

January 30, 2020



## Early Childhood Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

As you all know, the lack of high-quality, affordable early care and education is a serious problem in Louisiana - for our children and our workforce. Louisiana has established a strong system for capturing quality and access and assessing gains and needs. Of the economically disadvantaged four-year-olds in our state, 95 percent are enrolled in publicly-funded sites. However, Louisiana provides services for less than ten percent of the state's economically disadvantaged infants to two-year-olds.

Recognizing this gap of accessibility, legislators passed Act 639 (2018) establishing the Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, which is comprised of 38 legislators, government officials, early childhood providers, advocates, and community representatives. The Commission was charged with studying and making recommendations relative to specific matters of early childhood care and education and reporting these recommendations to the legislature. This is the second year that the Commission has met with local and national experts to understand the early childhood landscape. The Commission will release a report prior to the start of the next legislative session in April. This document will provide the legislature, the Governor, and the Department with recommendations on improving access to high-quality care and education for children in Louisiana.

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission convenes today for its final meeting of this fiscal year. The group will review an addendum to last year's report entitled "Funding our Future: LA B to 3." Through its proposal for LA B to 3, the Commission envisions funding that will better prepare Louisiana's youngest learners for kindergarten and beyond, address the early childhood workforce crisis, and position Louisiana for a brighter future. Supporting children in these crucial early years of development, will have a positive effect on K-12 education as well. Providing in need children with quality early education experiences enables more children to be on track for success, and could transform Louisiana in one decade.

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

John

[@LouisianaSupe](#)

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### Upcoming Events:

- **February 14-** ECCE Advisory Council meeting- *Baton Rouge*

### Upcoming Deadlines

- **January 31-**Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Session Proposal deadline
- **February 7-**Super App and Coordinated Funding Request
- **February 7-**NSECD Reimbursement Requests due
- **February 10-**LA4 Enrollment and Attendance Reporting due
- **February 28-**For Lead Agencies: February Child Count due

- **February 28**-Coordinated Enrollment Plan due
- **February 28**-GOLD winter checkpoint due
- **February 28**- February 1 Child Count due in FTP folders
- **March 1**-Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Early Bird Registration ends

### More Important Dates

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

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### In this Issue:

- **Teaching and Learning**
- **Funding and Enrollment**
- **Child Safety and Welfare**
- **Updates to Child Care Criminal Background Checks**
- **Director Support**
- **Lead Agency Support**
- **Other**

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## Teaching and Learning

### GOLD® Tip of the Month

**Reminder:** As a reminder, documentation as well as finalized checkpoint levels for the Winter checkpoint are due February 28. In order to prepare for this deadline, utilize the below reports in order to gauge progress towards completion:

- *Documentation Status report*- every child needs at least 1 piece of documentation for each objective.
- *Assessment Status report*- view finalized checkpoint levels by area, or by objective/dimension; determine where finalized data is still needed.

For questions regarding GOLD®, contact [meredith.eckard@la.gov](mailto:meredith.eckard@la.gov).

### Resources for CLASS® observers:

CLASS® observers: Teachstone recently released additional support that CLASS® users need to observe, certify and recertify reliable. These resources can be accessed [here](#).

Additionally, CLASS® observations for spring are now available for scheduling in the CLASS® portal.

For questions regarding CLASS®, contact [taylor.dunn@la.gov](mailto:taylor.dunn@la.gov).

### Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Registration

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 27–29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The Department has published an [overview document](#) to address the most frequently asked questions. Early Bird Registration opens on January 10 for the Summit with the two phases below to follow:

- Regular registration (March 2 through May 11)
- On-site registration for those who do not register by May 11

To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the Department will charge a small registration fee for the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit. This fee will cover:

- admission to conference,
- conference sessions, and
- lunch May 27 and May 28.

Educators can receive a discount by registering early and registering for all three days at once. Educators can choose to not eat the lunch provided, but may not opt-out of the registration fee. More information regarding pricing is [available](#).

### New for 2020 - Group Registration

School system supervisors may now purchase tickets for up to 10 of their educators in one transaction. School system supervisors who elect this option should be prepared to answer questions specific to each registrant (e.g. email address, content area) at the time of purchase. The supervisor will receive a receipt showing 10 ticket purchases, and each individual registrant will receive an email confirmation with their ticket information.

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

### 2020 Teacher Leader Summit Proposal Submission

We are extending the original submission date for Early Childhood sessions. Interested parties must submit their applications online on or before Friday, January 31. We may not be able to include all proposed sessions, but are

committed to letting you know as soon as possible if your session is selected to be included in the program.

Sessions are 80 minutes long and should provide actionable information and strategies. Please plan enough content for the time allotted while also allowing time for questions and discussion. Session proposals should be submitted for one or more of the following [Early Childhood Summit Session Tracks](#).

Information regarding the Teacher Leader schedule is [available](#).

#### **Terms and Guidelines**

- Applications must be submitted online on or before Monday, January 31.
- The LDOE reserves the right to cancel the sessions of presenters who do not meet the deadlines outlined in the chart below.
- Presenters may apply to lead more than one session at the Summit. Each session requires a separate online application.
- Session length: 80 minutes Sessions will repeat no more than three (3) times across no more than two (2) days.
- Most rooms hold approximately 50-125 participants.
- Presenters will be responsible for creating, printing, and purchasing all session materials such as handouts and manipulatives.
- LDOE will waive the Summit registration fee for up to three (3) presenters per session.

A timeline of Teacher Leader session deadline can be referenced [here](#).

Please reach out to [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov) with questions about applying to lead a session at the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit.

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## **Funding and Enrollment**

#### **Update on Payments for Pre-K Programs**

- NSECD payments have been made for all complete, submitted reimbursement requests through December. Supplemental payments for children who did not meet the attendance requirement are pending.
- LA 4 payments have been issued for SGF through November and TANF funds through December. December SGF payments are pending. In addition, supplemental SGF payments have been issued for children served over the original allocation as well as children within the original allocation who did not meet the required attendance percentage through November.

For questions regarding NSECD or LA4, email [lindsey.bradford@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.bradford@la.gov).

#### **Child Care Assistance Program aids families affected by substance abuse**

To support families affected by opioids, heroin, or other substance abuse, the [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\)](#) provides financial assistance to low-income families while they are in a transitional living program. A transitional living program includes, but is not limited to, substance abuse treatment facilities.

For more information, please reach out to [dawnielle.broussard@la.gov](mailto:dawnielle.broussard@la.gov).

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## **Child Safety and Welfare**

#### **Supervision and Transportation Campaign**

There has been a significant increase in reports of children being left unsupervised in licensed centers, on play yards, and in vehicles. The Division of Licensing will work closer with early learning centers to support their efforts to keep children safe and to improve providers' knowledge of the supervision requirements.

Starting this month, the Division of Licensing will be at early learning centers to closely observe the supervision of the center, play yards, and transportation. If there are any serious deficiencies, the early learning center will be referred to receive on-site technical assistance.

Please contact the assigned Licensing Consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov) with any questions.

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## **Update for Child Care Criminal Background Checks**

#### **Fee increases and additional fingerprint locations**

The fingerprint fee of the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) has increased from \$49.25 to \$49.65. The Department was also informed that beginning March 1, 2020 a \$5.00 fee will be charged for the Louisiana Sheriff Association (LSA). The Department fee remains the same. Through a new statewide civil scan system, there will soon be 18 additional fingerprint locations.

## Director Support

### Director Support Toolbox launches!

The job of a director covers a lot of territory, from licensing to accountability. The Department has created a [Director Support Toolbox](#) to put all the resources directors need at their fingertips. Check it out!



### CDA Renewal Amnesty Program

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, the Council for Professional Recognition will be celebrating 45 years of the CDA®! To celebrate, the Council will offer a limited-time CDA® Renewal Amnesty Program. This program will allow anyone with a CDA® credential expiration date as far back as January 1, 2010, an opportunity to complete the renewal process and make their credential active again.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Expiration date as far back as January 1, 2010
- Must meet all current renewal requirements
- Apply online using [YourCouncil](#) (click here to learn about account access)

The program will run from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020. All applications and payments (\$125) must be submitted online by March 31, 2020. No exceptions or extensions will be granted. Start preparing today by downloading the free [CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide](#) available on the Council's website. The [CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide](#) provides detailed information about the renewal requirements

### New Directors Webinar

Learn everything you need to know about Louisiana's early childhood system.

**Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, February 6 at 12:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/690975659>

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

**Webinar Meeting ID:** 690 975 659

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This month, we share the story of [Carrie Henry](#), a fellow in the Louisiana Early Leaders Academy, and the director of Creative Kidz. Carrie shares how she is leading for excellence by ensuring that high quality curriculum is implemented in all her centers.

**"I'm ready to take our center to the next level, said Carrie. "We have the knowledge and materials to reach for the stars with our children."**



## Lead Agency Support

### Eligibility Determination:

Eligibility Determination is a major component of the Coordinated Enrollment process. To assist Lead Agencies and interested partner providers, the Department will discuss Eligibility Determination during the Weekly Webinar Tuesday, February 4 at 3:00 PM. We will cover eligibility requirements for pre-K programs, information on the DirectMatch system, allowable documentation, and detailed instructions on how to make an accurate eligibility determination.

### Early Childhood March Collaboration Meetings

The Department would like to announce the dates for the Early Childhood March Collaboration meetings. All early childhood lead agencies are required to be represented at the March Collaboration meetings. Registration is not required for these meetings and lead agency representatives may attend at any of the locations noted below.

- **March 9-** Baton Rouge
- **March 10-** Jefferson
- **March 17 -**Bossier City
- **March 20-** Lafayette

### 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.

On February 4, the Weekly Webinar will cover eligibility determination for pre-K seats.

Contact [amanda.colon@la.gov](mailto:amanda.colon@la.gov) with questions.

### Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- February 4 at 3:00 p.m.
- February 11 at 3:00 p.m.
- February 18 at 3:00 p.m.
- February 25 at 3:00 p.m.

### 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 [lizzie.cosse@la.gov](mailto:lizzie.cosse@la.gov) to receive the information to connect to the webinar.

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## Other

### ECCE Advisory Council- Upcoming Meeting, February 14

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will take place on February 14 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](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.*

### Help us improve!

The Office of Early Childhood is continually assessing our customer service and identifying ways to improve. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete this short [survey](#). The information submitted will remain confidential. Thank you in advance for your participation.

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## In Case You Missed It

[The Special Relationship: Parents and Teachers are Critical Partner in the Work of Social-Emotional Learning](#) (The 74)

[What Does ‘Innovation’ Mean in Early Education? Here’s How Government Leaders Answer](#) (EdSurge)

[Educator Work Environments Are Children’s Learning Environments: How and Why They Should Be Improved](#) (CSCCE)

[Child Care Is Expensive. So Is Not Fixing Its Problems.](#) (HuffPost)

[Some toddlers are chronically absent from preschool. A text message can help](#) (Quartz)

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