

December 5, 2019



Early Childhood Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

As the holidays approach, the days are busy with wrapping up 2019 and preparing for next year. Communities around the state are beginning to plan for the start of 2020.

In November, every lead agency received the information and template needed to begin developing their Coordinated Enrollment Plan. The Coordinated Enrollment Plan is the next planning project and uses information from the Super App, including the Coordinated Funding Request, which the Department should receive from all communities on February 7.

Over the next few months, lead agencies work with their local community network to develop a detailed plan for coordinating enrollment with all of their publicly-funded birth-to-five programs. Through the Coordinated Enrollment Plan, communities are required to describe their plan to share early childhood information and eligibility requirements with families. Families should receive information about the early childhood programs available to them.

Communities are required to define the application process so families are able to submit a unified application through the enrollment process and develop a community-wide wait list. Additionally, communities collaborate to develop a plan to match families to sites based on preference.

As a reminder, all publicly-funded programs must participate in coordinated enrollment. Coordinated Enrollment Plans are due from all communities by February 28. For questions about coordinated enrollment, email amanda.colon@la.gov.

This is a busy season indeed. Yet the Department also recognizes the importance of celebrating the season with family and friends, especially young children. We hope everyone can take a little time to enjoy the festivities and fun this month.

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

John

[@LouisianaSupe](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

- Deadline to complete and submit Fall CLASS® observations- **December 15**
- All CLASS® observation error corrections due- **December 17**

Upcoming Events:

- Coordinated Funding Request webinar- **December 6**
- ACFP New Sponsor Orientation- **December 10-Baton Rouge**
- Child Care Support Meeting- **December 12-Baton Rouge**

More Important Dates

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

GOLD® Tip of the Month

Join the free webinar for teachers, *Saving Time Using GOLD®*, on Thursday, December 5. This webinar will focus on features and functionalities of *MyTeachingStrategies®* that will save teachers' time!

This webinar will cover

- the objectives for development and learning,
- the [Assessment Opportunity Cards™](#),
- the [On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool](#),
- the [GOLD® Documentation app](#),
- [Intentional Teaching Experiences/Opportunities](#),
- [Checkpoint By Class](#),
- [making the most of reports](#), and
- [additional time saving tips](#)

This webinar will be recorded and available to watch at a later date. Please [register for the live event](#) in order to receive information about the recording.

Additionally, December is the halfway point through the Winter Checkpoint period. This is a reminder to continue entering documentation, and assess each child's progress prior to the February checkpoint.

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

CLASS® Tip of the Month

This is a reminder of the upcoming fall CLASS® observation period deadline. Per BESE Bulletin 140, lead agencies are required to report all fall CLASS® observation results to the Department by December 15 each year, including the submission of all error corrections for fall observations.

Additionally, on Teachstone is offering the [webinar, "How Can Teachers Use CLASS® to Build Equity?"](#). This [webinar](#) will discuss how teachers can use the CLASS® tool to build equity in their classrooms, including real life examples and strategies. The presentation will also feature teachers who have used CLASS® to foster inclusion in their classrooms.

Webinar: How Can Teachers Use CLASS® to Build Equity?

Webinar date: December 9

Webinar time: 5:00 p.m. EST

[Webinar registration](#)

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

BUILD Initiative Webinar

On Tuesday, December 17th from 1-2:30 PM ET, the BUILD Initiative and QRIS National Learning Network invite participants to a webinar in the Let's Talk series titled, [CLASS in Statewide Systems: Supporting Regional and Local Capacity-Building for Program Improvement](#).

During this Let's Talk, participants will receive an overview of the use of the CLASS® in statewide systems for program quality improvement. Attendees will also hear from two states implementing a regional approach to continuous quality improvement with statewide implementation of the CLASS® through regionalized support to the early childhood education workforce, with a focus on scaling to build ongoing support and development of leaders, coaches, and teachers.

[Registration information](#) for the webinar is available.

Funding and Enrollment

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, afterschool 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

Vehicle Check

If a child is left on the center's vehicle for any amount of time, it is a critical reportable incident. 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,
- 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, and
- check the parent's car, if the parent transported a child during a field trip.

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

Approved Trainers

The Department has been notified that continuing education hours are being given by non-approved trainers. The Department will only accept trainings by current Pathways approved trainers to meet the clock hour requirement. The list of Pathways [approved trainers](#) changes each month, so it is imperative that providers stay abreast of the Pathways [approved trainers](#).

Please call 318-677-3171 with any questions regarding the approval status of Pathways trainers.

Child Care Health Consultants are approved through the Department of Health to conduct Medication Management Training and do not appear on these lists, though they may count as continuing education in accordance with [Bulletin 137](#) §1721(G). A list of Child Care Health Consultants is [available here](#).

Contacting the Division of Licensing

Each early learning center has a Licensing Consultant. Using the first letter of the center's name, please reference [this chart](#) to identify a center's assigned Licensing Consultant. If the Licensing Consultant cannot be reached, please contact Program Manager LaToya Davis at the Division of Licensing's number 225- 342-9905 or latoya.davis@la.gov.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBC) is Fully Functional

The CCCBC System can now be used, as normal, to enter new hire applications and check the eligibility of visitors. **The temporary waiver terminates on December 6, 2019.** Any questions regarding the CCCBC System in the wake of the statewide server issues can be sent to LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov.

Director Support

Saving Money Through State Contracts

Still paying full price for milk? Type I, II, or III centers are eligible to get milk (and furniture, equipment, and vehicles) at the same price as schools and state agencies. More information is available [here](#). Contact emmy.odwyer@la.gov with any questions.

Leaders' Lagniappe

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



Lead Agency Support

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

- December 10
- December 17
- December 24 (cancelled due to holiday)
- December 31 (cancelled due to holiday)

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

Play Outdoors LA!

Louisiana’s Division of Outdoor Recreation is conducting [this survey](#) in fulfillment of the federally required Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to identify the needs and priorities of outdoor recreation throughout the state. This survey process ensures continued federal funding to assist Louisiana in meeting the outdoor recreational demands of its citizens.

[The survey](#), as well as more information regarding the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is available.

In Case You Missed It

[Parents, advocates optimistic after city and state promises to fund early childhood education](#) (Fox8)

[St. Charles Parish to add 120 publicly funded prekindergarten spots at cost of \\$1.3 million](#) (The New Orleans Advocate)

[Arabic-Language Version of ‘Sesame Street’ will debut 3 new muppets](#) (The New York Times)

[\\$12.4 million Head Start grant up for bid in Lafayette, Iberia, and St. Martin; SMILE not eligible](#) (The Acadiana Advocate)

[With \\$3M investment, New Orleans doubles down on early education to catch state match](#) (The Times-Picayune)

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