



MEMORANDUM

TO: All First Class Pre-K Directors and Teachers

FROM: Tara Skiles
PD/Conference Director

DATE: June 26, 2020

RE: 2020 Alabama Early Childhood Education Conference

Due to the ongoing public health and safety concerns, we are acting out of an abundance of caution and have decided along with the City of Mobile to transition the 2020 Early Childhood Education Conference to a virtual conference in lieu of an in-person conference experience. The 2020 Conference will be hosted utilizing an online platform and will continue to provide high quality adult learning and professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals.

Our conference planning team is working diligently to create a virtual conference experience that will be as exciting as past conferences. Conference learning sessions will be recorded and available on demand for a period of 2 months, from October 21, 2020-December 21, 2020. Sessions will be an hour in length and will have a knowledge assessment that has to be completed with a passing score prior to receiving a certificate. Also required will be a reflective survey that all First Class Pre-K teachers must complete. Information from the reflective survey will be forwarded to the appropriate DECE coach to use in further coaching opportunities. A virtual vendor hall will be included in the online platform with special offers and interactive games and will include many of the vendors our conference attendees are accustomed to visiting during our annual conference.

Registration will begin August 1, 2020 and will be a general registration as there will be no need to pre-select sessions. Cost of the conference will be \$100 per participant. Payment can be made online using a credit card *or* checks and purchase orders can be mailed to **Alabama Early Childhood Education Conference P.O. Box 39 Montgomery, AL 36101**. All First Class Pre-K Lead and Auxiliary teachers are required to attend and complete a minimum of 15 hours of professional development from the conference learning sessions; however participants can earn addition professional development credit hours.

We have been in contact will all conference hotels in Mobile to inform them of our move to a virtual conference. We have been assured that all rooms can be cancelled without penalty and with reimbursement of any deposits collected upon reservation. Please keep in mind that each hotel has a process they must follow when completing the cancelations and your patience is appreciated. Please refer to the hotel cancelation procedure for your specific hotel as instructions for all hotels may not be the same.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we navigate these unique circumstances while still serving the children of Alabama.