October 4, 2018	Chalmette Chalmette Elementary, 75 E Chalmette Circle, Chalmette, LA 70043	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Click here to register for this course.
Wednesday, October 10, 2018	Baton Rouge Claiborne Building, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Click here to register for this course.

If you have questions, please contact Kishia Grayson at 225-342-9905 or email LDELicensing@la.gov.

SEX OFFENDERS

Providers must [register](#) with the Louisiana State Police Sex Offender Registry to update when a sex offender has moved within two miles of the center. Providers should not allow any individual, parents of the enrolled, convicted of a sex offense physical access to the center. See [R.S. 15:541](#) for the definition of sex offense. Once an owner or director has made aware that a registered sex offender was on the center's premises, notification shall be made to law enforcement personnel and Licensing. A critical incident report shall be sent to LDELicensing@la.gov. [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 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 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 and contractors to apply for the CCCBC is September 30th. Send staff for fingerprints as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delays. There will be an additional \$25 fee for searching the State Registry (SCR) for all applications submitted after September 30, 2018. Also note that the reimbursement for CCCBCs as mentioned in the letter above will only apply for individuals for which an application was submitted to Department by September 30, 2018. Contractors will not be reimbursed.

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

DIRECTOR SUPPORT

DIRECTORS' CORNER

Launching a new school year is no small task. Which items have you checked off your to-do list?

- Enter children into GOLD
- Review curriculum plans with teachers
- Observe teachers for curriculum implementation and high quality interactions with children

When do your teachers plan curriculum and enter information into GOLD? Do you have time to meet with teachers during the work day? We want to hear from you. Email your strategies to [Emmy ODwyer](mailto:Emmy.ODwyer).

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, 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 li 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

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 18 - No webinar
- September 25 - Webinar as usual

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 released a [Request for Applications](#) seeking community networks ready to lead the state with new ideas for improving quality and access through collaborative governance. Applications are due October 8. Please contact [Kaye Eichler](#) with any questions or information.

OTHER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, established through [Act 639](#) of the 2018 Legislative Session, hosted its second meeting on Thursday, September 6 in the Thomas Jefferson room of the Claiborne Building located in Baton Rouge. You can view the live stream from this public meeting [here](#). The next meeting for the ECCE Commission will be Thursday, October 3. For additional information about the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, please email earlychildhood@la.gov.

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