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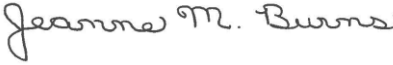
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2015

TO: Campus Chief Academic Officers and College of Education Deans/Directors

FROM: Dr. Jeanne M. Burns

Associate Commissioner for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives

RE: Birth to Kindergarten Statewide Curriculum

The purpose of this memo is to determine if your campus plans to join other campuses to finalize the development of the statewide proposal to offer birth to kindergarten courses/programs that are based upon a statewide curriculum that has been developed by the Birth to Kindergarten Statewide Curriculum Development Committee. A Letter of Intent has already been approved by the Board of Regents (BoR). The next step is the final development of the proposal, campus approval, and submission of the proposal to the Governing Boards and BoR. A draft of the statewide proposal has been attached.

If you are interested in offering the courses within the statewide curriculum, **please complete the enclosed Birth to Kindergarten Statewide Curriculum Partner Form and return to jeanne.burns@la.gov by October 9, 2015.** The submission of the form will only commit your campus to being involved in the final development of the statewide proposal, course syllabi, and quality assurance system. You will be asked to identify a contact person who will work with contact persons from other participating campuses to finalize the development of all documents.

Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees. The plan is to have one statewide proposal submitted to the respective Governing Boards and BoR for all campuses that want to deliver the statewide curriculum for the certificates, associate degrees and/or baccalaureate degrees. Each individual campus will complete Appendix B of the proposal and provide campus specific information. After obtaining campus approval, the statewide proposal and Appendix B for each participating institution will be submitted to the respective Governing Boards by December 31, 2015. Once the respective Governing Boards review the information, they will determine if all or some of the campuses that submitted Appendix B should offer the statewide curriculum. They will then submit to the BoR the statewide proposal and Appendix B for each institution that they approve to offer the statewide curriculum. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will also be requiring each participating institution to submit information that extends beyond the statewide proposal and Appendix B. Each participating institution will submit the LDOE information at the same time that they submit the statewide proposal and Appendix B to their Governing Board.

At the present time, the LDOE has not provided campuses with information regarding the additional information that will need to be submitted.

First Three Birth to Kindergarten Courses Only. You also need to be aware that the Louisiana Department of Education may be identifying a competitive process soon for private organizations and campuses to apply for potential funds to support the creation of programs for lead child care workers to obtain a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential that involves training by a BESE-approved provider. Individual organizations and campuses will submit the required information to the LDOE, and the LDOE will identify those who are approved to offer the programs and receive the funds. The expectation is that these will be programs that will be implemented during 2016. The LDOE's competitive process for the CDA credential will occur prior to the approval of the new birth to kindergarten associate or baccalaureate degrees. We are anticipating that some campuses may want to use the first three courses of the birth to kindergarten statewide curriculum to apply for the competitive funds since the courses prepare child care workers for the CDA credential. Copies of the draft first three courses for the statewide curriculum have been attached. Additional campus-specific and community-based information will need to be submitted to the LDOE for the competitive funding; however, information pertaining to the curriculum itself will be consistent across all campuses if the first three courses for the statewide curriculum are used. We will work with those campuses who are interested in applying for these funds to offer the first three courses. We will provide you with information about this opportunity once we receive more information from the LDOE.

As a brief summary of what has been communicated in previous e-mails, the need for new birth to kindergarten courses and degrees surfaced when Act 3: Louisiana Early Childhood Education became a law in 2012. As a result of that law, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted a new policy during 2015 that requires lead child care workers to possess an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate starting in 2019 that has been awarded by the Louisiana Department of Education. Lead child care workers can obtain this ancillary certificate by having: 1) a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential that has involved training by a BESE-approved provider; 2) an associate degree in an early childhood related field from a regionally accredited college or university; 3) a technical diploma or certificate of technical studies in an early childhood related field from an accredited technical or community college; 4) a career diploma that has been approved by the Louisiana Pathways Career Development System; or 5) a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university. Birth to kindergarten teacher licensure also now exists for completers of four-year teacher preparation programs.

During the last four years, multiple committees have been created to provide input into the creation of a statewide birth to kindergarten curriculum in which all courses can be stackable as candidates move from certificates to associate degrees to baccalaureate degrees. The attached proposal identifies the work that has occurred to develop the statewide curriculum. We are now to a point where the courses have been identified for the statewide curriculum and drafts have been developed for the majority of the birth to kindergarten course syllabi. We now need to identify the campuses that want to deliver the statewide curriculum and involve them in the final development of the proposal.

As we have indicated previously, campuses can choose to independently submit a Letter of Intent and Proposal to the BoR if they want to offer birth to kindergarten degrees that are different than the statewide curriculum. However, courses in those degrees will not be automatically transferable. Again, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Birth to Kindergarten Statewide Curriculum Partner Form

Name of College or University:	
Name of Contact Person:	
Title of Contact Person:	
E-mail Address of Contact Person:	
Work Telephone of Contact Person:	
Cell Phone Number of Contact Person:	

1. Pathways

Please provide an “X” in the first column to identify the type(s) of birth to kindergarten programs your campus is interested in offering using the birth to kindergarten statewide curriculum. If you are planning to develop your own curriculum, do not submit this form.

Type of Program Interested in Offering (X)	Types of Programs
	Technical Competency Area – TCA (Child Development Credential (<i>9 credit hours</i>))
	Certificate of Technical Studies – CTS (Birth to Kindergarten Assistant) (<i>30 credit hours</i>)
	Associate of Science – AS (Birth to Kindergarten Associate) (<i>60 credit hours</i>)
	Bachelor of Science – BS (Birth to Kindergarten Education with a Concentration in Birth to Kindergarten Teacher) (<i>120 credit hours</i>)

2. First Three Courses for CDA Credential

Please provide an “X” in the first column if you may be interested in using the first three courses of the birth to kindergarten statewide curriculum to apply for potential competitive funds from the LDOE once information becomes available about the funding.

Type of Program Interested in Offering (X)	Type of Program
	First 3 Courses of the Birth to Kindergarten Statewide Curriculum to apply for potential competitive funding from the LDOE

Please submit this form to Dr. Jeanne Burns at jeanne.burns@la.gov by October 9, 2015.