

# Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council



November 20, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

# Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held September 18, 2024
- IV. Referral – Revisions to *Bulletin 137 - Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*
- V. Referral – Revisions to *Bulletin 139 - Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*
- VI. Informational Report: 2024 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report - Quarter 3 (July-September)



# I. Call to Order



## II. Roll Call



# III. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held September 18, 2024

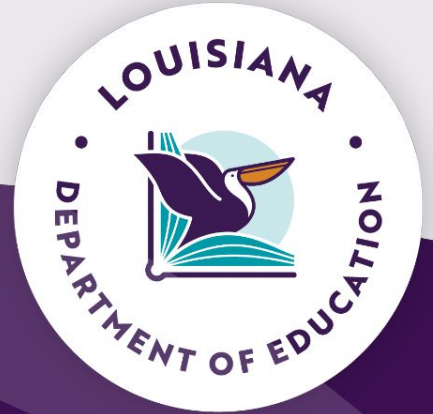


# Reminder of Council Charges

- Revised Statute 17:407.51
- The council shall provide input and guidance to BESE and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of rules, regulations, bulletins, policies, or standards related to all early care and education programs, including:
  - Early Learning Centers,
  - Enrollment in Early Learning Centers,
  - The Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program,
  - The Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant,
  - The Child Care Assistance Program,
  - Early Head Start, and Head Start.



# **IV. Referral – Revisions to *Bulletin 137 - Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations***



# Proposed Bulletin 137 Policy Revisions

- Establishing that written policies, that explain the administration of stock medications allowed by Act 657 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, must be in place at early learning centers and shared with parents or guardians
- Establishing provisions for the administration of stock medication allowed by Act 657 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session
- Updating and clarifying the types of CCCBC-based determinations of eligibility for child care purposes, to ensure single use of Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)
- Adding further provisions to help guarantee safe sleep procedures are in place at centers
- Adding child age information to transportation records





# **V. Referral – Revisions to *Bulletin 139 - Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs***



# Proposed Bulletin 139 Policy Revisions

Proposed Revisions regarding Health & Safety:

- Adds further provisions for family child care providers, in-home providers, and school child care centers, to help guarantee child safety, including the following:
  - Annual review and updating of site emergency plans
  - Additional safe sleep procedures
  - Confidentiality of records of children and the families of children
  - Required parental consent prior to release of information from which a child might be identified.



# Proposed Bulletin 139 Policy Revisions

Proposed Revisions regarding Health & Safety:

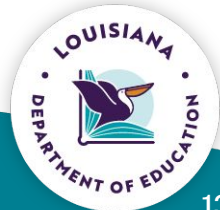
- Reorganizes some information to group like topics (i.e., general health and safety that applies to all providers regulated through this bulletin as well as behavior management policies) for ease of understanding, alignment across provider types, and decreased redundancy, including the following:
  - clarifying the frequency of required trainings and federally-recommended topics for training,
  - establishing provisions for the administration of stock medication allowed by Act 657 of the 2024 legislative session,
  - Identifying additional hazards to children and requiring that these items be inaccessible to children.



# Proposed Bulletin 139 Policy Revisions

Proposed Revisions regarding the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):

- Removes or updates outdated information, such as definitions, Time and Attendance System information, and Graduated Phase Out
- Provides clarification to providers regarding information required for submission to the Department
- Clarifies which caregivers are ineligible for CCAP payments
- Removes child support, alimony, and adoption subsidies as income that counts for a family's CCAP eligibility determination



# Proposed Bulletin 139 Policy Revisions

Proposed Revisions regarding the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):

- Adds a brief Presumptive Eligibility period for Redetermination Applications, to ensure that children from families whose applications are submitted at or close to application deadline are not dropped from services while applications are processed
- Codifies a chart to ensure ADA compliance and readability
- Updates information on payments made on behalf of households to note that automated payments for seats will be made prior to provision of child care services (i.e., paid prospectively)



# VI. Informational Report: 2024 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report - Quarter 3 (July-September)



# Quarter 3 Report Outline

## I. Early Childhood Program Participation

- Types of Programs
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Voucher Seats
- CCAP B-3 Seats Program
- Early Childhood Education Fund

## II. Early Childhood Community Networks

- Accountability System
- Child Assessment

## III. Ready Start Networks

## IV. Activities to Recognize and Support Early Childhood Professionals



# Early Learning Sites by Type (2024 - Quarter 3)

Site Type:					
Month	Type I	Type II	Type III	FCC	In-Home
July 2024	196	161	1,210	238	2
August 2024	197	160	1,215	235	3
September 2024	194	159	1,210	232	2

Star Rating:						
	0 Stars	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
2023	0	4	56	342	407	50
2024	1	10	82	380	512	105





# CCAP Voucher Seats

In Quarter 3, the Department announced the following program changes effective October 1, 2024:

- Presumptive eligibility for CCAP redetermination
  - Families will continue to receive services at redetermination for up to 30 days, while awaiting complete application processing.
- Child support income will no longer be a countable income for determining eligibility.
- Children with disabilities will pay a \$0 co-pay if determined eligible for CCAP services.

CCAP Children Served in Quarter 3	
July 2024	18,141
August 2024	17,960
September 2024	17,170

CCAP Waitlist as of September 2024	
Families Awaiting Services Since July 2023	3,541
Children Awaiting Services Since July 2023	6,747

# CCAP B-3 Contracted Seats

The CCAP B-3 Seats Program continued in Quarter 3:

- As of September 2024, 38 participating networks had 3,712 total children enrolled.

CCAP B-3 Contracted Seats in Quarter 3	
Infants	251
Toddlers	2,280
Three Year Olds	1,181

# Early Childhood Education Fund

In 2024-2025, 13 Ready Start Network (RSN) Lead Agencies raised local funds qualifying for state match from the Early Childhood Education Fund.

- This includes 7 additional RSNs: Assumption, East Baton Rouge, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Tangipahoa, and Webster Parishes
- Networks are continuing to enroll children to fill funded seats.

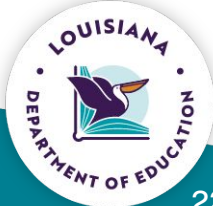
Early Childhood Education Fund Enrollment in September 2024	
Infants	207
One Year Olds	395
Two Year Olds	448
Three Year Olds	506

# Early Childhood Education Fund

Networks New to ECE Fund	Funded Amount
Assumption	\$12,100
East Baton Rouge	\$154,885
Grant	\$132,000
Natchitoches	\$639,000
Rapides	\$2,380,000
Tangipahoa	\$1,020
Webster	\$2,750

Networks Continuing to Participate in ECE Fund	Funded Amount
Ascension	\$900,000
Bossier	\$70,289
Caddo	\$2,000,000
Jefferson	\$340,000
Orleans	\$23,674,959
Pointe Coupee	\$4,964

Total Local Funds Raised for 2024-2025 is **\$30,312,097**



# Early Childhood Accountability System

The Department and Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) continued to support local sites to implement the early childhood accountability system by completing the following activities to close out the 2023-2024 academic year:

- The Department began analysis of and planning for data release based on preliminary Performance Profile results.
- The Department analyzed the annual lead teacher survey results to calculate the teacher satisfaction informational metric for network Performance Profiles.
- The Department and Community Network Lead Agencies collaborated to confirm accuracy of informational metrics and complete data certification for 2023-2024 Performance Profiles.



# Early Childhood Accountability System

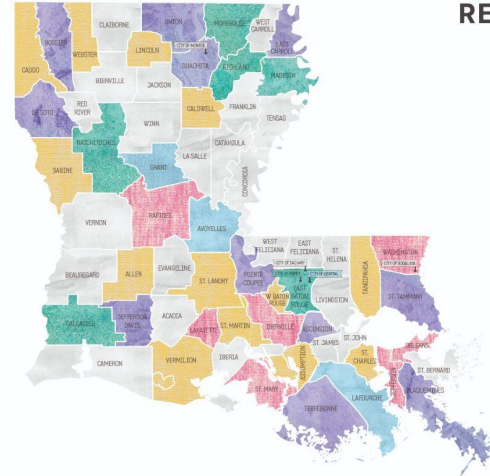
The Department and Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) worked together on the following beginning-of-year activities for 2024-2025:

- Sites set up classrooms in the Teaching Strategies GOLD<sup>®</sup> system.
- The Department ensured that all sites and classrooms were added or updated in the [EC CLASS<sup>®</sup> Portal](#).
- CNLAs submitted their [2024-2025 Local Observation Protocol](#).



# Ready Start Networks (RSNs)

*The RSNs have focused on strengthening local governance and stakeholder involvement through collaborative efforts and support from the community-level advisory council and coalition in developing future sustainability plans.*



## READY START NETWORKS

- COHORT 1
- COHORT 2
- COHORT 3
- COHORT 4
- COHORT 5

# Ready Start Networks (RSNs)

In Quarter 3, RSNs continued to focus on developing community-level funding plans collaboratively with advisory councils, coalitions, and other stakeholders to establish strategic funding strategies by:

- Working to expand recruitment of additional stakeholders and thought partners within communities, to establish valuable connections and support
- Reorganizing local governance and updating bylaws to reflect the current state of EC at the local level
- Collaborating more regionally to support and assist with creating sustainable resources for early care and education in rural communities
- Utilizing the ECE Fund match to bring awareness in communities and encourage participation in supporting early childhood education





# 2025 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Awards

The LDOE recognized site leaders and teachers for their hard work and dedication to the field of early care and education:

- In July at the 18th annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, Finalists from the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader Awards for the 2025 year were honored.
- In October, Overall Award honorees were honored at the BESE recognition meeting.



# 2025 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Overall Honorees



Recognizing Early Childhood Professionals

2024 Quarter 3 Report



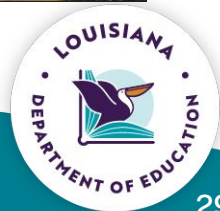
# 2025 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Overall Honorees

Photos from the 18th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala and the 2024 Annual BESE recognition meeting:



Recognizing Early Childhood Professionals

2024 Quarter 3 Report



# Child Care Resource & Referral and Mental Health Consultation Services

The Tulane TIKES Mental Health Consultants continued to support early learning sites by partnering with early childhood coaches, providers, and teachers to work together to support the behavioral health of children in early learning settings. Program-centered services included training on topics such as the following:

- Behavior management
- Age-appropriate expectations
- Creating supportive environments



# 2024 Early Childhood Conferences

The Department hosted the third annual Early Childhood Conference, *Shaping Louisiana's Future*, in Shreveport as well as Baton Rouge.

- The conference was held on a Saturday to provide a more accessible opportunity for early childhood teachers and leaders from across the state to attend.



The Office of Early Childhood team attends the 2024 Early Childhood Conference in Shreveport.

# 2024 Early Childhood Conferences

The Early Childhood Conference provided break-out sessions on critical Early Childhood topics such as the following:

- High-Quality Early Childhood Classroom Environments
- Early Childhood Classroom Management
- Effective Implementation of High-Quality Curriculum
- Promoting Early Language and Literacy Development
- Supporting Young Children with Disabilities
- Effective Parent/Provider Relationships
- Early Childhood Mental Health
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- Supporting Teachers' Professional Development



Supporting Early Childhood Professionals

2024 Quarter 3 Report





# 2024 Early Childhood Conferences



# 2024 Early Childhood Conferences





# 2024 Early Childhood Conferences



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# 2024 Early Childhood Conferences

# Young Children with Disabilities (YCWD)

During Quarter 3, the Department launched the Young Children with Disabilities Strategic Planning Grant, a collaborative opportunity between the Department and the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies, to strengthen ongoing efforts and strategies related to implementing developmental screening in Type III child care sites.

Through December 31, 2024, the focuses of this planning grant are as follows:

- Analyze the current developmental screening practices for YCWD in birth to three year old classrooms within Type III child care centers
- Enhance practices that will impact developmental screening and referral in early childhood educational B-3 settings
- Expand early identification by increasing the number of completed developmental screenings in publicly-funded ECE programs



# Louisiana Early Leaders Academy (LELA)

The LDOE provided opportunities for early childhood leaders to advance their professional learning:

- On July 29, Cohort 6 of the [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy](#) welcomed 30 new Fellows into the program.
- This program provides child care site professionals with leadership development, systems thinking training, and collaboration with peers to strengthen their business practices.



# Collaboration with Healthy Navigators

Healthy Navigators for Louisiana is a program of the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center (SWLAHEC).

In Quarter 3, SWLAHEC completed their work with the LDOE to

- connect child care site leaders with information to assist directors in offering benefits packages to their employees
- connect staff members with information about health insurance options



# Upcoming Activities



# Early Childhood Health & Safety Training

LDOE is implementing steps to ensure that child care providers have the training to comply with Bulletin 137 as the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has concluded the Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) program.

These actions include ensuring that providers who seek in-person trainings have access to Health and Safety and Medication Administration training administered by qualified trainers who have the knowledge and credentials necessary to provide training on these topics.

These trainers have been integrated into the LDOE's registry of approved trainers and identified as Early Childhood Health and Safety Trainers (ECHSTs).

Upcoming Activities

Contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov) with questions.





# Early Childhood Health & Safety Training

In November, the LDOE launched the online, interactive, self-paced training program called **EC Learn** for early childhood providers to access health and safety training free of charge. These online trainings can be used to meet the training requirements in [Bulletin 137](#) and [Bulletin 139](#).

Benefits of the **EC Learn** professional learning suite include the following:

- Providers are able to enroll staff in courses, regardless of group size, with flexibility around staffing schedules.
- Training certificates are more accessible.
- Providers have more control over training processes and can reduce potential deficiencies.

Upcoming Activities

Please contact [eclearn@la.gov](mailto:eclearn@la.gov) with questions.



# Early Childhood Health & Safety Training

- During the first phase of EC Learn, Health & Safety Training, including Medication Administration in Child Care, is being launched to support a need of the early childhood workforce in obtaining continuing education courses.
- Additional training will be offered to support the growth and development of the EC workforce, including new teachers and administrators.



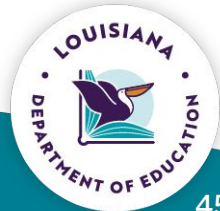
Upcoming Activities

Please contact [eclearn@la.gov](mailto:eclearn@la.gov) with questions.



# Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

<b>2025 Meetings</b> 1:00-3:00 p.m. Claiborne Building 1-136 Thomas Jefferson Rm. A/B
February 12, 2025
May 7, 2025
July 17, 2025
September 17, 2025
November 12, 2025



# Adjournment

