



EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

September 8, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Across Louisiana, educators are working with a sense of urgency for children. You're finding innovative ways to close the gaps created by two disruptive school years. But before even the most effective academic strategies can make a difference, children have to attend their early learning site on a regular basis. September is Attendance Awareness Month in Louisiana and across the nation. Children who miss 10 percent or more of the academic year are less likely to read on grade-level by third grade or graduate from high school. The last two years have taught us the value of in person instruction. Every day a child is in a high-quality early learning environment is an opportunity to learn, grow, and access supports they may otherwise go without.

Something all leaders should be doing now is collaborating with families to keep them informed of the value of regular attendance. Let's do our part this and every month to emphasize the importance of being in class and ready to learn every day.

Dr. Cade Brumley

Upcoming Deadlines

- September 30: [Nominations](#) for the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year due by 5 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- September 20: [CLASS® Observations Webinar for FCC Sites](#)
- September 28: [GOLD® Webinar: Collecting Observational Data using Frog Street PreK 2020](#)
- September 30: [Monthly Office Hours for New Directors](#)
- October 6: [Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar](#)

More Important Dates

Please see the [LDOE School System Support Calendar](#).

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UPDATES FOR COVID-19

NEW: Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar

On September 1, the Department hosted a webinar for early childhood providers. [Presentation slides](#) are available in the [Quality Providers Library](#) on the Louisiana Believes website.

The next provider webinar will be October 6, 2022. Providers can access the upcoming October provider webinar using the information below:

Webinar Date/Time: Thursday, October 6 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872>

Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 935 9774 5872

Passcode: 641464

REMINDER: TIKES Mental Health Consultation

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) is an intervention that teams a mental health professional with early childhood professionals to improve the social, emotional, and behavioral health of young children in early learning settings. The TIKES ECMHC provides support at no cost to Type III and registered Family Child Care sites. Onsite support and professional development is provided for teachers and other early childhood professionals by early childhood mental health specialists.

For more information visit the [TIKES](#) webpage.

UPDATES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

NEW: GOLD® Update Webinar: Collecting Observational Data using FrogStreet PreK 2020

The Department will host a GOLD® update webinar for site leaders that utilize the Frog Street PK 2020 curriculum. Participants can access the GOLD® informational webinar using the information below:

Webinar Topic: Collecting Observational Data While Using Frog Street PreK 2020

Webinar Date/Time: September 28 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81367640052?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 813 6764 0052

Please contact ECAssessment@la.gov with any questions.

NEW: Teaching Strategies® GOLD Upcoming Webinars

Teaching Strategies offers a variety of [free webinars](#) to provide professional learning opportunities to support early childhood leaders and educators in navigating the system.

Upcoming Webinars:

- [Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#): September 29 at 12 p.m.
- [Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#): October 4 at 3 p.m.

Teaching Strategies also offers several [on-demand recorded webinars](#) for early childhood teachers and leaders.

NEW: CLASS® Observation Updates

Community Network Lead Agencies are currently working with sites to schedule local Fall CLASS® observations for the 2022-2023 academic year. Representatives from local Community Network Lead Agencies will be reaching out to schedule observations for each site.

Third party observations will also be scheduled and conducted by the Picard Center. Third party observations are designed to provide an additional level of review to ensure reliability. At least two weeks before the scheduled observations are to begin, the Picard Center will send an email providing the site with a two-week timeframe in which the observations will occur.

Questions about CLASS® observations can be directed to the local [Community Network Lead Agency](#).

NEW: Teachstone® – The CLASS® Learning Community

[The CLASS® Learning Community](#) is a group of educators dedicated to improving teacher-child interactions. Join for free and browse the available resources. Resource documents, recorded webinars, discussion boards, and blog posts are available. New resources include:

- Teaching with CLASS® Podcast: [Setting up your classroom for success](#).
- Teachstone® Blog: [A Coaching Guide to Asking Reflective Questions](#).

NEW: Powering Up Early Childhood Conference 2022 Continuing Education Certificates

Clock hour certificates have been distributed via ccapevents@la.gov to all participants who attended sessions at the Powering Up Early Childhood Conference 2022.

Questions about a participant's certificate or clock hours should be directed to ccapevents@la.gov.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year (TOY/LOY) Nomination Period is Here!

The 2022-2023 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year nomination process has begun. The [nomination](#) form is live, and anyone can make nominations. Eligible candidates work in Type III centers, CCAP-certified Family Child Care sites, or Head Start and Early Head Start centers. **Nominations are due by September 30, 2022 at 5 p.m.**

For questions about the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year programs, email Devon.Camarota@la.gov.

REMINDER: Free LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators (Birth – 12)

Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed psychologists or therapists through a smartphone, tablet or personal computer. All Early Childhood professionals are eligible.

Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com and enter Service Key: LDOE; Coupon Code: TEACH.

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program 24-Month Certification Period

In an effort to provide continuity of care for children in the CCAP program and to address the large number of new

CCAP applications, LDOE will extend CCAP eligibility to 24 months in total.

Pandemic application cases for essential workers will remain at the original 12 month period due to the specific source of funding for these cases. Cases for children already receiving 24 months of service because of age will not be extended.

Therefore, beginning in July 2022, cases were extended by 12 months, not to exceed 24 months in total. At the 24 month mark, families will be notified via email that it is time for redetermination to maintain child care with CCAP, if eligible. Providers are asked to help in notifying CCAP families of redetermination.

Should there be any questions, please contact the Provider Help Desk at ldccap@la.gov or by phone at 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543.

REMINDER: Child Care Criminal Background Check Fees and CCAP Co-payments In response to COVID-19, the Department has been covering Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) fees and family co-payments. Family co-payments were scheduled to resume August 1, 2022 but due to a system error, co-payments were not deducted from payments for service the week of August 1, 2022. Consequently, the Department has postponed reinstating family co-payments until September 1, 2022.

The weekly payment for the service week of August 29 - September 2 will be disbursed in two payments:

- First Payment - Co-payments will continue to be waived for the service days of August 29-31 and paid September 12, 2022.
- Second Payment - Co-payments for the service days of September 1-2 will be deducted from the State's daily rate (per age group) and paid September 13, 2022.

As a reminder, copayments listed on the "CCAP 12 - Provider Notice of Payment" correspondence are the parent's portion of the State daily rate which is deducted prior to issuance of regular weekly provider payments.

Example: State daily rate for child age birth to 11 months is \$68.00. Parent's co-payment of State rate is \$2.00. State will pay \$66.00/day resulting in a weekly payment to the provider of \$330.00.

Please contact the Provider Help Desk at ldccap@la.gov or by phone at 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543 with questions.

UPDATES FOR LICENSED CENTERS, FAMILY CHILD CARE, AND IN-HOME PROVIDERS

NEW: September and October Renewals in Edlink

License renewals in September or October can be submitted using EdLink. Moving forward, this is the only method available to submit a renewal application. Renewal fees will be waived as long as the application is submitted prior to October 1, 2022. See the renewal notification email sent from ldlicensing@la.gov.

Once access is gained and/or Entity Manager permission, please email EdlinkSupport@la.gov. The team will need to track progress of the application.

For assistance with gaining access to EdLink or already have access and have questions, the EdLink Support Team will be holding office hours each weekday from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Please see the information below to join:

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97565259173>

Phone Number: 1-470-381-2522

Meeting ID: 975 6525 9173

NEW: Extension of 16 Year Old Licensing Waiver

This temporary waiver is to address staff shortages and is granted to all child care providers to address the minimum age requirement for staff members in Bulletin 137, §1707.D.1. A center may now allow a person age 16 years to be included in the child-to-staff ratio if the person works under the direct supervision of an adult staff member.

THIS WAIVER IS VALID BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AND TERMINATING JUNE 30, 2023.

The approval of this waiver is contingent upon full and continuous compliance with the conditions listed above. If at any time a provider is found to be out of compliance with the condition, the waiver will be immediately withdrawn, placing the provider in violation of the previously waive provision and may place the license in jeopardy of revocation.

For questions, please contact a licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905 or email ldelicensing@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) 5 Year Renewal

Five-year eligibility renewals for the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) program will begin March 2023. Providers or applicants who were fingerprinted in 2018 upon the program's launch, will be contacted via email to initiate the fingerprinting process approximately 90 days before the expiration date.

For questions, please contact a CCCBC Analyst at (225) 342-2716 or email ldcccdbcprocessing@la.gov.

REMINDER: Be Prepared: Know What To Do If a Hurricane or Other Disaster Occurs

Be prepared if a hurricane or other disaster occurs. The time to prepare is now. Please contact the [Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness](#) now with any questions. Do not wait until there is a storm in the Gulf of Mexico. If an emergency covers a large geographical area such as a parish or region of the state, the LDOE will closely monitor conditions out of concern for safety. Please know that should a disaster occur and a center or location is in a parish or area that the LDOE determines as impacted by the disaster, the site license or certification may be suspended until post-disaster approvals are obtained and the required Reopening Request is submitted to the LDOE.

In the event of a potential disaster, take the following steps to prepare:

- Stay up-to-date with the status of any storm or other potential natural disaster and its impact on the local area.
- Ensure that LDOE has a current cell phone number and email address.
- Review and update evacuation and safety plans.
- Practice evacuation and reunification plans.
- Let families know communication methods if a site is unable to reopen following a disaster.
- Review the Frequently Asked Questions below and be ready if a disaster declaration is made:
 - [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\) – Before, During, and After a Disaster](#)
 - [Reinstatement of a Child Care Center License Following a Disaster](#)
- Pay close attention to the messages from the local officials.
- Obtain the parish's Emergency Preparedness Contact phone number.
- Review the useful links below:
 - <http://www.getagameplan.org/>
 - <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov/>
- Be Safe.

REMINDER: Licensing Application Processing Timeframes

In an effort to ensure Licensing applications and requests are completed in time for services to be provided to children, please note the following time frames for processing of requests. Please also note that if all required documentation is

not submitted, there will be additional delays in processing time.

- Application for Licensure or Change of Location — up to 90 days
- Application for Change of Ownership — up to 30 days
- Change Report for Capacity increase — up to 30 days
- Change Report for Age Range — up to 30 days (current process email Consultant)
- Change Report for adding Transportation — up to 30 days (current process email Consultant)
- Change Report for adding a Director/Designee — up to 30 days (current process email Consultant)

For questions, please contact a licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905 or email ldelicensing@la.gov.

REMINDER: 2022-2023 Family Child Care Program Partner Assurances for Academic Approval

Family Child Care sites can now opt into Academic Approval by submitting the [2022-2023 Program Partner Assurances](#) to the Department. To learn more about the benefits and requirements of Academic Approval, please contact FamilyChildCare@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR DIRECTORS

NEW: Monthly Office Hours for New Directors

Every month, the LDOE team hosts a webinar that focuses on topics related to early childhood quality while also helping to expand directors' network of peers. Office hours are targeted towards new directors. Come learn about Type III requirements, connect with other directors, and stay up-to-date with upcoming events and deadlines. This month's topic will be an overview of Louisiana Pathways.

Webinar Date/Time: September 30 at 12 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99075363953>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-346-248-7799

Passcode: 126700

Meeting ID: 99075363953

Please contact Tella.Henderson@la.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: FREE Tax Consultation for Type III and CCAP-Certified Family Child Care Providers

Type III centers or CCAP-certified family child care providers can benefit from free and 100% confidential help with taxes, understanding tax and financial documents, statements or applications from a certified early childhood-trained Tax Accountant. If so, contact Andrea City at andrea@jwroyston.com with JWRA, Inc. for a free consultation.

REMINDER: FREE One-On-One Business Consultation and Coaching for Type III Early Learning Centers and CCAP-Certified Family Child Care Providers

Interested in receiving one-on-one confidential and free business consultation from national early childhood business experts on any child care business topics, including but not limited to finance to policy, marketing to staffing, and many other business-related topics? The individual consultation provided by First Children's Finance's very own Kari Stattleman is completely confidential and individualized.

Contact Kari Stattleman at KariS@FirstChildrensFinance.org with questions or to schedule a meeting.

UPDATES FOR COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

NEW: CLASS® Observations Webinar for Family Child Care (FCC) Sites

On September 20 at 1 p.m., Teachstone® will host a webinar focused on conducting CLASS® observations at FCC sites. Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) that have Family Child Care (FCC) sites that have opted into Academic Approval should plan to attend this webinar.

Webinar Date/Time: Tuesday, September 20 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://teachstone.zoom.us/j/98458210100>

Webinar Host: Teachstone®

For questions, please email Felicia.Jackson3@la.gov.

NEW: Weekly Webinar for Community Network Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood team holds Office Hours every Tuesday at 3 p.m. for Community Network Lead Agency contacts. The purpose of these webinars is to provide updates and answer questions for Community Network Lead Agencies. Presentations from previous Community Network Lead Agency Office Hours are located in the [Community Network Lead Agency Library](#).

The upcoming schedule for Weekly Webinars for Community Network Lead Agencies can be found below:

- September 13: Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment Tool
- September 20: General updates/October Child Count
- September 27: October Child Count
- October 4: 2023-2024 Coordinated Enrollment Plan Overview
- October 11: Coordinated Enrollment Plan Jotform

Note that topics are subject to change. Please email Amanda.Colon@la.gov with questions.

OTHER

NEW: ECCE Commission Upcoming Meeting, September 14, 2022

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will take place on September 14 at 1 p.m. in the Claiborne Building (Thomas Jefferson Room A/B), located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. This meeting will also be live streamed at <https://bese.louisiana.gov/meetings/live-stream>. An overview of the ECCE Commission and meeting materials will be available in the Early Childhood [Policy and Guidance Library](#). For additional information, please email dana.russell2@la.gov.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for special assistance at this meeting please contact dana.russell2@la.gov at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.

REMINDER: Family Engagement Support

The Louisiana Department of Education knows that children are at the heart of meaningful family engagement. The release of the “Early Childhood Be Engaged Birth - 5 Framework Guidance” will support early care and education programs to build relationships with families using research-based engagement strategies. The [Early Childhood Be Engaged Birth - 5 Framework](#) provides the early childhood field with a set of common goals and strategies to engage families. Additionally, the Framework will support early childhood professionals to strengthen current family engagement practices to develop partnerships with families for children’s development and learning.

IN THE NEWS

[Shreveport Looking to Launch Early Childhood Education Program for Underprivileged Families \(KSLA\)](#)

CONTACT US



- For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact LDOECOVID19@la.gov.
- For questions regarding licensing or child health and safety, please contact LDElicensing@la.gov.
- For questions regarding community network lead agencies, please contact leadagencysupport@la.gov.
- For all questions regarding child care criminal background check processing, please contact LDEccbcprocessing@la.gov.
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

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