



November 8, 2018



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Today marks a critical accomplishment for Louisiana's early childhood community. For the second time, Early Childhood Performance Profiles have been released for all publicly-funded child care, Head Start, and pre-K sites. These results highlight the progress that has been made across the state. You can find your site's rating at [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

Early Childhood Performance Profiles have two key pieces: ratings that evaluate teacher-child interactions and information on classroom best practices, like teacher credentials and curriculum. The overall performance rating, which is based on CLASS® observations, is reported in four categories: Excellent, Proficient, Approaching Proficient, and Unsatisfactory.

The results from the 2017-2018 Early Childhood Performance Profiles indicate:

- All program types improved their average performance scores. Of the approximately 1,500 early childhood centers, Head Start programs and pre-kindergarten sites to receive Performance Profiles in 2017-2018, 77% provided children with care and instruction at levels that research shows promote kindergarten readiness. That is an improvement from the previous year, when about 70% of sites did.
- Statewide average scores improved in all measured areas. Louisiana early childhood sites saw improvements across the board, from classroom climate to organization to instruction, at both the pre-kindergarten and toddler levels.
- More early childhood program classrooms are embracing best practices. Louisiana has seen a significant increase in the number of sites using a high-quality curriculum, from 77% in 2016-2017 to 84% in 2017-2018. In addition, more child care teachers are prepared to teach than ever before.
- Nearly 300 sites earned a spot on the state's [Honor Roll](#). They earned this recognition for overall excellence, for providing superior care to the state's youngest learners and for improving performance over time. Each site has a special badge on its online Performance Profile to signify its accomplishment.

The progress represented in this year's Early Childhood Performance Profiles is a demonstration of the dedication and hard work taking place across Louisiana's early childhood communities. We are proud of the gains we have made as a state.

Please see the entry below for additional resources and information related to using the 2017-2018 Early Childhood Performance Profiles. For questions, please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

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

## John

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- [School Readiness Tax Credit \(SRTC\) Webinar](#) - November 14 at 1:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Meeting - November 28 at 1:00 p.m.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- Coordinated Funding Request - December 1
  - Fall CLASS Observation Deadline - December 15
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## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### 2017-2018 PERFORMANCE PROFILE RELEASE

The 2017-2018 Performance Profiles were released today on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#). To support sites and families in interpreting and understanding these results, the Department has released the following resources:

- The [Parent Video on Performance Profile](#) provides information on how early childhood performance profiles are created.
- The [Performance Profile Site Key](#) and [Guide](#) explain each metric included in the individual site's Performance Profile, and can be used to help understand the information provided for each site.
- The [Community Network Performance Profile Key](#) and [Guide](#) explain each metric included in the community's Performance Profile, and can be used to help interpret the results of your community.
- In November, the Department conducted a webinar to provide information about the release directly to early childhood sites. The [video](#) and [webinar](#) deck are available to sites to review.
- For more information about CLASS® observations and how Performance Profiles are calculated, see the [Performance Profile Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- To support sites to understand how they can use their Performance Profile results to make improvements, the Department has provided a guidance document with [Five Tips for Sites](#), that provides clear information and actionable next steps.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD HONOR ROLL

To highlight quality services, the Department announced [nearly 300 early childhood education programs that have earned a spot on the state's "Honor Roll"](#) as a result of high performance in the 2017-2018 school year. The Honor Roll recognizes early childhood programs, including child care centers, Head Start programs, and pre-kindergartens, in three award categories:

- Excellence: Sites achieving a rating of "Excellent," the highest possible rating
- Birth to Three: Sites providing high-quality instruction and care to the state's youngest learners
- Top Gains: Sites significantly improving their performance from one year to the next

The early childhood programs listed on the Honor Roll will receive a special badge on their performance profiles in the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#) to signify the accomplishment, as well as a state certificate to display on-site. You can view all Honor Roll results [here](#).

## RELEASE OF SCHOOL AND CENTER PERFORMANCE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKITS

The Department released a toolkit to help Lead Agencies, schools, and early childhood centers communicate the release of their 2018 performance scores in the Louisiana School Finder. The toolkit includes resources such as:

- School and Center Finder flyer, poster, website button, and social media graphics;
- Sample early childhood center and Community Network performance rating news release;
- Early Childhood Center Parent Night Presentation; and
- Animated early childhood performance profile video.

All resources are available [here](#). Email [ideocommunications@la.gov](mailto:ideocommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## SCHOOL READINESS TAX CREDIT (SRTC)

To support Type III early learning centers and staff to understand School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC), the Department is hosting a webinar. During this time, we will review the credits, their benefits, the changes for the 2018 tax year, and the impact of profile release on 2019 SRTC. Lead agencies, providers, staff, R&Rs, and community members are welcome to join.

**Webinar Date and Time:** November 14 at 1:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/151602227>

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

**Meeting ID#:** 151-602-227

- 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](#) and [2018](#) School Readiness Tax Credit Star Levels, linked in the [Quality Providers Library](#) under "School Readiness Tax Credit".

If you have any questions, contact [Demita Walker](#).

## 2018-2019 INFANT CLASS® PILOT

Beginning in 2019-2020, all infant classrooms will be observed using the Infant CLASS® tool, and beginning 2020-2021, Infant CLASS® observations will be included in the calculation of site and network performance ratings.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Department will pilot the Infant CLASS® tool in a select number of classrooms in order to understand best practices for use of this tool in Louisiana classrooms and to help sites prepare for full implementation of Infant CLASS®. Due to limited resources, pilot participation will be offered only to a limited number of sites and classrooms. For more information, please review the [2018-2019 Infant CLASS® Pilot](#) informational document. Email [Taylor Dunn](#) with any questions.

To participate in the Infant CLASS® Pilot, please complete [this survey](#) by November 16, 2018.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD ANCILLARY CERTIFICATE - REMINDER FOR 2019

Beginning July 1, 2019, lead teachers working in Type III child care centers will need an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher.

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

- 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
- May qualify teachers for the highest levels of School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)

Additional information can be found in the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate FAQs](#) or in the [October 2018 Letter to Directors](#). For questions, please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

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# CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

## DEADLINE REMINDER: NOVEMBER 30, 2018 IS DEADLINE TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENTS OF CHILD CARE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Reimbursement for CCCBCs applies only to CCCBC applications completed by September 30, 2018. Please read our [FAQ](#) for details on who qualifies for reimbursement. [Reimbursement forms](#) must be mailed or received by **November 30, 2018**. The slides from the reimbursement webinar are available [here](#), and you can access the webinar recording [here](#).

Questions regarding the CCCBC reimbursements can be directed to [Erica Aguillard](#).

## ANNUAL FLU NOTICE

Child care providers are encouraged to begin implementing preventative measures to prepare for flu season. Licensed child care centers are required to make information concerning the influenza immunization available to each child's parent or legal guardian to assist parents in taking precautionary actions.

The Center for Disease control has provided several online resources that can be printed and distributed to families:

- [Guide for Parents](#)
- [Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs](#)
- [2018-2019 Flu Information](#)

## REPORTING CENTER CLOSURES

With the exception of state observed holidays, a center shall notify the department in writing of a temporary closure (closure of more than 5 calendar days, but less than 30 calendar days) within one day of closure of the center. The provider shall notify the department in writing of a permanent closure of center (closure of more than 30 calendar days) within seven calendar days of closure of the center. [Bulletin 137](#) §907.A&B.

If you have questions, please contact your Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905 or email [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov).

## CHOOSE SAFE PLACES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The Louisiana Department of Health's Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology (SEET) has partnered with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to reduce children's risk of being exposed to dangerous chemicals during their care through a program called Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE). The goal is to protect children in early care and education programs from potential exposure to chemicals such as arsenic, lead, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). By educating child care professionals about the risks of exposure and by providing guidance to child care professionals, we hope to prevent exposures. SEET has developed a [questionnaire](#) for child care providers to use as they consider possible locations for their facility. Please click on the [link](#) to access the survey.

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# LEAD AGENCY SUPPORT

## WEEKLY WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL FOR LEAD AGENCIES

The Early Childhood Team holds weekly webinar/conference call question and answer sessions for lead agencies. The sessions are held on most Tuesdays from **3:00 p.m. to 4:00 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](#) if you have questions.

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

- November 13
- November 27

## COORDINATED FUNDING REQUEST

Bulletin 140 requires that each Lead Agency submit a Coordinated Funding Request on behalf of their Community Network, requesting funding for LA 4, NSECD, and existing pre-K Expansion Grant seats. To provide support and training to complete the Coordinated Funding Request, the Department conducted a webinar on Wednesday, October 17. The recorded presentation can be found [here](#). You can also access the 2019-2020 Coordinated Funding Request Guide [here](#). Any questions should be directed to [Lindsey Bradford](#).

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## OTHER

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 28

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council has been changed to Wednesday, November 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. For a council overview and a list of the 2018-2019 meeting dates, click [here](#). For additional information, please email [Leslie Doyle](#).

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