

September 26, 2019



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

For the past seven years, early childhood professionals across Louisiana have worked tirelessly to build a unified system focused on quality care and education for young children, support for teachers, and choice for families. The progress that has been made cannot be denied. As the Department prepares to publish the 2018-2019 Performance Profiles, we anticipate another opportunity to celebrate success and focus on improving the future.

Last January, a significant step was taken to empower communities to influence the future of early childhood in our state when the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved seven early childhood community networks for the first cohort of the Ready Start initiative. In August, six additional community networks asked to be added to this cadre of influencers. Each of the thirteen Ready Start communities committed to developing and executing a bold local vision for early childhood solutions driven by their community's unique needs. Ready Starts are developing blueprints for what they want to be true for early childhood in their community and enlisting new community partners to develop intentional plans, secure and put together resources, and implement creative solutions. Policy makers are eagerly watching to learn from their effort as they lead the way to a brighter future for children.

Another opportunity is now available early childhood community networks to explore the possibility of Ready Start for their community. The Department is supporting a ["Get Ready" cohort](#) for lead agencies to receive funding and support to explore the Ready Start initiative and build a blueprint for their community. [Applications](#) for this opportunity are being accepted through September 27, with the hope that communities will take advantage of this support.

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

**John**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Early Literacy Commission](#) meeting- October 14
- [CACFP New Sponsor Orientation](#)- October 15- Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
- Early Childhood Care and Education [Commission](#)-October 21- **canceled**

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Get Ready Cohort [application](#) due - September 27
- Early Childhood Operations [survey](#) due- October 4
- October 1 Child Count due- October 31
- GOLD® Checkpoint due- October 31

### MORE IMPORTANT DATES

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

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### GOLD® Tip of the Month

Teaching Strategies is offer a [free, live webinar](#) for teachers on Thursday, September 26. It will focus on features and functionalities that teachers can use to create weekly plans in *MyTeachingStrategies*®, including:

- Creating plans for weekly routines
- Submitting weekly plans to administrators
- Sharing weekly plans with family members

The webinar will be recorded to be viewed at a later date. [Register for the live event](#) to receive information on how to access the recording in the video archives.

### GOLD® Fall Checkpoint

The Fall (October) Checkpoint deadline is **October 31**. Final decisions about children's levels, as distinguished from preliminary levels can be made within the Assess area, using the Checkpoint by Child, or the Checkpoint by Class options. For additional guidance, review the [How-to-Guide for Teachers](#).

### CLASS® Tip of the Month

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 pre-K 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 pre-K 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><br>* 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.

## FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

# ONDING AND ENROLLMENT

## OCTOBER 1 CHILD COUNT

[Bulletin 140](#) requires that all publicly-funded children are counted as they were enrolled on October 1, and that the count be submitted to the Department by October 31.

For the purposes of these counts, children are considered part of the age cohort they belong to on September 30, for the entire 2019-2020 school year. For example, if a child is three on September 30, but turns four on November 22, that child is counted as part of the three-year-old age cohort for the 2019-2020 school year. Please work with your lead agency to submit accurate October 1 child counts.

To expedite the child count process this year, the Department is pre-populating the files lead agencies use to record their child count with all current site names and site codes. These files can be found in the lead agency file transfer protocol (FTP) folders beginning September 25.

For questions please contact [gray.whitsett@la.gov](mailto:gray.whitsett@la.gov)

## 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. Applications for CCAP will be accepted and families can apply in-person. For more information, contact the Provider Help Desk at 225-342-1879.

| FORUM SCHEDULE             |              |                         |   |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| Parish                     | Date         | Time                    | Location  |
| Caddo/Bossier (Shreveport) | September 27 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | NSU Child & Family Network<br>1800 Warrington Ave.<br>Shreveport, LA 71101                          |
|                            | September 28 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |   |
| Rapides (Alexandria)       | October 4    | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Rapides Parish Media Center<br>502 Beauregard St.<br>Alexandria, LA 71301                           |
| Calcasieu (Lake Charles)   | October 11   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Assessment Building Library<br>1618 Mill St.<br>Lake Charles, LA 70601                              |
| Lafayette                  | October 18   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Vermillion Conference Center<br>326 Gauthier Rd.<br>Lafayette, LA 70501                             |
|                            | October 19   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |   |
| St. Tammany (Covington)    | October 25   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Tangipahoa Parish School System Technology Center<br>795 South Morrison Blvd.<br>Hammond, La. 70403 |
| Tangipahoa (Hammond)       | October 26   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Tangipahoa Parish School System Technology Center<br>795 South Morrison Blvd.<br>Hammond, La. 70403 |
| Orleans (New Orleans)      | November 1   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Mahalia Jackson Elem. School<br>2405 Jackson Avenue<br>New Orleans, LA 70113                        |
|                            | November 2   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary<br>3939 Gentilly Blvd.<br>New Orleans, LA 70126            |
| Baton Rouge                | November 9   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Claiborne Building<br>Thomas Jefferson Room<br>1201 N. 3rd St.<br>Baton Rouge, LA 70802             |
| Baton Rouge                | November 15  | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Claiborne Building<br>Thomas Jefferson Room<br>1201 N. 3rd St.<br>Baton Rouge, LA 70802             |

# CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

## DIVISION OF LICENSING BULLETIN 137 PROVIDER TRAINING - OCTOBER 2019

The Division of Licensing will be hosting four Bulletin 137 training sessions this Fall.

This training is for directors, director designees, owners and center staff who are new to licensed centers or would like a refresher on the licensing regulations and related procedures. We will discuss:

- Renewals
- Critical Incidents and Required Notification
- Behavior Management
- Supervision
- Required Staff - Director/Director Designee
- Vehicle Checks

All attendees must register to attend.

| Date       | Location  | Time                    | Registration Link  |
|------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| October 2  | <b>Chalmette</b><br>Chalmette Elementary School<br>75 E Chalmette Circle<br>Chalmette, LA 70043                                   | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Register on <a href="#">Eventbrite</a> to attend this session. |
| October 3  | <b>Baton Rouge</b><br>Claiborne Building<br>Louisiana Purchase Room<br>1201 N. Third Street<br>Baton Rouge, LA 70802              | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Register on <a href="#">Eventbrite</a> to attend this session. |
| October 16 | <b>Shreveport</b><br>Northwestern State University<br>NSU Child & Family Network<br>1800 Warrington Place<br>Shreveport, LA 71101 | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.   | Register <a href="#">Eventbrite</a> to attend this session.    |
| October 23 | <b>Lafayette</b><br>Vermillion Conference Center<br>Large Conference Room<br>326 Gauthier Road<br>Lafayette, LA 70501             | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Register on <a href="#">Eventbrite</a> to attend this session. |

If you have questions regarding Bulletin 137 training, please contact Kishia Grayson at 225-342-9905 or email [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov).

## 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. [Bulletin 137](#) §2107.

**NOTE:** During all field trips, 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 [Bulletin 137](#) §1103.

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

## BULLETIN 137 LICENSING REGULATIONS COURSES

The Department is pleased to announce the Bulletin 137 courses are available through Udemy. These courses provide an overview of Bulletin 137-Louisiana's Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations. The modules were designed for all administrators, directors, director designees, teachers, and other support staff that own, operate and/or work in a licensed early learning center.

The modules are as follows:

- [Course 1 reviews Chapters 1-9](#)
- [Course 2 reviews Chapters 11-17](#)
- [Course 3 reviews Chapter 18](#)
- [Course 4 reviews Chapters 19-21](#)

The courses can be found on the [Licensed Centers](#) page in the Bulletin 137 Licensing Regulations Courses section.

Each course in this four-part series includes a pre-test and a post-test, as well as quizzes so that participants can confirm what they currently know, dig deeper into the regulations and determine what they have learned. Providers will earn one training hour for each completed course.

### CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (CCCBC) FOR OBSERVERS AND FREQUENT OR REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CONTRACTORS

For Licensing purposes, when third party observers or other infrequent visitors come to an early learning center, the center must check their CCCBC eligibility through the center's CCCBC System using the "Check Eligibility" tab. Prior to, or on the date of a visit from a frequent or regularly scheduled independent contractor, that visitor should be added to the center's CCCBC System roster, using the "New Application" tab. In both instances the visitor must sign the center's visitor log on the date of the visit.

## 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.

LEADERS' Lagniappe

ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 2019

Aloma Bergeron  
DIRECTOR,  
SOUTH PLAQUEMINES  
CHILDREN'S CENTER

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

### SHARED SERVICES: WEBINAR LED BY LOUISE STONEY

**Do you want to learn more about how to make your early learning center financially viable?** Early childhood finance leader Louise Stoney will lead a webinar for Louisiana directors.

Webinar date: November 8

Webinar time: 12:00 pm

Webinar location: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/625747595>



Louise Stoney is an independent consultant specializing in early care and education (ECE) finance and policy, and Co-Founder of both Opportunities Exchange and the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance. Louise has worked with state and local governments, foundations, ECE providers, industry intermediaries, research and advocacy groups in over 40 states. Public and private organizations have sought Louise's expertise to help craft new finance and policy options, as well as write issue briefs on challenging topics. She has helped model ECE program costs, revise subsidy policy and rate-setting strategies, re-visit ORIS standards and procedures, craft new approaches to contracting and voucher



rate setting strategies, to visit QRS standards and procedures, craft new approaches to contracting and teacher management, and more. Louise holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the State University of New York at Stony Brook

### NEW DIRECTORS: WEBINAR

Learn about Louisiana's Early Childhood System.

**Webinar date: November 20**

**Webinar time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Webinar location: <https://doe.zoom.us/j/443478443>**

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## LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

### GET READY COHORT APPLICATIONS

The Get Ready Cohort is an opportunity for community network lead agencies interested in becoming a Ready Start Network (RSN), but questioning whether to apply, to learn more about the four pillars of the RSN model. 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. Community networks can learn more about the [Get Ready Cohort](#) and apply by completing the brief [application](#) by September 27 at 12 p.m.

Contact [lizzie.cosse@la.gov](mailto:lizzie.cosse@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 half-hour sessions are held on most **Tuesdays at 3:00 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

- October 1
- October 8

### 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.

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## OTHER

### ECCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will take place on November 13 at 1:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. For an overview of the ECCE Advisory Council and 2019 meeting dates, click [here](#).

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 CHILDHOOD CARE AND COMMISSION -

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission met on September 19. A [live stream recording](#) of this public meeting is now available. The Commission Overview, agenda, and presentation slides can be found in the [Early Childhood Policy and Guidance Library](#). For additional information about the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, 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

[Senate Resolution 182](#) and [House Resolution 222](#) established the Early Literacy Commission to study and make recommendations on developing and implementing an aligned system to provide effective evidence-based reading instruction for children from birth through third grade.

The Early Literacy Commission open meetings will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and are listed below.

- [October 14](#) (Full Panel Meeting)
- November 20 (Small Workgroup)
- December 16 (Full Panel Meeting)

Meeting materials and recordings are available on the [State Advisory Council](#) page.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD OPERATIONS SURVEY

The Office of Early Childhood Operations is currently gathering feedback from early learning centers and family and in-home providers throughout the state. [This anonymous survey](#) should be completed before **5 p.m. on Oct. 4.**

The survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete, and responses will be sent to the consulting firm that is engaged in assisting the Department through this process. Please contact [robyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com](mailto:robyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com) with questions regarding this survey. Participation is encouraged and appreciated,

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Child Advocate: Candidates should focus on youngest Louisianans](#)(The Advocate)

['Resilience' film screening aims to catalyze Lafayette to address needs of children with trauma](#) (The Advocate)

[La. Dept. of Education releases progress report on students](#)(WAFB)

[Iberia Parish kindergarten teacher promotes learning through play with state fellowship](#)(The Acadiana Advocate)

[Early Education is More Demanding Than Ever, and Experts have Concerns](#)(New York Times)

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