

April 11, 2019



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Superintendent's Message](#)
- [Important Dates for Early Childhood Programs](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Child Safety and Welfare](#)
- [Director Support](#)
- [Lead Agency Support](#)

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana's early learning centers work every day to ensure that every child is ready for success in kindergarten and in life. Center directors play a critical role as they set an ambitious vision for children's learning in their programs. Their leadership inspires children, families, staff, and community members, showing what is possible in a high quality program.

As you know, investment in early education yields high returns. Instructional leaders recognize the importance of this critical early period, and take advantage of this opportunity, working closely with teachers to set a high bar for learning in the classroom.

In March, we launched a new monthly feature in our newsletter called Leaders Lagniappe. The Louisiana early learning leaders featured will describe how they achieve results for children by collaborating with teachers for excellence, using high quality curriculum, and focusing on continuous improvement. This month, Patricia Holmes shares how quality instructional materials changed her experiences as an educator. Children in her program are now leading the way, applying their learning in real-life contexts that every educator would love to see. Stories like Patricia's showcase characteristics and practices of instructional leadership in our state from which we can all take inspiration and learn.

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

**John**

John White  
Louisiana Department of Education  
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- [CCCBC System Updates Webinar](#) - April 16
- [Early Childhood Roundtables for lead agencies, child care directors, Head Start directors, pre-K programs, and other advocates](#)
  - Alexandria - April 25 at 9:00 a.m.
  - Lake Charles - April 25 at 2:00 p.m.
  - Baton Rouge - April 30 at 9:00 a.m.
  - Harvey - May 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Webinar](#) - May 2

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

- [GOLD@ Best Practices Application to Present at Teacher Summit 2019](#) - Applications due May 1

- [Request for Application \(RFA\) for Infant CLASS Supports](#) - Applications due May 17
- [Early Childhood Family Survey](#) - May 31

## MORE IMPORTANT DATES

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

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

## EARLY CHILDHOOD ROUNDTABLES

The Louisiana Department of Education conducted two Early Childhood Roundtables this week in Bossier City and Monroe. Our next stops are Alexandria and Lake Charles on April 25. The Department is using this an opportunity to convene stakeholders, share the Department's vision to increase access to quality care and education for children birth to five, and solicit feedback on the plan to achieve this vision. These roundtables are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend. Please join us to learn more and share your thoughts.

Early Childhood Roundtables			
City	Date	Time	Location
Bossier City	April 11	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Bossier Instructional Center 2719 Airline Dr., Bossier City, LA 71111
Monroe	April 11	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana 117 Hall St., Monroe, LA 71201
Alexandria	April 25	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Gladys Higdon Media Resources Center 502 Beauregard St., Alexandria, LA 71301
Lake Charles	April 25	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Early Childhood Building 1618 Mill St., Lake Charles, LA 70601
Baton Rouge	April 30	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Claiborne Building - Louisiana Purchase Room 1201 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Harvey	May 2	10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Jefferson Parish School Board Office 501 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058

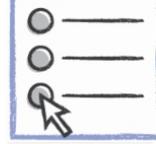
## INFANT CLASS® SUPPORTS - REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

To support teachers and prepare them for upcoming Infant CLASS® observations, The Louisiana Department of Education is offering lead agencies the opportunity to apply for community-level grants to provide teachers and directors with high-quality, evidence-based professional development targeted toward infant-teacher interactions. The [application](#) must be submitted by Friday, May 17 at noon. More details can be found in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#). Additionally, the Department hosted an informational webinar on Wednesday, April 17; the webinar [slides](#) and [recording](#) are available online. For any questions or additional information, please contact [Lizzie Cosse](#).

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

As part of the Academic Approval assurances, directors will verify that as of July 1, 2019, all of the lead teachers working in their center for 24 months or more will have met the requirements to obtain an ECAC as set forth in Bulletin 140, or have a plan to meet these requirements by July 1, 2020. 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, May 2, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/475032833>

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

**Meeting ID#:** 475032833

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](#).

### 2019 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT REGISTRATION

The 2019 Teacher Leader Summit will take place June 26-28, 2019 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. There will be more than 70 unique sessions offered for early childhood professionals. To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, LDOE will charge a small registration fee for the 2019 Summit. This fee will cover admission to the conference, conference sessions, and lunch. Educators can receive a discount by registering for all three days at once. For more information, view the [2019 Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#).

### APPLICATION TO PRESENT AT THE 2019 TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT - GOLD® BEST PRACTICES

The Department is looking for early childhood teachers, administrators, or coaches who can present their best practices for utilizing TeachingStrategies GOLD® at the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit. These best practices may include strategies for saving time, collecting data, finalizing all checkpoints, collecting documentation, aligning assessment with instruction, etc.

In a poster session format, the selected presenters from the field will be set up around the room demonstrating their best practices for optimizing the use of GOLD® in early childhood classrooms. Participants will learn directly from GOLD® users in the field and will leave the session with ideas and strategies to implement in their classrooms.

If you have a GOLD® strategy you would like to present at the Teacher Leader Summit, please complete [this application](#) by May 1, 2019.

### 2019 EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY SURVEY

On April 8, the Louisiana Department of Education released the 2019 Early Childhood Family Survey. This survey asks questions about family satisfaction with the coordinated enrollment process and with program quality. This survey is completely anonymous and the results of this survey will only be reported on the Network Performance Profile-the results will never be tied back to individual sites or respondents.

Paper surveys will be mailed out to randomly selected child care centers, Head Start programs, and schools. Families of children enrolled in the randomly selected programs will be asked to complete the anonymous family satisfaction survey. If you are not selected to participate in the random sample and you would like to share your feedback regarding your satisfaction with early childhood enrollment and program quality, you may participate in an online version of the survey found [here](#).

If you want to learn more about the Family Survey, the Department publishes an annual report on the survey findings. Results from the 2017-2018 survey can be found [here](#).

For more information about the Early Childhood Family Survey, please contact [EarlyChildhood@la.gov](mailto:EarlyChildhood@la.gov).

### 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".

## CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE

### CRITICAL/REPORTABLE INCIDENT FORM - COMPLETING AND UPDATING REPORTS

A critical incident report should provide a detailed description of an emergency incident in its entirety. It should be descriptive and provide enough information for the Division of Licensing to determine who, what, when, where, and how the incident occurred. In some cases, if the outcome of the emergency has not been determined, it is then necessary to update the Critical/Reportable Incident Form with any additional information as it becomes available and send it to the Division of Licensing at [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov).

There are two places to obtain a current Critical/Reportable Incident Form: under Hot Topics on the [Licensed Centers webpage](#) or the [Licensed Centers Library](#).

### 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 SYSTEM UPDATES: WEBINAR

The Child Care Civil Background Check System has been enhanced to provide efficient processing times, increased security, and more search options. Check out the new features in the updated [User Manual](#). There will also be two webinars reviewing the enhancements on the following dates:

**Webinar Date and Time:** Tuesday, April 16th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/334103042>

**Webinar Phone Number:** (646) 876-9923

**Meeting ID:** 642-366-809

### 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.

## DIRECTOR SUPPORT

### NEW FEATURE: LEADERS LAGNIAPPE

Each month, Leaders Lagniappe will feature the story of a child care center leader who is moving the needle for children. In April, [Patricia Holmes](#) of [Agape Child Care Learning Center](#) explains how a Tier I curriculum transformed her teaching, and empowered her children to lead.



### DIRECTOR'S CORNER: WEBINAR

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:** May 29 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/704045364>

View the presentation [here](#).

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

## 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:

- April 16
- April 23

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

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### LDOE Links

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