

December 19, 2019



Early Childhood Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Christmas and New Year's Day fall in the middle of their respective weeks this year. Whatever your beliefs, whatever you celebrate, that increases the likelihood of a slow workplace for the next two weeks. Hopefully the traffic in your inbox will lighten. Hopefully you'll have peace, and potentially even some quiet.

My 16-month old daughter doesn't make peace and quiet a regular condition in our home, at least not in the waking hours. But when I get it, I value it. And I find my mind going not as much to planning for meetings or checking up on implementations -- not as much to productivity, important as that is. I find myself in those moments drifting into the deeper, and harder, questions about education and raising children. What do we want them to know and not know? What must they have in common and how must they be allowed to differ? What say should we have in what they believe and how they live?

Our answers to these questions may be ever-evolving, but we are called to ask them. Our schools are better if we consider them, discuss them, and act in light of them.

This holiday season, loud as it may get watching the game or around the tree, I hope you'll be given the occasional gifts of peace and of quiet, the time and space to reflect, to imagine, and to give thanks, for all the good works done by and for Louisiana's school children.

There will not be a newsletter next week or the week following. However, below is a link to a survey, soliciting feedback on the *Early Childhood Connections* newsletter. Input from all stakeholders is critical as the Department continues to innovate ways to support early childhood programs.

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

John

[@LouisianaSupe](#)

Early Childhood Connections Newsletter survey

In order to improve the Department's communication strategies, please consider completing [this survey](#) and providing feedback regarding the *Early Childhood Connections* newsletter. Additionally, please forward to any program partners or ECE stakeholders to complete as well.

[ECE Newsletter survey](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **January 30**-ECE Commission Meeting- Baton Rouge- 12 p.m.

More Important Dates

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

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 with questions.

2020 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest

The Department is seeking inspiration for 2020 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 7** to ldoecommunications@la.gov. The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold. Last year's school, Montegut Middle, was awarded \$968 from The Inkwell Press.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Key Training Modules Request for Applications (RFA) Released

The Louisiana Department of Education is offering another funding opportunity for highly qualified trainers.

In an effort to share the highest quality training opportunities available to Louisiana's early childhood workforce, the Department has released a third Request for Applications (RFA) for experts to develop ready-to-go presentations and professional development that will comprise Louisiana's Early Childhood Key Training Modules.

This RFA is seeking proposals for trainings that are related to Management and Leadership. The [application](#) must be submitted by **January 24, 2020**. Louisiana Early Childhood Key Training Module applications should be emailed as a PDF document to meredith.eckard@la.gov.

Additionally information is provided in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#).

School Readiness Tax Credit

In order for professionals to be eligible for the School Readiness Tax Credit (SRTC), Louisiana Pathways must receive all documentation of education and credentials by December 31st, 2019. The Department has a [School Readiness Tax Credit Guide](#) providing an overview of the program. Teachers can earn an increased tax credit level (Level 3 and Level 4) by demonstrating they have earned the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate. Teachers must have been working in their eligible Type III child care center for at least six months for an average of 30 hours per week to qualify.

In order to claim this credit, participants will have to file a federal and state income tax return, even if they do not owe any taxes. On or before January 31st of each year, participants will be mailed a tax form that states the level they have achieved.

For questions about individual tax credit level, contact Louisiana Pathways at (318) 677-3163 or visit

their website at <https://pathways.nsula.edu>.

In Case You Missed It

[Regional Education Report Shows Gains in School Performance and Early Childhood Education](#) (Baton Rouge Area Chamber)

[The Importance of High-Quality Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) for Black and Latino Children](#) (The Education Trust)

[How Universal Pre-K Drives Up Families' Infant-Care Costs](#) (City Lab)

[Why Child Care is So Ridiculously Expensive](#) (The Atlantic)

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