March 28, 2019

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

In the coming weeks, the Louisiana Department of Education will conduct a series of six Early Childhood Roundtables across the state, starting Tuesday, April 11 in both Bossier City and Monroe. This is an excellent opportunity to engage with the Department as we discuss Louisiana's vision to increase access to quality care and education for children birth to five. Since the passage of Act 3 (2012), Louisiana has made great strides towards improving care and education for our young learners. However, we know there is more work to be done. At each of these Roundtables, the LDOE will discuss how initiatives focused on local governance, quality, and access will help to achieve kindergarten readiness.

We look forward to hearing your feedback and questions. Your voice is essential as we work together to improve Early Childhood Care and Education in Louisiana. These Roundtables are open to the public, and we invite all early childhood stakeholders to attend. If you are unable to make a session, a recorded webinar and slides will be available following the completion of the Roundtables. Additionally, any feedback you have for the Department that you were unable to share in person can be shared in an upcoming survey.

In this newsletter, you will find a complete listing of all Early Childhood Roundtable dates and locations. I encourage you to find a location close to you and join us as we discuss the future of Louisiana's youngest learners.

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:
- Preparing for July 2019 - The Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Webinar - April 4
- CCCBC System Updates Webinar - April 3, April 16

UPCOMING DEADLINES
- Teacher Leader Summit Early Bird Registration Ends - March 31
TEACHING AND LEARNING

EARLY CHILDHOOD ROUNDTABLES
The Louisiana Department of Education will be conducting a series of Early Childhood Roundtables around the state in order 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.

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

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.

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. 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. Early Bird Registration ends March 31. For more information, view the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit Overview.

GOLD® TIP OF THE MONTH
For Administrators: In MyTeachingStrategies®, administrators can generate a variety of reports after a GOLD® checkpoint to analyze outcomes data. These reports can enable administrators to better support teachers and ensure that all publicly-funded children are being assessed. Click here for a helpful overview of these reports.

For Teachers: Teachers can use MyTeachingStrategies® to create a weekly plan to help connect assessment data with instruction. For more information on how to use the Teach area to build a weekly plan, click here.

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
NON-USE OF CCAP
In order to effectively monitor use of funding within the CCAP program, the Department is identifying 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." Families and providers who receive this notice are encouraged to contact the Department to provide explanation of the absent days and state if care is still needed. If you have any questions regarding this process, contact LDECCAP@LA.GOV or 1-877-453-2721.

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.

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.

TORNOADO 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.
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: Wednesday, April 3rd 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

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. This month, Darnester Nora, Director and Owner of Spring Ride Academy in Jefferson Parish, shares she invests in teachers as the state readies for the Ancillary Certificate requirement in July.

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
Webinar Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923
Meeting ID: 704 045 364

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...
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 2
- April 9

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If someone you know wishes to subscribe to this newsletter, please click [here](#) to subscribe.