

February 28, 2019



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It has been nearly seven years since the passage of Act 3, and the work to unify early childhood systems and to improve access to high quality care and education for our youngest learners is well underway. Since 2012, Louisiana has made great strides toward achieving the goal that all children are prepared to be successful when they enter kindergarten. In 2017-2018, almost all of the state's economically disadvantaged 4-year-olds were enrolled in Proficient or above sites, which suggests they are getting the quality care and education they need to be ready for kindergarten.

However, we know that not nearly enough infants are enrolled in quality sites, and very little is currently known about the quality of care offered in infant classrooms around the state. To better define what quality infant care looks like and to create a pathway to improvement for infant teachers, the Department is integrating Infant CLASS® into the unified quality rating system over three years:

- 2018-2019: Infant CLASS® Pilot
- 2019-2020: Infant CLASS® Learning Year
- 2020-2021: Full Implementation of Infant CLASS®

In the fall of 2018, 111 classrooms located at 93 sites across 21 networks stepped up to participate in the optional Infant CLASS® Pilot. This pilot has been designed to help support teachers and sites as they prepare for the 2019-2020 Infant CLASS® Learning Year, which will require that every infant classroom be observed for practice before full implementation in 2020-2021.

While the results from this Infant CLASS® Pilot are preliminary and only represent a relatively small number of sites, the early results show promise. Eighty percent of the infant classrooms observed received an observation score that is Proficient or higher, and less than one percent of classrooms scored Unsatisfactory. Also, the rate of replacement by third party observers in these infant classrooms is low; only twenty percent of domains were replaced by third party in the fall.

The 2019-2020 Infant CLASS® Learning Year will provide all observers, site administrators, and teachers the opportunity to see the potential impacts of the Infant CLASS® tool on site ratings prior to the full implementation in 2020-2021. The Department intends to work hand-in-hand with our communities to ensure the field is best prepared for the implementation of Infant CLASS® with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for Louisiana families and children.

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

John

John White

Louisiana Department of Education

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

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- **GOLD®** Winter Checkpoint - February 28
- [Request for Applications \(RFA\) for Key Training Modules](#) - RFA1 applications due March 13
- [New Director/Administrator Webinar](#) - March 27
- [Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Webinar](#) - April 4

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

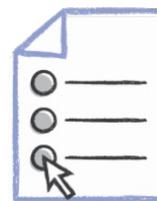
### LOUISIANA EARLY CHILDHOOD KEY TRAINING MODULES - REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Louisiana Department of Education is offering an exciting new 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 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 the first in a series of three requests for applications, and is seeking proposals for trainings that are related to Early Childhood Tools and Standards. The [application](#) must be submitted by March 13, 2019. In addition to the information provided in the attached [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#), the Department hosted an informational webinar about Louisiana's Early Childhood Key Training Modules RFA 1 on Tuesday, February 19th. The webinar [slides](#) and [recording](#) are available online. For questions or additional information, please contact [Leslie Doyle](#).

### EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE (ECAC) - REMINDER FOR 2019

Beginning July 1, 2019, directors must verify that all lead teachers have an ECAC as a minimum requirement. Lead teachers employed in the center who do not have the ECAC must earn it within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher.



## GET HIRED + QUALIFY + CERTIFY

The [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate \(ECAC\)](#):

- Can be earned at no cost by presenting a qualifying credential or degree;
  - CDA training and technical diploma training should be completed at a [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program](#), which can often be accessed at no cost through Louisiana Pathways Scholarships.
- Is valid for three years, and can be renewed for free by demonstrating ongoing professional development; and
- May qualify teachers for the highest levels of School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC).

The Department will host a third informational webinar for directors, site leaders, and teachers titled, "[Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate.](#)"

Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/121500969>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting ID#: 121 500 969

Additional information can be found in the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#) and the NEW [ECAC Staffing Map for Directors](#). For questions, please contact [Michelle DeMeulenaere](#).

### GOLD® CORNER - CHECKPOINT DEADLINE APPROACHING

Today is the deadline for the **GOLD®** winter checkpoint. In order to prepare for a successful checkpoint, please read [10 Tips for Successfully Completing Your Checkpoint](#).

If you have any questions or concerns while working toward winter checkpoint completion, please utilize the Louisiana-specific support line at 1-866-248-2575.

## TEACHER LEADER COMMITTEE REGISTRATION

The 2019 Teacher Leader Summit will take place June 26-28, 2019 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the LDOE will charge a small registration fee for the 2019 Summit. This fee will cover admission to conference, conference sessions, and lunch. Educators can receive a discount by registering early and by registering for all three days at once. For more information, view the [2019 Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#).

## SCHOOL READINESS TAX CREDIT (SRTC)

Louisiana's unique package of School Readiness Tax Credits benefit families, teachers, directors, providers, and businesses connected to Type III centers. Below are resources related to the tax credits as staff and providers begin preparing to file for 2018.

### SRTC Resources:

- The Department has released NEW FAQs for 2018 School Readiness Tax Credits for [businesses](#), [providers](#), [staff and directors](#), and [parents and families](#).
- The Department has also published the [2017](#), [2018](#), and [2019](#) School Readiness Tax Credit Star Levels, linked in the [Quality Providers Library](#) under "School Readiness Tax Credit". Providers should use the [2018 School Readiness Tax Credit Star Levels](#) for filing 2018 taxes.
- The Department has also made available the November 2018 webinar on School Readiness Tax Credit, entitled [Updates for Claiming 2018 SRTC](#), linked in the [Quality Providers Library](#) under "School Readiness Tax Credit".

## FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

### ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION AND CCAP COMPLETE APPLICATION WEBINAR

Eligibility Determination is a major component of the Coordinated Enrollment process. To assist Lead Agencies and interested partner providers, the Department conducted an informational webinar on February 20. This webinar features eligibility requirements for pre-K programs, using the new Direct Match system, allowable documentation, and detailed instructions on how to make an accurate eligibility determination. It also includes important information on the CCAP Complete Application Process. Lead Agencies and other interested participants are welcome to use the information in this webinar for training purposes. A recording of this webinar can be found [here](#). Contact [Lindsey Bradford](#) if you have any questions.

### NON-USE OF CCAP

In order to effectively monitor use of authorizations and funding within the CCAP program, the Department is heavily weighing on non-use of the subsidy and identified children who have not used the subsidy for a period of three months or more. In order to streamline this process, LDOE will be mailing notices to families and providers who fall within this category or have had "six or more unexplained absences during a certification month." It is encouraged that if families and providers receive this notice that they contact the Department to provide explanation of the absence days and state if care is still needed. If you have any questions regarding this process, contact [LDECCAP@LA.GOV](mailto:LDECCAP@LA.GOV) or 1-877-453-2721.

### CCAP SLIDING FEE SCALE

The Department has made updates to the [Sliding Fee Scale](#) which is used to identify the maximum income amounts for household sizes within the program. If there are any questions regarding the scale, providers may contact the Provider Help Desk and clients may contact 1-877-453-2721.

## 2019 SLIDING FEE SCALE



	2 Persons		3 Persons		4 Persons		5 Persons	
<b>Copay</b>								
\$0	\$0	- \$ 1,602	\$0	- \$ 1,923	\$0	- \$ 2,289	\$0	- \$ 2,655
\$2.00	\$ 1,603	- \$ 2,185	\$ 1,924	- \$ 2,622	\$ 2,290	- \$ 3,121	\$ 2,656	- \$ 3,620
\$3.00	\$ 2,186	- \$ 2,403	\$ 2,623	- \$ 2,884	\$ 3,122	- \$ 3,433	\$ 3,621	- \$ 3,983
\$8.00	\$ 2,404	- \$ 2,971	\$ 2,885	- \$ 3,670	\$ 3,434	- \$ 4,370	\$ 3,984	- \$ 5,069
\$10.00	\$ 2,972	- \$ 3,713	\$ 3,671	- \$ 4,457	\$ 4,371	- \$ 5,306	\$ 5,070	- \$ 6,155
	6 Persons		7 Persons		8 Persons		9 Persons	
<b>Copay</b>								
\$0	\$0	- \$ 3,021	\$0	- \$ 3,090	\$0	- \$ 3,159	\$0	- \$ 3,227
\$2.00	\$ 3,022	- \$ 4,120	\$ 3,091	- \$ 4,213	\$ 3,160	- \$ 4,307	\$ 3,228	- \$ 4,401
\$3.00	\$ 4,121	- \$ 4,532	\$ 4,214	- \$ 4,635	\$ 4,308	- \$ 4,738	\$ 4,402	- \$ 4,841
\$8.00	\$ 4,533	- \$ 5,768	\$ 4,636	- \$ 5,899	\$ 4,739	- \$ 6,030	\$ 4,842	- \$ 6,161
\$10.00	\$ 5,769	- \$ 7,004	\$ 5,900	- \$ 7,163	\$ 6,031	- \$ 7,322	\$ 6,162	- \$ 7,481
	10 Persons		11 Persons				12 Persons	
<b>Copay</b>								
\$0	\$0	- \$ 3,296	\$0	- \$ 3,365			\$0	- \$ 3,433
\$2.00	\$ 3,297	- \$ 4,494	\$ 3,366	- \$ 4,588			\$ 3,434	- \$ 4,682
\$3.00	\$ 4,495	- \$ 4,944	\$ 4,589	- \$ 5,047			\$ 4,683	- \$ 5,150
\$8.00	\$ 4,945	- \$ 6,292	\$ 5,048	- \$ 6,423			\$ 5,151	- \$ 6,554
\$10.00	\$ 6,293	- \$ 7,640	\$ 6,424	- \$ 7,800			\$ 6,555	- \$ 7,959

## CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

### WHEN AN INCIDENT BECOMES A CRITICAL REPORTABLE INCIDENT

Incidents, injuries, accidents, illnesses, and unusual behavior shall be documented on an incident/accident form and reported to the parent. This should happen no later than when the child is picked up from the early learning center, on the day of the occurrence. Instead of waiting until pickup, centers should notify parents immediately in the following circumstances:

1. blood not contained in an adhesive strip;
2. head or neck or eye injury;
3. human bite that breaks the skin;
4. animal bite;
5. impaled object;
6. broken or dislodged teeth;
7. allergic reaction skin changes (e.g. rash, spots, swelling, etc.);
8. unusual breathing;
9. symptoms of dehydration;
10. temperature reading over 101°oral, 102°rectal, or 100°axillary; or
11. injury or illness requiring professional medical attention. [Bulletin 137](#)§1915.b

If a parent later takes their child to the doctor or a hospital to seek medical attention, a critical incident form should be completed and submitted to [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov). There are two places to obtain a current critical reportable incident form: Under Hot Topics or the Division of Licensing Library <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/licensed-centers>.

### TORNADO DRILLS

Once a month in March, April, May, and June, early learning centers must conduct a tornado drill. These drills should be conducted at different times each month and documented. [Bulletin 137](#)§1921.E. If you have questions, please contact your consultant at (225)342-9905 or e-mail [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov).

### CCCBC ROSTER

It is recommended that all staff, including owners and directors, are placed on a center's CCCBC roster. If you employ a staff member who already has an eligible CCCBC notification, you should be sure to add that staff member and keep your center's CCCBC roster current. This

would allow for your center to be automatically notified in the event of a change in that individual's eligibility status by the Department's CCCBC unit. If you have questions, please contact your consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov).

## CCCBC REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS® OBSERVERS

When a Picard CLASS®

observer visits a center, the center should use the Child Care Civil Background Check System to check the eligibility of the observer. Because Picard CLASS® observers are not regular visitors, they should not be added to the center's roster.

For more information on meeting the requirements for Picard CLASS® observers, review the [CCCBC Requirements for CLASS® Observers](#) guidance document.

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## DIRECTOR SUPPORT

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER: NEW RESOURCES

**The Department has two new quick reference guides:**

A [guide for new child care directors](#) provides an overview of educational components of programs.

A quick guide to CLASS® observations can be found [here](#).

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER: WEBINAR

Please note that the webinar below will be offered on March 27, not March 23 as previously listed.

The Department will offer a new webinar every other month especially designed to support new child care directors and school-based Pre-K administrators. The webinar will address:

- Louisiana's unified early childhood rating system and Performance Profiles
- Classroom observations for teacher-child interactions as measured by CLASS®
- Community partners that support the early childhood system

**Webinar Date and Time:** March 27 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**Join the next webinar:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/334103042>

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

**Meeting ID:** 334 103 042

View the presentation [here](#).

Please contact [Emmy O'Dwyer](#) with any questions.

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## 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 sessions are held on most Tuesdays from **3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The Early Childhood Team provides updates and reminders. Additional topics are determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information to the Zoom webinar account has been sent to all lead agency contacts. Contact [Kaye Eichler](#) if you have questions.

**Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies:**

- March 12

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## OTHER

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Early education advocates make plea to Louisiana legislators for funding](#) (Lafayette Daily Advertiser, February 12, 2019)

[Our Views: Our LA-4 success story, but start with kids earlier](#) (The Advocate, February 17, 2019)

[Opinion: Can early education push help pass sports betting?](#) (Associated Press, February 19, 2019)

[John White says the governor left early childhood care out of budget proposal](#) (Nola.com, February 25, 2019)

[Legal sports betting? La. lawmaker considers using revenue to fund early education](#) (WVLA, February 25, 2019)

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