

October 11, 2018



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

For the third year, Louisiana will share Early Childhood Performance Profiles for all publicly-funded child care, Head Start, and pre-K sites and community networks. The progress demonstrated in this year's release is a result of all of your hard work to unify early childhood in our state, and to improve the quality of interactions and experiences of children in your community every day.

With the information collected through the state's unified rating system, a few key points are clear:

- In Louisiana, there is a high but achievable bar for what early childhood excellence looks like.
- As a result of statewide focus on improving teacher-child interactions, more teachers, directors, families, and providers will be eligible for Louisiana's School Readiness Tax Credits
- Increased supports for sites will help to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive care and education that promotes readiness for school and beyond.

On November 8, the Department will post site-level information and performance profile results in the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#). Information about the state results will begin to be shared in late October.

We invite all publicly-funded sites to participate in a statewide webinar on October 30, for which you can find the details below. We look forward to sharing our state's progress with you, as well as identifying areas for us to continue to work together to improve.

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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- [Louisiana Statewide Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five](#) - October 22 at 1:00 p.m.
- [2017-2018 Performance Profile Release Statewide Webinar](#) - October 30 at 12:00 p.m.

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

## LOUISIANA CLASS® VIDEO LIBRARIES

To support Louisiana's publicly funded early childhood programs, the Louisiana Department of Education, along with the Cecil J. Picard Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has developed two video libraries featuring Louisiana classrooms that we now want to make available to you and your communities. These videos libraries are designed to promote deeper understanding of the Pre-K and Toddler CLASS® tools.

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> * A CLASS® Portal login is required 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 code-book that provides the correct scoring for each dimension, with notes and descriptions of the interactions at the indicator level.

If you have any questions about the CLASS® Video Libraries, contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

## LETTER TO DIRECTORS- EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE

Last week the Department emailed a [letter](#) to all Type III early learning center directors. This letter provided information about the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#). The letter provided a reminder that beginning July 1, 2019, all lead teachers working in Type III child care centers will be expected to have the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate as a minimum credential within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher. Information can be found in the [October 2018 Letter to Directors](#) and the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#).

If you have any questions, contact [Erin Carroll](#).

## PERFORMANCE PROFILE RELEASE STATEWIDE WEBINAR

The Department is hosting a statewide webinar that all stakeholders, early childhood program partners, and families are invited to join. This webinar will announce the 2017-2018 Performance Profiles and provide an overview of the results.

**Webinar Date and Time:** October 30 at 12:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/595979221>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1-669-900-6833

**Meeting ID#:** 595-979-221

If you have any questions, contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

## PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE GRANT COMPETITION

The Administration for Children & Families (ACF) Office of Child Care and the U.S. Department of Education has released a new application for the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth to Five (B-5). The PDG grant will be awarded as four one-year opportunities, with the first year structured as a planning grant and with 3 subsequent renewal grants that include seats.

The Department is hosting a statewide webinar to inform stakeholders about Louisiana's application for this grant.

**Webinar Date and Time:** October 22 at 1:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/896456230>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1-669-900-6833

**Meeting ID#:** 896 456 230

If you have any questions, contact [Nasha Patel](#).

## FALL CHECKPOINT FOR GOLD® - OCTOBER 31

Teachers should finalize checkpoints for all children in *TeachingStrategies GOLD®* by October 31, 2018.

*TeachingStrategies GOLD®* Guidance:

- [2018-2019 GOLD® Guidance](#)

- [2018-2019: Next Steps for Early Childhood GOLD® Users](#)
- [GOLD® Administrator Guide](#)
- [GOLD® Teacher Guide](#)

If you have any questions about using GOLD® in 2018-2019, contact [Taylor Dunn](#).

## FUNDING 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 must 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 school year. Please work with your Lead Agency to submit accurate October 1 child counts.

To provide support and training to complete the child count, the Department conducted a webinar on September 26. The recorded webinar can be found [here](#). For questions please contact [Lindsey Bradford](#).

### LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FORUMS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The Department will be hosting a series of forums across the state. The forums will begin at the end of 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*. An email will be sent to all providers informing them of the date, location, and time of each forum within their region. For more information, contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 342-1879 or (225) 342-7414.

### CCAP REGISTRATION FEE PAYMENT

The Louisiana Department of Education Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), in accordance with Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule and State Bulletin 139, 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. Changes to the provider agreement must be completed through the Provider Help Desk and Provider Certification. Please visit this [link](#) on the Department 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, fundraisers, diaper 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 issued to the new provider 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.

## CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

### BULLETIN 137 ROADSHOW - NEW ORLEANS AND PINEVILLE

There will be [updates](#) made to Bulletin 137 that will be effective on November 1, 2018.

The Department has added two locations to get the word out and make sure that licensed centers are aware of the upcoming changes. This training is for Owners, Directors, and Director Designees. All attendees must register to attend.

The **NEW** roadshow dates and locations are as follows:

Date	Location	Time	Register
Wednesday, October 17, 2018	<b>New Orleans</b> TCA Training Center 1416 S. Jefferson Davis Parkway New Orleans, LA 70125	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Click here to register for this course.</a>
Wednesday, October 4, 2018	<b>Pineville</b> Zion Hill Church Family 602 Hunter Street, Pineville, LA 71360	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Click here to register for this course.</a>

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

### CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK (CCCBC) CHANGE IN FEES

All applications submitted after September 30, 2018 will now incur the \$25 fee from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for searching the State Central Registry (SCR).

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

### WEBINAR: THE PROCESS FOR REIMBURSEMENTS OF CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Reimbursement for CCCBCs applies only to CCCBC applications completed by September 30, 2018. Please read our [FAQ](#) for details on who qualifies for reimbursement. [Reimbursement forms](#) were released October 1, 2018. The slides from the reimbursement webinar are available [here](#), and you can access the webinar recording [here](#).

Questions regarding the CCCBC reimbursements can be directed to [Erica Aguillard](#).

### SAFE SLEEP PRACTICES

October is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month. Keep in mind that all infants shall be placed on their backs for sleeping. "Back To Sleep" signs shall be posted in the room where infants sleep. A safety-approved crib shall be available for each infant. §1909. [Bulletin 137](#). More information about SIDS and Safe Infant Sleep can be found [here](#). The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has provided several online resources that can be printed and distributed:

- [Safe to Sleep® Campaign Materials](#)
- [What Does a Safe Sleep Environment Look Like?](#)

### CHOOSE SAFE PLACES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The Louisiana Department of Health's Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology (SEET) has partnered with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to reduce children's risk of being exposed to dangerous chemicals during their care through a program called Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE). The goal is to protect children in early care and education programs from potential exposure to chemicals such as arsenic, lead, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). By educating child care professionals about the risks of exposure and by providing guidance to child care professionals, we hope to prevent exposures. SEET has developed a [questionnaire](#) for child care providers to use as they consider possible locations for their facility. Please click on the [link](#) to access the survey.

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## DIRECTOR SUPPORT

### DIRECTORS' CORNER

Are you a new director who is learning the ropes of how to guide the educational aspects of your program? If so, we would like to talk to you about your questions and how the Department can better support new and aspiring directors.

Starting this month, a focus group of high-performing directors will be guiding discussions about what strategies they use to continuously improve within their role. The dialogue will be similar to the Director's Panel on Instructional Leadership presented at the Teacher Leader Summit. This information will be used to build out the Directors' Corner. If you have specific challenges and questions that you would like addressed or if you run a center with a rating of Excellent, and want to participate, please reach out to [Emmy O'Dwyer](#).

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## 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 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](#) if you have questions.

### Upcoming Schedule for Webinar Schedule Lead Agencies

- Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies - October 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- [Coordinated Funding Request Webinar](#) for Lead Agencies - October 17 at 12:00 p.m.
- Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies - October 23 at 3:00 p.m.

### COORDINATED FUNDING REQUEST

Bulletin 140 requires that each Lead Agency submit a Coordinated Funding Request on behalf of their Community Network, requesting funding for LA 4, NSECD, and existing Pre-K Expansion Grant seats. To provide support and training to complete the Coordinated Funding Request, the Department will conduct a webinar on Wednesday, October 17. The webinar will be recorded. Any questions should be directed to [Lindsey Bradford](#).

**Webinar Date and Time:** October 17 at 12:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/119878286>

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

**Meeting ID#:** 119 878 286

## OTHER

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 28

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council has been changed to Wednesday, November 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. For additional information, please email [Leslie Doyle](mailto:Leslie.Doyle@doe.la.gov).

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