

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**Department of Social Services
Office of Family Support**

Child Care Assistance Program—LA Pathways
(LAC 67:III.5125 and 5127)

The Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) to adopt LAC 67:III Subpart 12, Chapter 51, Child Care Assistance Program, Subchapter D Louisiana Pathways Child Care Career Development System(LA Pathways). This Emergency Rule shall be effective upon approval of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs or the passage of 60 days following publication whichever occurs first, and shall remain in effect until the expiration of the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or the adoption of the final Rule, whichever comes first.

This Emergency Rule is necessary to effectuate the intent of the legislators in Act 394, Regular Session 2007. Revised Statute 47: 6103 clearly states that the Senate Committee of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs and the House Committee on Ways and Means have 60 days after publication of the emergency rule to take action on such rule. Additionally, by statute any rule needs to be effective by December 1, 2007, in order to be applicable to the tax year beginning January 1, 2008. A delay in promulgating this Rule would have an adverse impact on the entire school readiness tax credit program.

**Title 67
SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Part III. Office of Family Support
Subpart 12. Child Care Assistance**

**Chapter 51. Child Care Assistance Program
Subchapter D. Louisiana Pathways Child Care Career Development System (LA Pathways)**

§5125. Authority

A. LA Pathways is the state practitioner registry maintained by the Department of Social Services. LA Pathways offers child care staff, including directors, teachers, assistant teachers and other classroom staff, a formal mechanism to track their training and educational attainment, experience and professional affiliation in the field of early care and education.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 45 CFR Part 98 and R.S. 36:474 and R.S. 47:6101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, LR 33:

§5127. Participation in LA Pathways

A. Any individual working or planning to work in the child care industry is eligible to enroll in LA Pathways by completing an application and forwarding the required documents. An application for enrollment and information about enrollment is available at <http://pathways.louisiana.gov> or by phoning the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education at 225-342-0694.

LA Pathways will register child care directors and staff according to requirements based on training and education, experience and professional activities, as approved by the Department of Social Services. Participation is voluntary.

B. Requirement for the Administrator Track for LA Pathways

Child Care Career Ladder Titles	Training and Education Requirements	Experience Requirements	Professional Activity Requirements
Assistant Director I	annual training as required by Licensing Minimum Standard	none	Encourage to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Assistant Director II	60 clock hours in approved core knowledge (CDA) subject areas including 6 hours in regulations	minimum 6 months	Encourage to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Assistant Director III	90 clock hours in approved core knowledge (CDA) subject areas including 15 hours in approved Administrative Training Categories	minimum 1 year	Encourage to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Director	as required by Licensing Minimum Standards	as required by licensing	Encourage to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Director I	CDA Credential or approved early childhood diploma and 30 clock hrs. in approved Administrative Training Categories or related associate degree or 30 hours toward associate degree with 4 college courses in early childhood or child development	minimum 1 year	Membership in an early childhood professional organization.
Director II	CDA Credential or approved early childhood diploma and 45 clock hrs. in approved Administrative Training Categories or National Administrative Credential or associate degree in early childhood or child development or related associate degree with 4 college courses in early childhood or child development or related bachelor degree with 3 college courses in early childhood or child development	minimum 18 months	Membership in an early childhood professional organization and service to the profession such as: serving on a board or committee, presenting at a conference, participating as a CDA advisor or mentor, attendance at a conference or professional event

Child Care Career Ladder Titles	Training and Education Requirements	Experience Requirements	Professional Activity Requirements
Director III Administrator Certificate To receive an Administrator Certificate you must have 75 clock hours of instruction in approved Administrative Training Categories 2 college courses in approved administration can be substituted for the Administrator Certificate	CDA Credential or approved early childhood diploma and Administrator Certificate or associate degree in child development or early childhood and Administrator Certificate or bachelor degree in early childhood or child development of which 3 college courses focus on infants and toddlers and Administrator Certificate or related bachelor degree with 6 college courses in early childhood or child development of which 3 courses focus on infants and toddlers and Administrator Certificate	minimum 2 years	Membership in an early childhood professional organization and service to the profession such as: serving on a board or committee, presenting at a conference, participating as a CDA mentor or advisor, attendance at a conference or professional event
Level VIII Director IV	master degree in early childhood, child development or early childhood administration of which 3 courses focus on infants and toddlers and Administrator Certificate or related masters degree with 8 college courses in early childhood or child development of which 3 courses focus on infants and toddlers and Administrator Certificate	minimum 2 years	Membership in an early childhood professional organization and service to the profession such as: serving on a board or committee, presenting at a conference, participating as a CDA mentor or advisor, attendance at a conference or professional event

C. Requirements for the Classroom Track for LA Pathways.

Child Care Career Ladder	Training and Education Requirements	Experience Requirements	Professional Activity Requirements
Child Care Staff I	as required by licensing regulations		encouraged to participate in an early childhood professional organization

Child Care Career Ladder	Training and Education Requirements	Experience Requirements	Professional Activity Requirements
Child Care Staff II	12 clock hours of instruction in approved core knowledge (CDA) subject areas	none	encouraged to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Child Care Staff III	30 clock hours of instruction in approved core knowledge (CDA) subject areas	minimum 1 year	encouraged to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Child Care Staff IV	60 clock hours of instruction in approved core knowledge (CDA) subject areas	minimum 1 year	encouraged to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Child Care Assistant Teacher I	90 clock hours of instruction in approved core knowledge (CDA) subject areas	minimum 1 year	encouraged to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Child Care Assistant Teacher II	120 clock hours of instruction in approved core knowledge (CDA) subject areas	minimum 1 year	encouraged to participate in an early childhood professional organization
Child Care Teacher I	CDA credential In preschool or infant/toddler specialization	minimum 1 year	encouraged to participate in an early childhood professional
Child Care Teacher II	CDA credential or approved early childhood diploma and 9 CEU's or 2 early childhood college courses or 30 hours toward associate degree	minimum 2 years	membership in an early childhood professional organization and service to the profession such as: committee or board membership,
Child Care Teacher III	associate degree in early childhood or child development or related associate degree with 4 college courses in early childhood or child development or bachelor degree in early childhood or child development	minimum 2 years	membership in an early childhood professional organization and service to the profession such as: committee or board membership, service as a CDA advisor or mentor,
Child Care Teacher IV	bachelor degree in early childhood or child development of which 3 college courses focus on infants and toddlers or related bachelor	minimum 2 years	membership in an early childhood professional organization and service to the profession such as: committee or
Child Care Master Teacher	graduate degree in early childhood or child development or unrelated graduate degree with 4 early	minimum 2 years	membership in an early childhood professional organization and service to the profession such

D. Qualification for the School Readiness Tax Credit for child care directors and staff.

1. The Department of Social Services shall provide information necessary for the Secretary of the Department of Revenue to determine and/or verify the director and staff levels for earning the credit.

2. Child Care Director Levels:

a. Directors who are classified as Director I by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level I qualifications for purposes of this credit.

b. Directors who are classified as Director II by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level II qualifications for purposes of this credit.

c. Directors who are classified as Director III by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level III qualifications for purposes of this credit.

d. Directors who are classified as Director IV by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level IV qualifications for purposes of this credit.

3. Child Care Staff Levels:

a. Staff members who are classified as Child Care Teacher I by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level I requirements for purposes of this credit.

b. Staff members who are classified as Child Care Teacher II by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level II requirements for purposes of this credit.

c. Staff members who are classified as Child Care Teacher III by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level III requirements for purposes of this credit.

d. Staff members who are classified as Child Care Teacher IV or Child Care Master Teacher by LA Pathways are classified as meeting Level IV requirements for purposes of this credit.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 45 CFR Part 98 and R.S. 36:474 and R.S. 47:6101 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, LR 33:

Ann S. Williamson
Secretary

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DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Social Services Family Support

Child Care Quality Rating System (LAC 67:III.5115-5123)

The Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) to adopt LAC 67:III Subpart 12, Chapter 51, Child Care Assistance Program, Subchapter C, Child Care Quality Rating System (QRS) effective, August 17, 2007. This Rule shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days.

Adoption of Subchapter C, Quality Rating System (QRS), is pursuant to the authority granted to the Department by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). As a result of the devastation resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, child care centers in Louisiana have struggled to rebuild in affected areas. In other parts of the state, the centers have expanded their capacity to serve these displaced families. In an effort to guide child care centers as they restore critically

needed child care services, the agency has established a quality rating system which uses licensing as the foundation and sets a continuum of quality indicators focused in the social-emotional needs of children. The Quality Rating System will provide a mechanism by which child care centers can be assessed regarding the level of quality care given. The QRS will also provide a guide for parents to choose higher settings of child care beyond basic licensure and will offer a structure for child care centers to communicate the level of quality provided in their facility.

This Declaration of Emergency is preceded by and shall replace the Declaration of Emergency effected May 1, 2007, and published in the May 2007 issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Office of Family Support

Subpart 12. Child Care Assistance

Chapter 51. Child Care Assistance Program Subchapter C. Child Care Quality Rating System

§5115. Authority

The Child Care Quality Rating System is established and administered under the authority of state and federal laws.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 45 CFR Part 98 and R.S.36:474.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, LR 33:

§5117. Definitions

Approved Courses—courses that are deemed approved by the department.

Assistant Directors—must be on site for a minimum of 20 hours per week for centers with an enrollment of 101 or more.

Assistant Teachers—any staff who cares for children at least 16 or more hours per week and is not a lead teacher and meets the assistant teacher criteria.

Child Care Center—a licensed day care center.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)—a state and/or local organizations with whom the department has contracted to provide services to families, early childhood professionals, and communities statewide.

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential—a nationally recognized credential which can be used to meet staff qualification requirements.

Director—an administrator who meets the director qualifications and is on-site a minimum of 30 hours per week. This requirement can be met by having one or more persons on site who meet these qualifications.

Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R)—a research-based assessment tool that measures environmental indicators of quality in preschool classrooms with children ages 2.5–5 years of age.

Environment Rating Scales (ERS)—the assessment tools developed at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University North Carolina that measure environmental indicators of quality. They include the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) and the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R), as well as the School Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) for school age programs, and the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R) for family child care homes.