

October 10, 2019



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Young children learn through dynamic activities that encourage development and learning and promote kindergarten readiness. A high-quality curriculum provides rich content and teaching practices that are shown to support children's learning and development. Curricular resources help teachers provide and organize activities so they can strengthen teacher-child interactions and promote children's learning every day.

Through the Louisiana Department of Education [Child Care Curriculum Initiative](#), the Department has seen a drastic increase in the number of sites reporting using a high-quality curriculum. Last year, 88% of Louisiana's early childhood sites reported using a Tier 1 curriculum, compared to only 40% in 2016. Through the curriculum initiative, more centers have been able to purchase curriculum kits, helping to lead to the increase in sites with at least one curriculum kit. However, there is still a long way to go to ensure that every classroom, in every center, has a high-quality curriculum kit.

The Department will continue its investment in the curriculum initiative for the third year, meaning that centers that have benefited in the past can again receive up to two subsidized curriculum kits for additional classrooms, and new centers that may not have participated in the past have another opportunity to do so.

Later this month, child care centers can apply to be reimbursed for the purchase of a high-quality, or Tier 1, curriculum. All Type III child care centers are encouraged to review and consider purchasing an approved Tier 1 curriculum to implement in their infant, toddler, and pre-K classrooms. Type III centers can then be reimbursed for a portion of the cost. If interested, please contact a [Child Care Resource & Referral Agency](#) to assist with this process. For questions concerning the [Curriculum Initiative](#), please contact leslie.doyle@la.gov.

Moving forward, the Department will also support the [professional development](#) related to implementing a Tier 1 curriculum. Working closely with [lead agencies](#) and [Child Care Resource & Referral \(CCR&R\) agencies](#), the Department is exploring different approaches to assist sites to train and support teachers so they are well prepared to use curriculum as a tool to meet children's individual needs as they prepare them for kindergarten and beyond.

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 [Advisory Council](#)- November 13
- Early Childhood Care and Education [Commission](#)-November 18

Upcoming Deadlines

- **GOLD®** Checkpoint due- October 31

More Important Dates

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

TEACHING AND LEARNING

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](#).

GOLD® Tip of the Month

Teaching Strategies is offering a [free webinar](#) to support teachers in completing their fall checkpoints. The webinar will focus on the features and enhancements available in *MyTeachingStrategies®*, including generating reports, and completing the kindergarten entrance assessment (KEA) survey. More information regarding this [webinar](#), or any archived webinars, is available through *MyTeachingStrategies®*.

Please contact meredith.eckard@la.gov with questions regarding **GOLD®**

CLASS® Tip of the Month

The Teachstone [blog](#) offers resources on specific topics, ranging from **CLASS®** and Equity, to coaching strategies, and providing feedback. In [Top 10 Teacher Tips for Effective Teaching Strategies](#), certified **CLASS®** observers offer various methods to support effective, high-quality classroom interactions, including:

- "Pre-read the book you plan to use in your lesson. Plan open-ended questions you can ask before, during, and after to boost Concept Development."
- "Focus on one dimension or even indicator at a time"
- "Consider creating a 'question of the week' that you will ask each child in your class in a one-on-one setting over the course of the week".

The full article is available on the Teachstone [blog](#), and [other resources](#) regarding high-quality interactions.

Please contact taylor.dunn@la.gov with questions regarding **CLASS®**.

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

October 1 Child Count

The October 1 Child Count began last week, and lead agencies should submit their counts to the Department by October 31 using their file transfer protocol (FTP) folders.

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. Lead agencies should use these new templates which can be found in the lead agency FTP folders.

For questions please contact 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
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.	
St. Tammany (Covington)	October 25	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Tangipahoa Parish School System Technology Center 795 South Morrison Blvd. Hammond, La. 70403
Tangipahoa (Hammond)	October 26	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Tangipahoa Parish School System Technology Center 795 South Morrison Blvd. Hammond, La. 70403
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 Room 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Baton Rouge	November 15	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Claiborne Building Thomas Jefferson Room 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Department Seeks Applications for Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions

The Louisiana Department of Education's Division of Nutrition Support announced it is seeking applications from eligible institutions interested in administering the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a federally funded program that provides healthy, affordable meals to both children and adults. The program's new fiscal year begins Oct. 1, 2019, and applications are accepted year-round.

The program is overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service Program. It is federally funded, but administered by individual states. Program participants receive meals and snacks through daycare centers, afterschool programs, emergency shelters and homes, among other locations. CACFP meals will be provided at sites under contract with the state education department, or at homes or daycare centers operating under agreements with sponsoring organizations under contract with the agency.

Program [eligibility](#) and [additional program information](#) can be accessed online. For more information on these programs, contact the LDOE Division of Nutrition Support at 1-877-453-2721 or (225) 342-3720.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

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.

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.

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.

If you have questions, please contact your Licensing Consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail ldelicensing@la.gov.

Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBC) For Observers and Frequent or Regular Service Providers and Contractors

Providers must use the CCCBC System to track a person's CCCBC-based eligibility determination. Frequent or regularly scheduled providers should be added to the licensed center's roster by using the "New Application" tab. Providers should use the "Check for Eligibility" tab for infrequent visitors, such as CLASS® Observers. The CCCBC System stores the date the person's eligibility was checked on the "Check Eligibility Audit Log". The visitors must continue to sign the visitor log. There is no requirement to print the determination letter or Check Eligibility screen because the center's CCCBC account will be used by the provider to illustrate compliance to the Licensing Specialist.

DIRECTOR SUPPORT

New Directors: Webinar

Learn about Louisiana's Early Childhood System.

Webinar date: November 20

Webinar time: 1:00 p.m.

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

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



Leaders' Lagniappe

Learn how [Kathleen Flanagan](#) works with the tribal community at Chitimacha/Yaamahana to strengthen the leadership of her staff.

Kathleen's leadership journey at the Yaamahana/Chitimacha Child Development Center has helped her realize that community input can help strengthen her program, and that feedback is a gift.

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

Get Ready Cohort

The Department of Education is excited to share the 27 community networks that are participating in the Get Ready Cohort! These networks will receive \$25,000 to drive early childhood improvement in their communities, learn more about the four pillars of Ready Start Networks, and create a blueprint to prepare for Super App. The Get Ready Cohort includes Allen, Ascension, Assumption, City of Bogalusa, Caddo, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Iberia, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Red River, Sabine, St. Charles, St. James, St. Landry, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermillion, Webster, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

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 with questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- October 15

- October 22

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 to receive the information to connect to the webinar.

OTHER

ECCE Advisory Council- Upcoming Meeting, November 13

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. An [overview](#) of the ECCE Advisory Council and [meeting materials](#) are available online. For additional information, please email 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 at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission- Upcoming Meeting, November 18

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will take place on November 18 at 12:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. An [overview of the ECCE Commission and 2019 meeting dates](#) is available online. For additional information, please email 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 at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.

In Case You Missed It

[How Louisiana's match might mean more free child care spots in New Orleans](#) (The Times-Picayune)

[It's not fair. I don't want to share: When child development and teacher expectations clash](#) (Phi Delta Kappan)

[Study: Early-childhood programs more segregated than K-12](#) (Education Dive)

[Department Seeks Applications for Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions](#) (LDOE)

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