



NEWSLETTER

News for Early Childhood Educators

February 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Over the last two weeks, stakeholders from across the state attended Louisiana's third annual Early Ed Week, held February 7-14.

Early Ed Week brings legislators and business leaders together to highlight the importance of access to quality early care and education for children, birth through age four, across Louisiana.

In each parish, participants had the opportunity to see firsthand what high quality early learning centers look like and learn about the challenges Louisiana's families face when trying to access quality, affordable early care and education in this state. Participants also heard about the dramatic cuts in the Louisiana Child Care Assistance Program over the last ten years, and the effect of child care breakdowns on parental workforce participation and productivity.

These visits are well-timed, as Gov. John Bel Edwards recently announced his executive budget, which includes \$25.1 million dollars for early childhood, targeted specifically at increasing access for children ages birth to 3. This funding stream comes in response to recommendations made by the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Commission, who recently released 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.

This budget allocation will fund early education services for an additional 4,000 children in need, under the age of 4, and serves as a significant step in investing in our economy, our families, and our children.

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*
- **March 4**-Informational Webinar on Ready Start Network Cohort 3 application

Upcoming Deadlines

- **February 28**-For Lead Agencies: February Child Count due
- **February 28**-Coordinated Enrollment Plan due
- **February 28**-*GOLD*® winter checkpoint due
- **March 1**-Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Early Bird Registration ends

More Important Dates

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

Updates for Teaching and Learning

GOLD® Tip of the Month

Want to support Emotional Support scores? Instructional experts at Teaching Strategies recently wrote, "[Becoming Responsive: Supporting the Social-Emotional and Developmental Needs on All Children](#)". Read [this blog](#) for strategies to support all learners and develop a responsive classroom culture.

Reminder: *GOLD*® winter checkpoint documentation and levels due **February 28**

CLASS® Resources

Are you or your teachers experiencing challenging behaviors in the classroom? Teachstone experts weigh in on their own experiences from the classrooms and provide specific strategies teachers can use to manage those behaviors with **CLASS**®. Watch this recorded webinar titled [Managing Challenging Behaviors with CLASS](#)® to learn more.

Pre-K/Kindergarten CLASS® Dual-Enrollment Training

CLASS® observers who need both Pre-K and Kindergarten-3rd grade observation training are invited to participate in a dual-enrollment training in March. This opportunity consists of 2.5 days of training, though the location has yet to be determined.

Interested participants are asked to email brandy.brunson@la.gov for additional information.

Updates for Licensed Centers

School Readiness Tax Credit Information

Louisiana's School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC) help to improve the quality of child care and increase access for at-risk children. The SRTC represents a \$16 million state investment in child care that helps Louisiana secure more than \$80 million in federal funding through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). There are five School Readiness Tax Credits available. Licensed centers' star rating for the 2019 tax year are now available on [Louisiana Believes](#).

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, 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.

Medication

Administering medication to children in an early learning is very serious and can become dangerous if the wrong medication or the wrong amount is given. Providers **must** ensure medication is administered at prescribed times. It is important that staff who administer medication follow the directions provided and record the following:

1. name of the child and medication name and dosage administered;
2. date and time medication administered;
3. documentation of telephone contact with parent prior to giving "as needed" medication;
4. signature of person administering medication or witnessing the child administering own medication;
5. signature of person completing the form; and
6. when a parent administers medication to his/her own child on center premises, the medication administration record shall be documented by either the parent or a staff member.

Remember whether administering medication or not, each early learning center shall have at least two staff members trained in medication administration and at least one trained staff member on the premises during the hours of operation. This training must be completed by an approved child care health consultant every two years.

Scheduling Annual Required Trainings

To reduce the chances of a deficiency being given for annual required training, it is recommended that Providers use tools to help them remember to schedule required training. For example, if your CPR/PFA certifications expire April 2020, it is a great idea to schedule the training at least a month or two in advance to allow time for the documentation to be received. Some useful tools include the use of desk, computer, and phone calendar reminders, or scheduling annual trainings on the same day/week every year.

Updates for Directors



Wouldn't it be nice to hit the easy button? 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



[Paula Polito](#) is a state and national leader who is most proud of her leadership as director of her family business, Bear-y Cherry Tree in Ready Start Jefferson. Learn about her journey in this month's [Leaders' Lagniappe](#).

Updates for Lead Agencies

Ready Start Network Cohort 3 application

The application for Ready Start Networks - Cohort 3 will be released to lead agencies on February 27. An informational webinar on the application will be held March 4 at noon.

Contact lizzie.cosse@la.gov with questions.

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.

Contact amanda.colon@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- February 18 at 3:00 p.m.
- February 25 at 3:00 p.m. CANCELLED for state holiday
- March 3 at 3:00 p.m.

- March 10 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 to receive the information to connect to the webinar.

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.

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.

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.

Early Childhood in the News

[Assistant State Superintendent Applauds Proposed New Investments in Early Childhood Education](#)
(Louisiana Believes)

[More affordable childcare needed in SWLA, according to advocates](#) (KPLC)

[Education takes priority in governor' proposed \\$32 billion state budget](#) (News Star)

[State leaders tour Lafayette early childhood classrooms as part of pilot program](#) (The Acadiana Advocate)

[Commision Again Urges State To Invest in Early Childhood Education for Children Blrth to Three](#)
(Louisiana Believes)



Contact

For questions regarding licensing, or child health and safety, please contact ldelicensing@la.gov.

For questions regarding lead agencies, please contact leadagency-support@la.gov.

For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.