



May 28, 2015

Dear Provider:

Thank you for the work you are doing to serve our state's youngest learners. Those of us at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) have enjoyed our partnership over the past many years. As you are likely aware, the work of certifying households for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) as well as the State's lead agency status will transfer to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) effective July 1, 2015. The move follows the transition of Licensing, which occurred October 1, 2014, and the move of Provider Certification, which occurred February 1, 2015. This transition is part of a broader effort begun with Act 3 (2012) to establish a unified early childhood system and improve kindergarten readiness in Louisiana. By establishing consistent expectations for providers, young children will have equitable access to safe, high-quality care and education.

The State is committed to providing all child care providers with ongoing, clear communication throughout this transition. **This transition will have no impact on your existing certification to receive CCAP payments. You will continue to receive payments from DCFS through July 14, 2015, for services rendered through June 30, 2015. After July 14, 2015, payments will be issued by LDE for services provided on and after July 1, 2015. Also, starting July 1, 2015, the use of stored value cards for payment of child day care services will be discontinued.**

In addition, this transfer will have no impact on the existing eligibility of clients or households you serve. Should a CCAP household have any questions concerning their eligibility, they may contact the Department of Education after July 1, 2015, at 1-877-453-2721.

Please be assured that DCFS and LDE will continue to work together to ensure a smooth transition of the CCAP household eligibility functions and payment services.

Again, thank you for all you do for our children.

Sincerely,

John White
State Superintendent
Louisiana Department of Education

Suzy Sonnier
Secretary
Department of Children and Family Services