

November 7, 2019



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday, statewide performance data was released that details how well schools and early childhood centers across the state prepared children and students, birth through grade 12, for the next level of learning during the 2018-2019 school year. The results are also available online in the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

This release equips parents and communities with information on early childhood centers across the state, which have showed continued progress in the years since the state Legislature passed the landmark [Early Childhood Education Act, known as Act 3](#). Compared to last year, 126 more sites—a 7 percent increase—achieved "Proficient" or above ratings, indicating more children are receiving quality care and education.

Additionally, to better differentiate sites and recognize high performance, a fifth rating has been added to the Performance Profiles with the 2018-2019 release. This fifth rating is called High Proficient and will recognize sites that score from 5.25 to 5.99. Nearly 38 percent of sites are now rated as High Proficient.

2018-2019 early childhood performance profiles show:

- Eighty-four percent of all sites achieved ratings in that research shows promote kindergarten readiness, quality care and instruction. The results are an improvement from the previous year, when 77 percent of sites did. Moreover, the improvement occurred at all age levels.
- Low-performing sites that implemented improvement plans saw greater gains than did other sites that did not. Ninety-five percent of sites participating in state-led improvement efforts saw gains, compared to 33 percent of persistently struggling sites that did not participate in improvement efforts. Forty-five percent of the participating sites achieved significant growth, increasing 1 point or more and earning them a spot on the [state's "Top Gains" honor roll](#).

The results emphasize the need to further expand access to these high-quality programs, particularly for children between birth and age three. While 86 percent of economically disadvantaged 4 year olds have access to a center rated as demonstrating quality early learning, only 1 percent of our infants, 6 percent of our toddlers, and 26 percent of our 3 year olds do. This is a gap that must be rectified through a focus on both increased resources and increased quality of service.

As demonstrated [by nation-leading results](#) on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), we are making progress. This doesn't happen by coincidence. Day in and day out, our schools and early childhood centers are doing what works: high-quality curriculum, high-quality teaching, and support for teachers, and children alike, especially when they struggle. Let's keep it going.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

Upcoming Events

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

More Important Dates

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

TEACHING AND LEARNING

2018-2019 Performance Profile Release

On November 6th, the Department released Early Childhood Performance Profiles for every publicly-funded child care, Head Start, and school-based Pre-K in the state. These Profiles have been released on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

To support lead agencies, sites, and families, the Department has provided several resources and tools:

- In October, the Department conducted a webinar to provide information about the release directly to early childhood sites. The [recording](#) and [webinar PDF](#) are available to sites to review.
- To support sites to understand how they can use their Performance Profile results to make improvements, the Department has provided a guidance document with [Five Tips for Sites PDF](#), that provides clear information and actionable next steps.
- The [Parent Video for Performance Profiles](#) provides information on how early childhood performance profiles are created.
- The [Performance Profile Site Key PDF](#) and [Guide PDF](#) explain each metric included in the individual site's Performance Profile, and can be used to help understand the information provided for each site.
- The [Community Network Performance Profile Key PDF](#) and [Guide PDF](#) explain each metric included in the community's Performance Profile, and can be used to help interpret the results of your community.

If you have questions about your site's Performance Profile, please contact early.childhood@la.gov.

RELEASE OF SCHOOL AND CENTER PERFORMANCE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKITS

The Department released a toolkit to help Lead Agencies, schools, and early childhood centers communicate the release of their 2019 performance scores in the Louisiana School Finder. The toolkit includes resources such as:

- School and Center Finder flyer, poster, website button, and social media graphics;
- Sample early childhood center and Community Network performance rating news release;
- Early Childhood Center Parent Night Presentation; and
- Animated early childhood performance profile video.

All resources are available [here](#). Email ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

GOLD® Tip of the Month

This is a reminder to join a [free, live webinar](#) for administrators on Thursday, November 7. This webinar will focus on the reports in MyTeachingStrategies® that administrators will use after the fall GOLD® checkpoint.

This webinar will cover

- [the Snapshot Report](#),
- [the Snapshot by Dimension Report](#),
- [the Snapshot \(Birth Through Third Grade\) Report](#),
- [the Alignment Report](#),
- [the Comparative Report](#),
- [the Goals Report](#),
- [the Data Export Report](#) and

- [the Data Export Report](#), and [the OSEP Status Report](#).

Can't join live? Watch an archived video of the recorded webinar! This webinar will be recorded, and will be available to watch at a later date. [Please register for the live event](#) to receive information about when the video of the webinar will be available in the GOLD® archives.

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

CLASS® Tip of the Month

Teacher-child interactions are the active ingredient in early childhood classrooms. When interactions with teachers are consistently positive and supportive, children thrive. [Join this webinar](#) where Teachstone will discuss why interactions are important, as well as ways to cultivate strong relationships with every child in a classroom.

More information regarding this [webinar](#), as well as other webinars offered by Teachstone is [available now](#).

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

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

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
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 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, after school 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 225-342-3720.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

Annual Flu Notice

Flu season is underway. Early learning centers are encouraged to implement preventative measures for flu season. Centers are required to make information concerning the influenza immunization available to each child's parent or legal guardian to assist parents in taking precautionary actions.

The Center for Disease Control has provided several online resources that can be printed and distributed to families:

- [Guide for Parents](#)
- [Protect Against Flu: Caregivers of Infants and Young Children](#)
- [Children & Influenza \(Flu\)](#)
- [Every Day Preventive Actions Flyer](#)
- [2019-2020 Flu Information](#)

Surrender of License

When a center's ownership changes, the existing license becomes invalid and should be returned. An early learning center shall return its existing license to the Department upon any of the following occurrences:

- voluntary closure;
- change in location;
- change in license type;
- change in ownership;
- Revocation; or
- non-renewal/refusal to renew.

The existing license shall be returned via mail to the following address:

**Division of Licensing
P.O. Box 4249
Baton Rouge, LA 70821**

Review the [regulations](#), §709.C., §905.B. and §1303.B.

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.
- check the parent's car, if the parent transported a child during a field trip.

The parent, the Department and Child Welfare, and the Division of Licensing should be notified immediately of the incident. Review the [regulations](#).

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

Leaders' Lagniappe

Learn how [Anita Haston](#) of Pleasant Beginnings improved her center by participating in the Department's Site Improvement Process.





Anita Haston
DIRECTOR,
PLEASANT BEGINNINGS
DAYCARE



“We really pride ourselves on providing excellent care, so parents can go about their day and not worry about their child.”

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

LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

Early Childhood November Collaboration Meetings

This is a reminder that **all early childhood lead agencies are required to be represented at the Early Childhood November Collaboration meetings.** These meetings are specifically for lead agencies and are being held separate and apart from the Super App Launch events that the Department is conducting for local education agencies. Registration is not required for these meetings and lead agency representative may attend at any of the locations noted below.

- November 13-Baton Rouge
- November 14-Alexandria

New: Super App Office Hours

The Department launched the 2020-2021 School System Planning process and Super App on November 4. The Department will host two more Super App Launch events: November 8 in Baton Rouge and November 12 in Ruston from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Launch materials are available in the [School Improvement Library](#)

Super App Office Hours will be held on **November 18 at 11:00 a.m.** for planning team members to review actions school systems should be taking during the month of November and ask questions. Webinar details are listed below.

Webinar Date and Time: November 18 at 11:00 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/405281497>

Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923

Webinar ID#: 405 281 497

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: CLASS® in Kindergarten Overview Webinar

CLASS® is an observation instrument that measures the effectiveness of teacher-student interactions that promote academic learning, engagement, and social development. It is used statewide in early Head Start, Head Start, and publicly funded pre-Kindergarten classes, and is now in its fourth pilot year for kindergarten.

Currently, 331 kindergarten teachers in 84 schools in 29 school systems are piloting CLASS® on a volunteer basis. Read [Red River's case study](#) about implementing CLASS®, and the success they are seeing.

The Department is also hosting a CLASS® Overview [Webinar](#) on **November 19** to provide information around the CLASS® tool, including current Kindergarten pilot updates and future opportunities to join.

Webinar Date and Time: November 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/955722960>

Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923

Meeting ID#: 955 722 960

Please contact brandy.brunson@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 with questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- November 12 (cancelled- Super App Launch Meeting in Ruston)
- November 19
- November 25 (cancelled- Happy Thanksgiving)

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

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needed.

In Case You Missed It

[Nearly 400 Centers Earn a Spot on the State Honor Roll](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[Our views: Investing in early childhood education is an easy sell](#) (The Advocate)

[This Observation Tool is Helping Teachers Improve Their Interactions with Children](#) (EdSurge)

[Louisiana's students rank among top ten, nationwide, for improvement in reading and math](#) (WBRZ)

[What we can learn from the state of our nation's education](#)(The Washington Post)

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