



JULY 2012



Education's Next Horizon Hosting Early Learning Forums

Education's Next Horizon is hosting community forums in nine (9) regions of the state to gather stakeholder input on the implementation of Act 3, the Early Childhood Education Act, passed in the 2012 Legislative Session. The forums are being held in late July and early August in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Education, and Department of Health and Hospitals. Participants include early childhood administrators and practitioners, educators, parents, business leaders, and community organizations. Input and feedback gathered during the forums will be used by the state agencies to draft an implementation plan for Act 3. The plan will ultimately be sent to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Legislature.

Forum participants are providing ideas and recommendations on how to best implement the three components of Act 3:

1. Establish a definition for kindergarten readiness; establish performance targets for children under the age of three and academic standards for kindergarten readiness in three- and four-year olds
2. Align standards for all programs that provide early childhood education and receive public funds
3. Create a uniform assessment and accountability system for all publicly-funded early childhood education programs that includes a letter grade indicative of student performance

Forum participants are given the opportunity to provide additional comments by completing an online survey. Due to limited space, participants registered for the forums by invitation only, but anyone can access and take the survey. [Click Here](#)

The survey closes on Saturday, August 11, 2012. Results of the survey will be posted at www.ednexthorizon.org in September. Be sure to click the "[Join the Movement!](#)" button to sign up to our subscriber list and receive periodic updates on the progress of the

implementation of Act 3.



On Thursday, August 2nd, the Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning (LACAL) is hosting the first Statewide Municipal Summit on Afterschool: Healthier Communities through Afterschool Programming from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Lake Charles Civic Center in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Over 100 mayors, city council members, and municipal officials will be attending the event. Held in partnership with the Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA), the Summit will be held in conjunction with LMA's 75th Annual Convention. The Summit is funded by a special grant through the National League of Cities thanks to the generosity of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Wallace Foundation.

Keynote Address: The keynote address will be delivered by Davante Lewis, a sophomore at McNeese State University, where he currently serves as student body president. Having qualified six times for national speech and debate tournament, it is no surprise that Mr. Lewis ran for District 7 of the Calcasieu Parish School Board. Mr. Lewis will deliver a message of hope, ambition, tenacity and courage that will serve as a reminder and inspiration for us all.

At the Summit, municipal officials will learn how important afterschool is to children's learning and success, and how afterschool helps to drive economic development by supporting working families and inspiring young people into future career pathways.

LACAL will also be launching Louisiana Champions for Afterschool, providing municipal officials the first opportunity to sign-on to a prestigious panel of leaders dedicated to expanding afterschool opportunities, linking afterschool and summer to build academic skills, and building public awareness about the important role of afterschool in our state.

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