

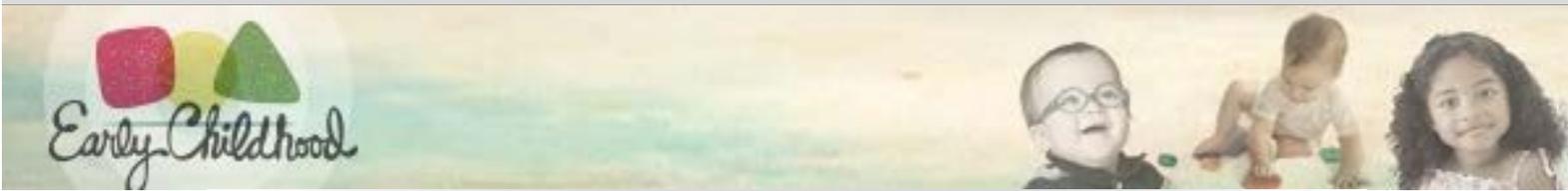
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May 10, 2018



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

This week marks Teacher Appreciation week in Louisiana. Around the state, centers and schools are recognizing the important, tireless work that their teachers do every day. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of children and families you impact, I wanted to express my gratitude to the early childhood teachers across our state.

Next week, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will [meet](#) to review several proposed updates to Bulletin 137, *Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations* as well as the new plan for Louisiana's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Grant.

Over the last six months, the department has worked with a broad group of representatives from child care providers to advocates to revise Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Regulations. This task force identified six key recommendations for

Bulletin 137:

1. Update Type I center child:staff ratios and group sizes to be in alignment with Type II and III centers
2. Update minimum staff age of Type I centers to be in alignment with Type II and III centers
3. Align director qualifications with the new EC Ancillary Teaching Certificate
4. Ensure that videos are reviewed only for investigations of complaints and incidents
5. Allow flexibility for approvals from Louisiana Department of Health and Fire Marshall at time of license renewal
6. Align screen time with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations

The Department will discuss the draft regulations at the ECCE Advisory Council meeting on May 17 at 1:00 p.m. Draft regulations can be found [here](#). The Department anticipates the revised regulations to be in effect during the winter of 2018, with additional time for compliance with child:staff ratios and group sizes. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Licensing at LDElicensing@la.gov.

In addition to revising Bulletin 137, the Department has been drafting the tri-annual Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan. The CCDF State Plan describes how the state complies with federal regulations and generally covers licensing, child care assistance, background checks and quality improvement in child care. The plan must be submitted by July 1 and will be in effect from October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2021. The Department is interested in your input and will have a public hearing on May 29 at 10:00 a.m. You are also encouraged to provide input by entering your comments [here](#) or emailing earlychildhood@la.gov. The draft CCDF State Plan can be

found [here](#) .

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Lead Agency Office Hours- lead agencies only: May 17 and May 24 at 3:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- Spring CLASS Observations Reporting Deadline - May 15
 - Early Childhood Family Satisfaction Survey - Complete by May 31
 - Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey - Complete by May 31
 - GOLD Spring Checkpoint - complete by May 31
-

TEACHING AND LEARNING

2017-2018 EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY SATISFACTION SURVEY

To better understand the perspective of Louisiana families, the Department of Education, in [continued partnership](#) with United Way of Southeast Louisiana and the Louisiana Association of United Ways, released the third annual statewide [Early Childhood Family Survey](#) . All families with children in early childhood programs served through public funds are encouraged to complete a brief online survey.

In addition, a sample of publicly-funded programs will receive paper surveys to distribute to select families. The survey is optional but we ask for your help in encouraging families to participate. To assist you, we have prepared a [one page letter](#) for families. Surveys must be completed by **May 31**. Contact [Nasha Patel](#) if you have questions.

2018 GOLD SPRING CHECKPOINT - MAY 31, 2018

The 2018 spring GOLD checkpoints should be finalized by Thursday, May 31st. Programs may be out for the year before that time, so teachers should begin the finalizing process about 2 weeks prior to the last day for the children to be enrolled.

AEPS TO TS GOLD TRANSITION DEADLINE AND SUPPORTS

As of July 1, 2018, Teaching Strategies Gold (TS GOLD) will replace AEPS as the assessment tool used to measure the progress and growth of 3-5 year old children with disabilities. In order to ensure timely and accurate communication regarding the transition from AEPS to TS GOLD, all Special Education Directors should complete [this form](#) by **Wednesday, May 30** , using information for the 2018-2019 school year.

For more information, consider attending one of the AEPS to TS GOLD transition sessions at the Teacher Leader Summit . If you missed the *Transitioning from AEPS to TS GOLD* webinar on Monday, May 7, you can access the recording at [here](#) . If you would like to have a copy of the FAQs from the webinar, the PowerPoint or any of the step sheets referenced in the webinar, please email [Patsy Palmer](#) .

For more information, please e-mail specialeducation@la.gov

EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE - APPLICATION NOW SUBMITTED ONLINE

The application for the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate can now be submitted online through the new [Teach LA Live](#) system. Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate applicants can follow the directions for educators posted [here](#) .

As a reminder, all lead teachers working in Type III child care centers must have an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate or above by July 2019. The [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#) can be earned at no cost by presenting one of the qualifying degrees or credentials. The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate must be renewed every three years.

Teachers who earn their Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate through a CDA or technical diploma are able to attend one of Louisiana's [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs](#) . Qualifying teachers can attend one of these high-quality training programs

at no cost through Louisiana Pathways Scholarships.

Beginning in 2018, teachers will be able to use the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate to qualify for increased [School Readiness Tax Credit](#) levels. For questions, please contact [Erin Carroll](#).

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

CHANGES TO CHILD CARE QUALITY BONUSES FOR 2018

In February 2018, centers received the last bonus payment based on 2017 star ratings as well as the last payment for the Quarterly CCAP Pilot Bonus. The first Unified CCAP Quarterly Bonus based on 2018 ratings will be paid to centers in May 2018. More information about the 2018 SRTC can be found in the [School Readiness Tax Credits Guide](#).

For additional questions, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

PROGRAM PARTNER ASSURANCES FOR 2018-2019 ACADEMIC APPROVAL

Each year early childhood community network program partners must sign and submit [Program Partner Assurances](#) indicating that they will comply with Bulletin 140, the Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network. Bulletin 140 requires that each publicly-funded program in Louisiana participate in its community network, the early childhood care and education accountability system, and the coordinated enrollment process. In addition, renewal of Academic Approval for Type III early learning centers is contingent upon submission of these assurances.

On April 4, the Department sent instructions for signing and returning Program Partner Assurances to all child care centers with a Type III license, school districts, and NSECD schools. This information was sent to the email address for each site that is on file with the Division of Licensing and the Office of Early Childhood.

Center directors or authorized school or district personnel must sign and return the Program Partner Assurances to the Department by **Friday, May 4** in order to remain in compliance with Bulletin 140, and receive the center's Academic Approval Certificate for 2018-2019 if applicable.

Please contact ECAssurances@la.gov if you have any questions.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

PAYMENT OF MEDICAL EXPENSES

Providers are responsible for the payment of medical expenses of a child injured while in the early learning center's care. If an injury occurs to a child and the parent seeks medical attention for their child, providers are responsible for the expenses. Parents shall not be required to waive the center's responsibility. However, parents may elect to use their own insurance.

At the time a deficiency is cited, the provider will be required to revise the documentation, and notify the parents and the Division of Licensing of the changes. §1503. General Liability Insurance Policy

HEALTH SERVICES

During your daily health observations of children, be sure to include who gave the explanation of what happened to the child. For example, staff should record: Mom stated it happened at home. Child stated it happened at home. §1915-A. Health Services [Bulletin 137](#)

REMINDER ABOUT WARM WEATHER AND CHILDREN IN VEHICLES

Warm weather is here and temperatures inside vehicles rise quickly. Licensed early learning centers are required to conduct visual passenger checks of all vehicles used to transport children to ensure that no child is left in the vehicle. A staff person must physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all enclosed spaces and recesses in the vehicles interior.

The visual inspection should be completed for the vehicle(s) that are provided by the center, contractual arrangement, or parent provided. §2107. Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks [Bulletin 137](#). If you have any questions, please contact your Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905 or email LDELicensing@la.gov.

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR SEARCHING THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR CHILD CARE CBCS WEBINAR

Two webinars will be given to provide updates on how the fee for the State Central Registry will be collected as a mandatory component of the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC). These webinars will be given on **Wednesday, June 06 at 12:00 p.m** and **Wednesday, June 20 at 10:00 a.m**. These webinars will include the same information. Please keep in mind, the fee to search the State Central Registry will be applied **July 1, 2018**.

Please use the following information to join the webinars:

Meeting Name: Important Updates for Searching the State Central Registry for Child Care CBCs

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. / Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Join the meeting at: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>

CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FINGERPRINT UPDATE

Louisiana State Police will no longer take fingerprints for Child Care CBC applicants after May 15, 2018. There is an alternative location in East Baton Rouge. You can view [Fingerprint Locations](#) , [FAQs](#) , and find many forms in the CBC download list, all of which can be found on the Department's [website](#) . For the most updated forms please be sure to delete your browser history and refresh your page.

For more information about Child Care CBCs, please email [Valerie Black](#) .

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

OFFICE HOURS FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team is holding weekly webinar/conference call question and answer sessions for lead agencies. The sessions are held on **Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.** and all lead agency staff are invited to join. The Early Childhood team will provide updates and reminders. Additional topics covered will be determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information has been sent to all lead agency contacts. Contact [Kaye Eichler](#) if you have questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Office Hours

- May 15
- May 22

SPRING CLASS[®] OBSERVATION DEADLINE

All pre-K and toddler classrooms in publicly-funded sites must have their spring 2018 observations completed and entered into the portal by May 15, 2018. All error correction forms must be submitted by May 18, 2018 to earlychildhood@la.gov . For questions about submitting observations in the portal or completing error correction forms, please email [Nasha Patel](#).

OTHER

ECCE ADVISORY COUNCIL - MEETING ON MAY 17

The next Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting will take place on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. This meeting will take place in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge. The agenda has been posted [here](#) .

Please note that this is a change in the previously scheduled date. An updated schedule for the 2018 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council dates can be found [here](#) .

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN

A public hearing for the draft Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at 10 a.m. at the Claiborne Building, Louisiana Purchase Room, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. A copy of the draft State Plan can be found [here](#) . A streaming link to the public hearing is provided [here](#).

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES SURVEY

You are invited to complete the ACE Initiative Survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine current awareness, perceived needs, and resources to address childhood adversity in Louisiana.

This survey is conducted on behalf of the Louisiana ACE Initiative, a statewide partnership that promotes ACE-related education, engagement, advocacy, and research. Members of the ACE Initiative and faculty from University of Louisiana at Lafayette's (UL Lafayette) Tulane's Infant Institute, LSUHSC Dept. of Psychiatry are collaborating on this project.

The results will inform the actions of the ACE Initiative and may serve as a basis for future ACE-related efforts. The survey will be open until May 25, 2018. It should take 10-15 minutes to complete.

To complete the survey please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACESLA2018>

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