Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

December 9, 2020

Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Louisiana Believes

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council membership
III. Roll Call
IV. Approval of the Minutes of July 22, 2020
V. Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2020
VI. Election of a Chair and Vice Chair
VII. Consideration of proposed revisions to Bulletin 139, Louisiana Child Care Development and Funds Program
VIII. Consideration of proposed revisions to Bulletin 140, Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network
IX. Consideration of a plan to review the Early Learning and Development Standards
X. Consideration of Louisiana's Child Care and Development Fund State Plan Amendment
XI. Consideration of the results of the 2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey
XII. Consideration of proposed revisions to Bulletin 139, Louisiana Child Care Development and Funds Program
XIII. Adjournment

Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Membership

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes of July 22, 2020

Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2020

Election of a Chair and Vice Chair

Proposed Policy Revisions

Proposed Policy Revisions

Emergency Revisions to Bulletin 139 and Bulletin 140

In December 2020, the Department will recommend two emergency rules to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide support during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

1. Bulletin 139: School Readiness Tax Credits
   - Temporarily adjust minimum work requirements for 2020 Tax Year SRTC eligibility.
2. Bulletin 140: CLASS® Observations
   - Allow classrooms that score 4.50 or higher in the fall observation period to be exempt from a second local observation.

Emergency Revisions to Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*

Proposed Policy Revisions
Bulletin 139 SRTC Work Requirements

The Department is recommending a one-time emergency rule that will reduce the work requirement for SRTC eligibility from 6 months to 300 hours for the 2020 tax year.

- On March 16, the Governor closed schools statewide and they remained closed for in-person instruction for the rest of the semester.
  - Many early learning centers follow school closures in event of emergencies or severe weather. 70% of child care centers closed temporarily due to the pandemic, and 2% currently remain closed because of COVID-19.
  - 46% of child care providers laid off staff as a result of closures.
- The Department has received requests from a variety of stakeholders to explore a temporary adjustment to the work requirement given the broad extent of closures and layoffs.

Proposed Policy Revisions
Overview of Bulletin 139 Emergency Rule

The Department is recommending a one-time Emergency Rule, that will reduce the work requirement for SRTC eligibility from 6 months to 300 hours.

CURRENT: *§707. Credit for Early Learning Center Directors and Staff*

C. Each early learning center director and staff member will also have to verify that he/she has worked at the same early learning center for at least six months in the calendar year and for an average of at least 30 hours per week, unless otherwise approved by the LDE.

REVISE TO:

Add 1. Exception. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the 2020 calendar year only, a center director or staff member will only have to verify that he/she has worked at the same early learning center for at least 300 hours in the calendar year in order to meet the work requirement in this Subsection.

Proposed Policy Revisions
Impact of Bulletin 139 Emergency Rule

Louisiana's School Readiness Tax Credits continue to be an essential support for child care providers, directors, and staff.

- Louisiana's School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC) represent a $16 million state investment in quality child care that helps Louisiana secure more than $80 million in federal funding (CCDF).
- Annually, ~8,000 directors and teachers statewide meet education and tax level enrollment requirements for SRTC, however only ~45% meet work eligibility requirements, file for SRTC, and receive the credits.
- In the 2018 tax year, 3,598 teachers and directors were able to claim $10,444,423 in tax credits (an average amount of $2,902.84).
- Child care directors and teachers indicate that they rely on the credits to supplement their payroll, make essential purchases, retain teachers and invest in quality improvement.

Emergency Revisions to Bulletin 140, *Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network*

Proposed Policy Revisions
Bulletin 140 CLASS® Observation Requirements

The Department is recommending a one-time emergency rule, consistent with Bulletin 130, that will exempt classrooms scoring 4.50 or higher on fall CLASS® observations from a spring local observation.

- On October 14, BESE approved a one-time emergency rule for Bulletin 130, regarding the use of COMPASS observations for the 2020-2021 academic year only.
  - Teachers and administrators receive one observation.
  - Any teacher or administrator who earns a rating of “Ineffective” or “Effective: Emerging” shall receive a second observation.
  - COMPASS ratings of “Ineffective” or “Effective: Emerging” are consistent with receiving an overall score of 1.00 to 4.49 on CLASS® observations.
- The Department has received requests from a variety of stakeholders to explore similar considerations for in-person CLASS® observations for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Proposed Policy Revisions
Overview of Bulletin 140 Emergency Rule

The Department recommends revising Bulletin 140 to allow classrooms that have scored 4.50 or higher an exemption from a second local observation during the 2020-2021 academic year only.

CURRENT: All infant, toddler, and pre-K classrooms in a publicly funded site shall receive two CLASS® observations during a school year conducted by the community network.

REVISE TO: Exception. Required observations for the 2020-2021 school year only, due to COVID-19 pandemic.

All infant, toddler, and pre-k classrooms in a publicly-funded site shall receive one CLASS® observation during the school year conducted by the community network. Any infant, toddler, and/or pre-K classroom that is scored 4.49 or lower after third party replacement (if applicable) shall be observed a second time by the community network.

Proposed Policy Revisions
Impact of Bulletin 140 Emergency Rule

The Department will work with community network lead agencies to implement this emergency rule in a way that prioritizes ongoing support for classrooms and teachers struggling to support their children.

- This emergency rule may enable community networks to redirect efforts and funding to support low-performing classrooms.
- While classrooms scoring 4.50 or higher would be exempted from a Spring local observation, third party observations will continue in accordance with the typical requirements of Bulletin 140.
  - If a classroom is observed by both local and third party observers, the scores will be compared and third party scores will replace any local dimension scores that differ by 1+ point.
  - If a classroom is only observed by third party observers, third party scores will be used for the spring semester in making any Performance Profile calculations for this year.
- The Department is monitoring data and collaborating with stakeholders to explore options for 2020-2021 Performance Scores and Ratings.

Consideration of a Plan to Review the *Early Learning and Development Standards*

Review the *Early Learning and Development Standards*
History and Context

The Early Childhood Care and Education Network was created through Act 3 of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session to support the effort to meet high standards for quality for all early childhood programs.

- Louisiana's Birth-to-Five Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) were developed in 2013 as a culmination of a year-long effort led by State agency staff, national experts and local stakeholders.
- These Birth-to-Five Standards support the State's Kindergarten Readiness Definition and are designed to be used as a daily reference and resource.
- Given the length of time since the creation of the standards, the Department believes a review is necessary.

Review the *Early Learning and Development Standards*
Vision

Louisiana's standards should be developmentally appropriate and prepare children for kindergarten, as determined by educators, experts, and leaders.

Additionally, Louisiana's vision is to build early learning and development standards that prepare students for Kindergarten and beyond. Our goal is to support the language and development of children who are:

- organized to manage their time, attention and behavior;
- learn through purposeful play and exploration; and
- engage in meaningful conversations with real world context.

Review the *Early Learning and Development Standards*
Revision Goals

1. Ensure there is a **stronger integration** of language that supports children with disabilities and dual language learners.
2. Reorganize the **framework and structure** of standards and indicators to make the resource more navigable and user-friendly.
3. Make **stronger connections** to kindergarten readiness expectations.
4. Embed commonly used assessments with intentionality to **increase alignment**.
5. **Update the resources** to reflect current research and the Department's initiatives.

Review the *Early Learning and Development Standards*

Guiding Principles for ELDS Review Process

1. **Diversity of perspective** - As closely as possible, committee membership will reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the state's student population.
2. **Public input** - The review process will include opportunities for the public to weigh in on every standard. In addition, all committee meetings will be open to the public.

Review the *Early Learning and Development Standards*
Committee Structure

The Department will oversee and coordinate the standards review process with the support of a standards review committee. The committee will review the current Early Learning and Development Standards, ensure alignment across age/developmental levels and domains, and make final recommendations to BESE.

Members of the standards committee will include representation from school systems, Head Start/Early Head Start, child care, higher education, Louisiana Department of Health, and parents. This will include both teachers and leaders within publicly funded settings.

Review the *Early Learning and Development Standards* Selection Process

A self-nomination process will be used for the standards committee. The Department will leverage all of its communication channels to publicize the release of the application. Applications will be selected based on knowledge and experience in early learning and development.

This process will ensure:

- all interested Louisiana educators have the opportunity to apply;
- the committee represents all regions of the state; and
- the committee represents the demographic diversity of the state.

Additionally, a public comment period will allow for wider participation in the review process.

Louisiana’s Child Care and Development Fund State Plan Amendment

Louisiana's Child Care and Development Fund State Plan Amendment

The Department proposes changing the State Plan due to a change in the CCDF Co-administrator and a change in the eligibility requirements.

The State Plan serves as the agreement between the Lead Agency and the Federal Government as to how Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) programs will be administered in conformance with legislative requirements, pertinent federal regulations, and other instructions and guidelines issued by Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Louisiana's CCDF State Plan Changes included:

1. Change the CCDF Co-Administrator to Valerie Black
2. Add the changes to BESE B139 §509, which became effective October 20, 2020.
    a. This change supports households that meet the income requirements and are seeking employment or enrolling in school.

Consideration of the 2020 Market Rate Survey Results

2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2

Purpose of the Market Rate Survey

The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Reauthorization Act of 2014 requires Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) lead agencies to certify that payment rates ensure equal access.

- The Department must certify that the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has payment rates ensure equal access.
- Equal access means that children from low income families who qualify for a subsidy can access care comparable to children who are not eligible for the subsidy.
- High quality child care allows children to succeed in Kindergarten and has positive effects well-beyond Kindergarten.
- *The Department launched the first 2020 Market Rate Survey (MRS) in February. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the survey was stopped and a new survey will be given in fall.*

EMERGENT METHOD

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2020 MARKET RATE SURVEY

ROBYN STILES, PH.D. 2020 DECEMBER 9

BACKGROUND

LDOE is required to conduct a market rate survey every three years

- As an administrator of CCDF funds, this survey is required to analyze the prices and fees charged by child care providers for services in the priced market.

BACKGROUND

LDOE engaged Emergent Method in December 2019 to complete its 2020 Market Rate Survey

- The initial fielding of the survey (Feb. – April) was cut short due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SURVEY FIELDING

Survey fielding included use of postcards, hard copy surveys, emails, and call-out campaigns, yielding:

- **888 total responses**
  - 63.5 percent overall response rate
  - Included Head Start programs and centers that have since closed due to COVID and/or hurricanes
- **810 matched responses**
  - 57.9 percent matched response rate

**Dates are representative of entire week*

RESPONSES BY CHILD CARE CENTER TYPE

* Some confusion among providers about family or in-home

CURRENT STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT

CHILD	FEBRUARY 2020 ENROLLMENT	CURRENT ENROLLMENT	DAILY ATTENDANCE TO CURRENT ENROLLMENT	DAILY ATTENDANCE TO FEB. 2020 ENROLLMENT
INFANT	4,325	3,493	**3,181** (91.1%)	**3,181** (73.5%)
TODDLER	13,363	11,388	**9,476** (83.2%)	**9,476 (**70.9%)
3 YEAR OLD	8,497	6,728	**5,929** (88.1%)	**5,929** (69.8%)
4 YEAR OLD	6,341	4,826	**4,403** (91.2%)	**4,403** (69.4%)
5 YEAR OLD AND OLDER	6,492	5,355	**4,617** (86.2%)	**4,617** (71.1%)
TOTAL	39,018	31,790 (-18.5%)	27,606 (86.8%)	27,606 (70.8%)

AVERAGE FULL-TIME RATES (ALL PROVIDERS)

CHILD	COMBINED AVERAGE DAILY RATE*	2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA CCAP RATES	AVERAGE RATE & DAILY LA CCAP RATE DIFFERENTIAL
INFANT (N = 484)	$28.65	$25.00	-$3.65
TODDLER (N = 678)	$28.83	$23.75	-$5.08
3 YEAR OLD (N =654)	$27.52	$22.00	-$5.52
4 YEAR OLD (N = 624)	$26.96	$22.00	-$4.96
5 YEAR OLD AND OLDER (N = 497)	$23.78	$22.00	-$1.78

*Respondents were given the option of providing their rates as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly, and were asked to provide the days per week they provided services. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly (assumes 10 hour/day unless otherwise stated), daily, weekly (assumes 5 days/week unless otherwise stated), and monthly (assumes 20 days/month unless otherwise stated) rates.

AVERAGE FULL-TIME RATES, BY TYPE

CHILD	TYPE I (N = 137)	TYPE II (N = 84)	TYPE III (N = 439)	FAMILY (N = 123)	IN-HOME (N = 25)
INFANT	$29.23	$29.56	**$29.68**	$24.30	$21.78
TODDLER	$29.93	**$33.94**	$28.85	$23.94	$20.67
3 YEAR OLD	$28.54	**$30.72**	$27.45	$24.20	$22.78
4 YEAR OLD	$27.92	**$29.09**	$27.12	$23.91	$18.43
5 YEAR OLD AND OLDER	**$25.28**	$22.90	$24.19	$22.77	$18.97

*Respondents were given the option of providing their rates as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly, and were asked to provide the days per week they provided services. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly (assumes 10 hour/day unless otherwise stated), daily, weekly (assumes 5 days/week unless otherwise stated), and monthly (assumes 20 days/month unless otherwise stated) rates.

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE COMPARISON

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES (ALL PROVIDERS)

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	$14.28	$24.00	$24.00	$23.00	$19.00
50%	$25.00	$27.00	$26.00	$26.00	$24.00
75%	$32.00	$32.00	$30.00	$30.00	$28.00
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA CCAP RATES	$25.00	$23.75	$22.00	$22.00	$22.00

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES (TYPE I)

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	$26.00	$24.69	$23.25	$22.63	$15.75
50%	$28.00	$28.40	$27.10	$26.00	$25.00
75%	$33.00	$34.00	$32.35	$31.75	$29.25
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA CCAP RATES	$25.00	$23.75	$22.00	$22.00	$22.00

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES (TYPE II)

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	$25.00	$25.00	$24.25	$24.00	$16.00
50%	$30.00	$30.00	$28.00	$28.00	$22.00
75%	$32.00	$37.13	$33.60	$31.70	$28.00
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA CCAP RATES	$25.00	$23.75	$22.00	$22.00	$22.00

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES (TYPE III/EARLY HEAD START PARTNERSHIP)

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	$25.00	$25.00	$24.00	$24.00	$20.00
50%	$28.00	$27.40	$26.00	$26.00	$25.00
75%	$33.00	$31.05	$30.00	$30.00	$28.00
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA CCAP RATES	$25.00	$23.75	$22.00	$22.00	$22.00

*Note: Current LA CCAP rates are at the following 2017 MRS percentiles: infant – 40th percentile; toddler – 31st percentile; three year old – 25th percentile; four year old – 25th percentile; five year old – 25th percentile.

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES (SCHOOL-BASED*)

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	$17	$11.75
50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	$17	$13.50
75%	N/A	N/A	N/A	$17	$15.25
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM SCHOOL RATES*	$16.50	$16.50	$16.50	$16.50	$16.50

*Note: School-based rates are for part-time before- and after-school care

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES (FAMILY)

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	$20.00	$20.00	$20.00	$20.00	$18.25
50%	$25.00	$24.00	$24.00	$22.00	$20.92
75%	$27.00	$25.75	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM FAMILY RATES	$18.00	$18.00	$17.00	$17.00	$17.00

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES (IN-HOME)

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	$20.00	$19.00	$20.00	$18.00	$17.00
50%	$22.00	$21.00	$22.00	$20.00	$20.00
75%	$24.00	$24.25	$25.00	$22.00	$24.00
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA IN-HOME RATES	$17.50	$17.50	$17.50	$17.50	$17.50

SPRING – FALL COMPARATIVE RATES

CHILD	SPRING 2020 COMBINED AVERAGE DAILY RATE*	FALL 2020 COMBINED AVERAGE DAILY RATE*	SPRING 2020 AND FALL 2020 RATE DIFFERENTIAL
INFANT (N = 484)	$28.81	$28.65	-$0.16
TODDLER (N = 678)	$27.93	$28.83	+$0.90
3 YEAR OLD (N =654)	$27.09	$27.52	+$0.43
4 YEAR OLD (N = 624)	$26.37	$26.96	+$0.59
5 YEAR OLD AND OLDER (N = 497)	$22.23	$23.78	+$1.55

*Respondents were given the option of providing their rates as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly, and were asked to provide the days per week they provided services. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly (assumes 10 hour/day unless otherwise stated), daily, weekly (assumes 5 days/week unless otherwise stated), and monthly (assumes 20 days/month unless otherwise stated) rates.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

1 – New Orleans
2 – Baton Rouge
3 – Covington
4 – Thibodaux
5 – Lafayette
6 – Lake Charles
7 – Alexandria
8 – Shreveport
9 – Monroe

RESPONSE RATES BY REGION

INFANT RATES, BY REGION

TODDLER RATES, BY REGION

3 YEAR OLD RATES, BY REGION

4 YEAR OLD RATES, BY REGION

5 YEAR OLD RATES, BY REGION

INCREASING RATES

451 RESPONDENTS (60.6%) ANTICIPATE INCREASING THEIR RATES IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, COMPARED TO JUST **37.4%** DURING SPRING 2020

AVERAGE ANTICIPATED RATE INCREASE OF **$13.27 PER WEEK,** OR **$2.65 PER DAY,** UP FROM **$12.23 PER WEEK**, OR **$2.45 PER DAY** IN SPRING 2020

ADDITIONAL FEES

FEE TYPE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	AVERAGE FEE AMOUNT
REGISTRATION (Per year)	646 (79.8%)	$112.23
SUPPLY (Per year)	286 (35.3%)	$110.31
FIELD TRIP (Average per trip)	116 (14.3%)	$59.88
FOOD/MEALS (Monthly)	64 (7.9%)	$117.50
TECHNOLOGY (Per year)	44 (5.4%)	$350.66
TRANSPORTATION (Per month)	34 (4.2%)	$207.94

49 (6.0%) OF RESPONDENTS CHARGE SOME TYPE OF ADDITIONAL FEE NOT CAPTURED HERE, AVERAGING **$87.33**

*CCAP currently pays registration fees for participating families once a year.

OFFERED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

MOST SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES

*This question was asked only to Type III centers, with 1 indicating most difficult, and 7 indicating least difficult. .

CHANGES EXPERIENCED SINCE MARCH 2020

AREAS LDOE CAN HELP

OBTAINING CLEANING SUPPLIES AND PPE (75.8%)

TEACHER TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (40.8%)

GUIDANCE ON SECURING SMALL BUSINESS LOANS (35.3%)

STAFFING/STAFF RECRUITMENT (32.3%)

CHANGES SINCE MARCH 2020

INCREASED STAFFING COSTS

INCREASED SUPPLY COSTS (PPE, CLEANING SUPPLIES)

DECREASED ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

LOWER GROUP SIZES AND RATIOS*

*Louisiana Policy Institute for the Children. 2020. “Modeling Child Care Center Costs and Revenues in Louisiana.”

TAKEAWAYS FROM FOCUS GROUPS

- Almost all providers had difficulty answering budget questions
- Staffing continues to be a pain point (exacerbated by COVID)
  - Centers directly compete with programs with more sustainable funding structures
  - Difficult to find quality staff
- Significant budget shifts toward staffing since March
- Enrollment and attendance have both decreased, but enrollment is the bigger pain point
- Providers are “taking it day by day” and don’t know what the long-term effects will be on their ability to operate

THINGS THAT ARE WORKING

PPE & LACAP GRANTS

FOOD PROGRAM

TYPE III PAY ON ENROLLMENT

WEEKLY PAYOUT

IDENTIFIED ACTIONS FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS

Specific actions LDOE could assist with, related to COVID-19

TYPE III

- Continue to pay based on enrollment and not attendance into the spring

HOLD HARMLESS

- Extend the hold harmless option for 2020 (not just for 2019)

FREE OR REDUCED PRE-K

- Explore ways to stabilize payment model to reduce direct competition among program types

BUDGETING AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

- Assistance with the business functions – budgeting, keeping positive cash flow, etc.

“

“I KNOW HOW HARD IT HAS BEEN FOR US – AND WE HAVE THE HELP OF THE GRANTS…”

- TYPE III BATON ROUGE FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

”

@EMERGENTMETHOD

QUESTIONS?

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2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2

Enrollment and Cost Key Takeaways

- The total enrollment from February 2020 to October 2020 decreased from 39,018 to 31,790 children.
- As expected with economic growth, most of the payment percentiles for Type III centers have decreased since the last survey meaning, the CCAP subsidy is covering less of the monthly payment.
- The daily maximum CCAP rates were on average $4.20 lower than the average daily rates charged by providers.
- The highest rates charged are in the Baton Rouge, Covington and New Orleans regions and the lowest rates are in the Alexandria, Shreveport, Monroe regions.
- Infants likely cost significantly more than the rates indicate.
- On average providers anticipate raising rates by $2.65 within the next year.

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139, Louisiana Child Care Development and Funds Program

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Overview

Based on conversations with stakeholders as well as the results from the 2020 Market Rate Survey, the Department is recommending a package of revisions to Bulletin 139, which governs the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

1. **CCAP Rate Increase**: The Department is recommending an increase to the daily CCAP reimbursement rates based on results from the updated 2020 Market Rate Survey.
2. **Payments to Providers at State Maximum Rate**: The Department is recommending a change to Bulletin 139 that would allow providers to be reimbursed at the state's maximum daily rate, irrespective of their own rates.
3. **Update to CCAP Income Eligibility (State Median Income)**: The Department is recommending to increase the income eligibility for CCAP to 65% of the State Median Income (SMI) in order to align with other funding types.

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Overview of Recommended Rate Increase

Reimbursement rates must keep up with the increasing cost of child care and increase in access to families.

- In order to ensure the Child Care Assistance Program is providing enough assistance for child care to be affordable, it is important for reimbursement rates to align more with the cost of child care.
- Since the previous Market Rate Survey (2017) and the last rate adjustment, the cost of child care has continued to increase.
- By increasing the CCAP rates to at least the 75th percentile, this allows a family to choose 3 out of 4 child care providers rather than only 1 out of 4 providers if paid at the 25th percentile.
- Therefore, the Department is recommending an increase in the daily CCAP reimbursement rates.

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
CCAP Rate Increase

	Regular Care for 3 year olds and above		Regular Care for Toddlers		Regular Care for Infants	
Child Care Provider Type	**CURRENT RATE**	**PROPOSED RATE**	**CURRENT RATE**	**PROPOSED RATE**	**CURRENT RATE**	**PROPOSED RATE**
Type III Early Learning Centers	$22.00	**$30.00**	$23.75	**$31.05**	$25.00	**$35.65**
Family Child Care Providers	$17.00	**$25.00**	$18.00	**$25.75**	$18.00	**$29.65**
In-Home Providers	$17.50	**$25.00**	$17.50	**$25.25**	$17.50	**$26.65**
School Child Care Providers	$16.50	**$24.00**	$16.50	**$24.00**	$16.50	**$24.00**
Military Child Care Centers	$22.00	**$30.00**	$23.75	**$31.05**	$25.00	**$35.65**

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
CCAP Rate Increase

	Special Needs Care for 3 year olds and above		Special Needs Care for Toddlers		Special Needs Care for Infants	
Child Care Provider Type	**CURRENT RATE**	**PROPOSED RATE**	**CURRENT RATE**	**PROPOSED RATE**	**CURRENT RATE**	**PROPOSED RATE**
Type III Early Learning Centers	$27.72	**$37.80**	$29.93	**$39.12**	$31.50	**$44.92**
Family Child Care Providers	$21.42	**$31.50**	$22.68	**$32.45**	$22.68	**$37.36**
In-Home Providers	$22.05	**$31.50**	$22.05	**$31.82**	$22.05	**$33.58**
School Child Care Providers	$20.79	**$30.24**	$20.79	**$30.24**	$20.79	**$30.24**
Military Child Care Centers	$27.72	**$37.80**	$29.93	**$39.12**	$31.50	**$44.92**

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
CCAP Rate Increase

§515. Payments Made on Behalf of Households

A. The state maximum daily rates for CCAP care are as follows:

Child Care Provider Type	Regular Care	Regular Care for Toddlers	Regular Care for Infants	Special Needs Care Incentive	Special Needs Care Incentive for Toddlers	Special Needs Care Incentive for Infants
Type III Early Learning Center	~~$22.00~~30.00	~~$23.75~~31.05	~~$25.00~~35.65	~~$27.72~~37.80	~~$29.93~~39.12	~~$31.50~~44.92
School Child Care Center	~~$16.50~~24.00	~~$16.50~~24.00	~~$16.50~~24.00	~~$20.79~~30.24	~~$20.79~~30.24	~~$20.79~~30.24
Family Child Care Provider	~~$17.00~~25.00	~~$18.00~~25.75	~~$18.00~~29.65	~~$21.42~~31.50	~~$22.68~~32.45	~~$22.68~~37.36
In-Home Provider	~~$17.50~~25.00	~~$17.50~~25.25	~~$17.50~~26.65	~~$22.05~~31.50	~~$22.05~~31.82	~~$22.05~~33.58
Military Child Care Centers	~~$22.00~~ 30.00	~~$23.75~~31.05	~~$25.00~~35.65	~~$27.72~~37.80	~~$29.93~~39.12	~~$31.50~~44.92

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Payment at Maximum Rate

The Department proposes paying providers at the State Maximum Daily Rate, to ensure providers are being adequately compensated as market rate doesn't truly cover full cost of providing care.

Providers may charge what the family and their community can afford, placing those children at a disadvantage and inadvertently reducing the quality of care.

In order to support child care providers, the Department proposes paying at the State Maximum Daily Rate, regardless of what the provider actually charges.

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Payment at Maximum Rate

§515. Payments Made on Behalf of Households

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B. Categorically Eligible Households

1. Payments made to providers on behalf of categorically eligible households will be ~~the lesser of~~

~~a. the provider's actual charge multiplied by authorized service days or authorized service hours; or~~

~~b.~~ the state maximum daily rate for CCAP care as provided in Subsection A.

***

C. Non-Categorically Eligible Households

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3. Payments to providers on behalf of non-categorically eligible households will be a portion of ~~the lesser of~~

~~a. the provider's actual charge multiplied by the number of authorized service days or authorized service hours; or~~

~~b.~~ the state maximum daily rate for CCAP care as provided in Subsection A.

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Update to CCAP Income Eligibility

Historically, families receiving child care assistance have been limited in their choice of programs.

- Alignment of eligibility for child care assistance programs is one of the core beliefs underpinning Act 3 of the the 2012 Legislative Session.
- Dependant on income, families receiving child care assistance have been limited in their choice of program.
- Increasing the qualifying minimum household income for CCAP will not only provide families with more choice and make child care available to more families, but it will also help fulfill the intent of Act 3.

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Update to CCAP Income Eligibility

Income eligibility for child care programs varies from program to program (family of three).

Program	Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Qualifying Income
Head Start	100%	$21,720
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) **Free** Meals	130%	$28,236
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	130%	$28,236
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	164.5%	$35,736
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) **Reduced** Meals	185%	$40,182
LA 4	200%	$43,440
Medicaid for Children (LaCHIP)	217%	$47,136

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139

Update to CCAP Income Eligibility

An increase in the qualifying minimum household income would make child care assistance available for more families, make the availability of programs more equitable, and provide families with more choices.

Program	Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Qualifying Income
Head Start	100%	$21,720
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) **Free** Meals	130%	$28,236
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	130%	$28,236
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) **Reduced** Meals	185%	$40,182
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	200%	$43,440
LA 4	200%	$43,440
Medicaid for Children (LaCHIP)	217%	$47,136

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Update to CCAP Income Eligibility

In January 2020, the Department will recommend changing the qualifying household State Median Income (SMI) to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide support to more families in need.

1. Bulletin 139: Chapter 5. CCAP Household Eligibility
   - Increase the qualifying SMI from 55% to 65% of the SMI.

§509. Certification Requirements for Non-Categorically Eligible Households

A. To be certified as a CCAP household, households that are not categorically eligible for participation in CCAP must meet the following requirements:

* * * *

3. have household income that does not exceed ~~55~~ 65 percent of the state median income for a household of the same size. *Household income* is defined as:

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Timeline

Timeline for implementing CCAP rate increase:

December 2020
Advisory Council

→

January 2021
Proposed to BESE

→

February 2021
Emergency Rule Effective

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Long-Term Considerations

In addition to raising the CCAP reimbursement rates, the Department is also working with stakeholders to consider other policy or structural shifts to child care assistance in Louisiana.

- **Identify potential new funding sources:** The Department will continue to work with the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and Task Force to identify potential new funding sources to increase access to child care, especially for children three and younger.
- **Scale a contracted seats model:** With lessons learned from the PDG B-3 seats pilot, the Department will consider how it may serve additional children birth through age three through a contracted seats model, similar to LA 4 or NSECD, in the future.
- **Explore alternatives to or hybrids of a daily attendance-based reimbursement for CCAP:** The Department is working with stakeholders to model the long-term costs and feasibility of using a method of reimbursement that is not based solely on daily attendance.
- **Explore additional bonus credits that could expand access and incentivize hard-to-provide care:** The Department will explore potential bonus payments that could incentivize care that is currently prohibitively costly to provide in many cases, e.g. infant care, care in rural communities without any other options, overnight or weekend care.