

November 12, 2020



News for Early Childhood Educators

Dear Colleagues,

This week we honor all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Every Veterans Day, I think of the countless educators who started their careers of service in the military. I think back to my time as a teacher and principal and remember all my former students who graduated high school and went on to success in one of our military branches. I also think of both my grandfathers who fought in WWII for the U.S. Army.

Thank you to all of our veterans. I'm grateful for your service and sacrifice.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Upcoming Deadlines

- December 1 - Lead agencies should plan on submitting reimbursements for these three rollover budgets from 2019-2020: Ready Start Networks, Infant CLASS Supports, and Get Ready.

Upcoming Events

- November 13 - [Head Start Collaboration Meeting](#)
- November 19 - [Webinar for Early Childhood Providers featuring Dr. Welch from the Louisiana Department of Health](#)
- November 19 - [Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Meeting](#)
- December 9 - [Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Meeting](#)
- December 11 - [CCAP Early Head Start/Head Start Training](#)

More Important Dates

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

Please click the image below to read the **Early Childhood Newsletter** in your browser.

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News for Early Childhood Educators
Special Edition

September 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Our state, like much of the nation, is navigating some difficult times. Between the global pandemic and recent weather events, families, businesses, and communities are facing challenges. Data gathered from stakeholder surveys and our state's unified quality rating system provides state agencies and advocates with useful information to drive state initiatives to support early childhood care and education in Louisiana.

Market Rate Survey: Every three years, the LDOE requests that child care providers across the state complete the Market Rate Survey (MRS). The MRS helps determine the true costs of high-quality child care and provides the Department with localized data used to determine the state's child care reimbursement rate. You may remember completing this year's Market Rate Survey. However, due to COVID-19, the Department must collect new data. Therefore, the Department is releasing a new [Market Rate Survey](#) that will close on October 30.

Louisiana Child Care Parent Poll: In addition to surveying child care providers, the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children is working in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education and Women's United of Southeast Louisiana to conduct a [parent poll](#) gathering information on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting Louisiana families with children under the age of 5. The survey is for any parent, guardian, or caregiver raising children in their home. The survey will take less than 15 minutes to complete and is available in English, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Please distribute the [poll](#) to the families that you serve to help us to understand and advocate for the child care needs of families with young children across the state.

2019-2020 Performance Profiles: Additionally, I am excited to announce that the 2019-2020 Early Childhood Performance Profiles will be released on September 30. The Department is hosting a [webinar](#) to review these results on September 29 at 3 p.m.

Dr. Cole Brunley
State Superintendent of Education

Mental Health Tip of the Month

****Self-Care tip for providers: Acknowledge moments of gratitude or joy. Look for moments of joy and connection and share them with your colleagues.**

Updates for Teaching and Learning

NEW: Apply to Lead a Session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021

Louisiana teachers and leaders are invited to share their expertise with educators statewide by applying to facilitate a session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021. Applications will be available on November 16 and are due by January 6, 2021. Look out for more information and the application link in the Teacher Leader Library and upcoming newsletters.



The Teacher Leader Summit will take place from Tuesday, May 25 through Thursday, May 27, 2021, in New Orleans. Registration will open on January 8, 2021.

Please contact ldoevents@la.gov with questions.

NEW: COVID-19 Resources for Children with Disabilities From Birth to Age 5

The ED-funded [Early Childhood Technical Assistance \(ECTA\) Center](#) developed a [COVID-19 website](#) with resources for states and local programs serving young children with disabilities and their families. One of its newest interactive infographics is [COVID-19 Family Resources](#) to help families navigate the ECTA website for COVID-19 tools and information to support their children's learning and development.

NEW: ECTA Recommendations for Re-Opening Face-to-Face Sessions for Inclusionary Preschools and Early Care Centers

This [resource](#) will help program administrators and classroom practitioners design educational environments as they re-open. The strategies presented are evidence-based practices that have been effective across time; the data are irrefutable. Even in these challenging circumstances, these strategies will assist all staff to make decisions to better serve children and families, as well as mitigate teacher burnout and support staff retention.

NEW: Special Education Resources

The Department has updated the Louisiana Believes website to include the [Young Children with Disabilities landing page](#), which can be located under the Early Childhood Tab.

The following guidance documents have been updated and can now be located on the new landing page:

- [Developmental Screening Guidebook](#)
- [Early Childhood Transition Process](#)

Questions can be directed to brittany.braun@la.gov.

Updates for Funding and Enrollment

LaCAP Relief Grants Round 4

The Department is preparing to release the funds for LaCAP Grant 4. These funds are expected to be released the 3rd week of November.

Actively Seeking Employment

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many households have lost employment. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) allows the LDOE to offer temporary child care assistance for many of these families. Compliant with BESE Bulletin 139, if the head of household or any legal custodian is actively seeking employment and/or training, including enrolling in school (E&T), the E&T requirements may be waived for 90 days. The household must meet certification requirements and validate actively seeking employment with the [Louisiana Workforce Commission](#).

CCAP Provider Payments and Attendance

CCAP has extended child care payments to providers based on *enrollment* through December 31. After December 31, payments to providers will be based on *attendance*. Additionally, due to many hybrid school schedules, school age children who are normally part-time will remain full-time through January 2021.

CCAP Attendance

While CCAP has extended payments based on *enrollment* until December 31, providers are still required to use either the Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) device or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to track attendance. Failure to do so may jeopardize provider payments based on enrollment. For assistance with TOTS, please email Jackie.Droddy2@la.gov or contact Conduent at 1-888-281-0326.

Client Redeterminations

Presently, CCAP client redeterminations are extended as follows:
August and May redeterminations are extended to November 2020.

For questions regarding CCAP, please email the Provider Ticket System at <https://provider.supportsystem.com>.

Pre-K Program Payment Update

Payments based on allocations have been extended. For the period August through December 31, 2020, LA 4 school systems and NSECD providers will receive payments equal to their allocation as approved in Spring 2020.

As in the past, all program providers will continue to report actual enrollment and attendance during this period; however, payments will be based on the original allocation amount.

Beginning in January, a shift will be made, and program providers will be paid based on *actual enrollment* (including students enrolled in virtual pre-K).

For questions regarding LA 4 or NSECD payments, please contact lindsey.bradford@la.gov.

Updates for Licensed Centers, Family Child Care & In-Home Providers



Webinar for Early Childhood Providers

On Thursday, November 19, the Department will host a [webinar](#) for early childhood providers from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This webinar will feature Dr. Frank Welch from the Louisiana Department of Health. The webinar will include important updates and reminders as well.

Meeting Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99633034066>

Meeting ID: 996 3303 4066

Dial In: 1-346-248-7799

License Renewal Via Jot Form

Providers should not use the CAFÉ webpage to submit renewal applications. A jot form renewal

application will be sent via email to each center that is required to renew their license. Timely submission of the jot form is imperative. Providers will also need to attach the following required renewal items:

- Current approval from Office of Public Health,
- Current approval from Office of State Fire Marshal,
- Current approval from City Fire (if applicable),
- Current General Liability Insurance,
- LDE Office of Early Childhood Academic Approval (for Type III centers).

Renewal fees are not being requested this time.

Annual Continuing Education

The annual continuing education requirement for the period between March 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021 was waived due to the availability and cost to providers. Beginning March 2021, Licensing will resume observing the annual continuing education hours.

Questions can be directed to a [Licensing Consultant](#) at 225-342-9905 or ldelicensing@la.gov.

TIKES Mental Health Consultation

Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers in need during the COVID-19 crisis. Parents, Type I, II, & III child care centers, respite care center caregivers, and others caring for young children can request a consultation. Requests are typically answered within hours and scheduled for the next day. Complete a [request form](#) to request services. For more information visit: <https://medicine.tulane.edu/departments/clinical-sciences/psychiatry/research/tikes>.

Free Lead Testing

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is offering FREE testing for lead in drinking water child care programs. To learn more about the drinking water lead testing program and to submit an application for testing at a particular facility, visit <http://ldh.la.gov/SchoolLeadTesting>.

Updates for Child Care Criminal Background Checks

Staff must have an eligible or provisional CCCBC-based determination **before** starting work. The Department understands that [fingerprint locations](#) may be temporarily and unexpectedly closed due to weather or COVID exposure. It is best to call the location prior to sending a new applicant. Please let us know at LDEccbcprocessing@la.gov if you are experiencing fingerprint delays over 5 business days.

Updates for Directors

Flu Season

This year, health and safety concerns may be top of mind more than ever. Please take some time to review the Centers for Disease Control recommendations as it relates to:

- [Vaccines and COVID-19](#)
- [Child Care and Preschool Pandemic Influenza Planning](#)

ECAC Renewals

For ECAC renewals, please utilize the [following guidance from Certification](#) to help submit requests for renewal. Not sure when to submit?

If the ECAC expires in November:

- Submit the renewal through [Teach LA Live!](#) ASAP
 - Allow 4-6 weeks processing time. Applicants should receive a certificate or further feedback by December 4.

If the ECAC expires in December:

- Submit a renewal through [Teach LA Live!](#) by no later than November 7.
 - Allow 4-6 weeks processing time. Applicants should receive a certificate or further feedback.

Once an application is submitted, please check the email on file regularly for replies from the

LDOE. Application submissions can be verified or check for any new messages using the History option on [Teach LA Live!](#). If an application is submitted by the director, please follow-up with them to check for updates sent to their email or [Teach LA Live!](#) history.

Once an application is processed, additional feedback is provided or the certificate issued. Case feedback and certificate information can be reviewed on [TeachLouisiana.net](#). On the right side, choose *Status of a Certification Application* or *Verify a Certificate or Teaching Authorization*.

Any questions regarding the processing of an application should be submitted using *Ask a Question* at the top of [Teach LA Live!](#).

Updates for Lead Agencies



Weekly Webinar

The Early Childhood Team provides a Weekly Webinar for lead agency contacts. The purpose is to provide time each week to collaborate with other colleagues, learn new ideas, review Department updates, and answer questions for lead agencies. These sessions are held on most Tuesdays at 3 p.m. and usually last a half-hour. Contact amanda.colon@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies

- November 17 - General information and updates
- November 24 - General information and updates
- December 1 - Coordinated Enrollment and Coordinated Funding Request Informational Webinar
- December 8 - General information and updates

2021-2022 Super App: Improving Early Childhood Access and Quality

School systems have a vested interest in ensuring that children at risk of entering kindergarten behind have access to a high-quality early childhood education. School systems should work with their early childhood community network lead agency to complete the early childhood components of Super App. The early childhood questions in Super App are aligned to the Department's three key priorities for early childhood: local governance, access, and quality. Additional guidance for completing the 2021-2022 Super App is provided can be found in the [Early Childhood Super App Guidance Document](#), [informational webinar deck](#), and [webinar recording](#). Send all questions related to school system planning and Super App to LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov and include "Super App" in the subject line.

Family Engagement PD Opportunity - St. Landry

St. Landry presented information about a family engagement and communication strategy that is cost effective and easily accessible for families. The *My Virtual Classroom* app is a method of providing information to families with children birth to five and sharing resources from the classroom and site or school that meet the needs of families.

If you missed the presentation on November 4, you can access the [recorded link](#). Please contact amanda.colon@la.gov for more information.

Recent Lead Agency Resources

- [October 13 Office Hours](#)
- [October 20 Office Hours](#)
- [October 27 Office Hours](#)
- [November 10 Office Hours](#)

PDG Allocations Expiring Soon

Roll over funds from the following 2019-2020 budgets will expire at the end of the year: Ready Start Networks, Get Ready, and Infant CLASS. Lead agencies should plan on submitting reimbursements for these three budgets by December 1, 2020.

Ready Start Network Recognition

Tangipahoa Ready Start Network developed a [public-facing brochure](#) summarizing the mission of the Ready Start, its current data, and its visionary goals to improve the state of early childhood in the community. Tangipahoa is using this resource to expand their coalition of diverse stakeholders and to increase awareness of early childhood in their community.

Dr. Sarintha Stricklin, director of Jefferson Ready Start Network, recently had a [Letter to the Editor](#) published in *The Advocate* focusing on the importance of child care workers and their role in supporting the economy. Jefferson has been working to increase community engagement and and advocacy within their network as part of their Ready Start efforts.

Other

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council - Upcoming Meeting, November 19

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will take place on November 19 at 1:00p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. Participants can also [livestream](#) the event. For additional information, please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact leslie.doyle@la.gov at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission met on October 26. [Presentation slides](#) and a [recording](#) of this meeting can be found online. For additional information regarding the [ECCE Commission](#), please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

Subscribe to Our Monthly Newsletter

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Early Childhood in the News

[Letters: Child care workers deserve pay and respect](#) (The Advocate)

[Guest column: Child care workers deserve their due](#) (The Advocate)

[Louisiana Releases Requests For Applications to Support Early Literacy Across the State](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[Edward announces Reappointments Hammond Woman to Early Childhood Care Commission](#) (The Advocate)

[Louisiana Offers Free Virtual Instruction Training to Support Teachers and Principals](#) (Louisiana Believes)

Contact Us

- For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact LDOECOV19@la.gov
- For questions regarding licensing, or child health and safety, please contact ldelicensing@la.gov.
- For questions regarding lead agencies, please contact leadagencysupport@la.gov.
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

