



EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

July 14, 2022

Upcoming Events

- July 22-24: [Powering Up! Early Childhood Conference](#)
- July 29: [Monthly Office Hours for New Directors](#)
- August 4: [Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar](#)
- August 10: [GOLD® Back to School Update Webinar for Site Administrators](#)
- August 11: [Early Childhood Investigations Webinar](#)
- August 18: [Teachstone's Back to School with Meaningful Interactions Virtual Event](#)

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 July 7, 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 August 4, 2022. Providers can access the upcoming August provider webinar using the information below:

Webinar Date/Time: Thursday, August 4 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

NEW: COVID Vaccine for Children Ages 6 Months and Up

All Louisiana children ages 6 months and up are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) accepting the recommendation of its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorization of the three-dose Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the two-dose Moderna vaccine. More information about this vaccine can be found on the [Louisiana Department of Health website](#).

REMINDER: TIKES Mental Health Consultation

Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation at no-cost via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers in need of support during the COVID-19 crisis. Type I, II, and III child care centers, family and in-home child care providers, parents, respite caregivers, and others caring for young children can request a consultation by completing a [request form](#).

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

UPDATES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

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 their system.

Upcoming Webinars:

- Back-to-School Support for New Teachers ([Register](#))
Choose from the following dates: July 26, August 3, August 11, August 16, or August 24
- Back-to-School Support for Returning Teachers ([Register](#))
Choose from the following dates: July 27, August 4, August 9, August 17, August 25 or August 30
- Back-to-School Support for Administrators ([Register](#))
Choose from the following dates: July 20, July 28, August 2, August 10, August 18, August 23, or August 31
- What Does It Really Mean to Be Trauma Informed? ([Register](#))
Offered on August 18

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

NEW: LDOE GOLD® Back to School Update Webinar for Site Administrators

The Department will be hosting a GOLD® Back-to-School webinar for site leaders. Participants can access the GOLD® informational webinar using the information below.

Webinar Topic: GOLD® Back to School Update Webinar for Site Administrators

Webinar Date/Time: Wednesday, August 10 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96684403327>

Meeting ID: 966 8440 3327

Passcode: 757598

Please contact ECAssessment@la.gov with questions related to Teaching Strategies® GOLD.

NEW: Teachstone® – The CLASS Learning Community

[The CLASS Learning Community](#) is a group of educators dedicated to helping every child reach their full potential by measuring and 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:

- [Listen: Self-Regulation Before Co-Regulation - Supporting the Children in your Classroom](#)
Kate Cline and Dr. Angela Searcy talk about how to deal with your own self-regulation in challenging moments. ([Resource Document](#))

NEW: Back to School with Meaningful Interactions

On August 18, Teachstone will be hosting [Back to School with Meaningful Interactions](#), a FREE virtual event for early childhood educators and coaches to get energized for back to school.

- [Session agenda](#)
- [Speaker List](#)

NEW: Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast Episode Release

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year (TOY/LOY) Finalists

All Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists and Semifinalists will be honored at the 16th Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala that will be held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans on the evening of July 30, 2022. The overall winners will also be named at this time.

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 your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! All Early Childhood workers are eligible. Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

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.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Investigations Webinar

Play is the heart and heartbeat of early childhood programs, and it's our job to offer environments and opportunities for healthy play. In this webinar, early childhood expert and author Mike Huber will help ensure all children engage in play and find a sense of belonging. Objectives for this session include:

- Shifting your focus for children from the idea of independence to autonomy
- Identifying physical, informational, attitudinal, and cultural barriers in the play environment
- Planning to create environments where all children feel challenged and supported
- Implementing strategies to remove barriers and facilitate play for all children

The [Removing Barriers in Play to Include ALL Children](#) webinar will be held August 11 at 1 p.m.

REMINDER: Early Childhood State Conference for Child Care Providers and Teachers

The inaugural LDOE Early Childhood Conference - *Powering Up Early Childhood!* will be held in New Orleans on July 22-24, 2022. This conference will feature exciting speakers, informational sessions, and a wealth of training opportunities targeted for child care providers, directors, teachers, and families.

More information can be found on the [Powering Up](#) webpage.

UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

NEW: 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 their age will not be extended.

Therefore, beginning with July, cases will be 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 their redetermination to maintain child care with CCAP, if eligible. Providers are asked to help in notifying CCAP families of their redetermination.

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

REMINDER: Child Care Criminal Background Check Fees and CCAP Copayments

In response to COVID-19, the Department has been covering Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) fees and family copayments. Beginning August 1, 2022, these fees will be reinstated as they were

prior to the pandemic.

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.

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

REMINDER: Child Care Emergency Preparedness

We encourage you to revisit and practice your lockdown procedures and recommend that you ask your local [Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness](#) to review your emergency preparedness plan. In addition, [Child Care Aware](#) has good resources and training for a variety of crisis and disaster situations. The [Institute for Childhood Preparedness](#) has resources on active shooter preparedness as well.

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. If you are a Family Child Care provider and would like to learn more about the benefits and requirements of Academic Approval, please contact FamilyChildCare@la.gov.

REMINDER: Annual Level 1 Notice - Be Prepared: Know What To Do If a Hurricane or Other Disaster Occurs in Your Parish

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) would like to remind you to be prepared if a hurricane or other disaster occurs in your area or parish. This memo contains easy-to-use information to assist you with becoming prepared. The time to prepare is now. We highly encourage you to contact your Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness now with any question or a review of your plan and get to know your local contact. Don't 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 your safety and for the safety of the children and families you serve. Please know that should a disaster occur and your center or location is in a parish or area that the LDOE determines as impacted by the disaster, your license or certification may be suspended until you obtain post-disaster approvals and submit the required Reopening Request 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 your area.
- Ensure that LDOE has your current cell phone number and email address.
- Review and update evacuation and safety plans.
- Practice evacuation and reunification plans.
- Let families know how you will communicate if you are unable to reopen following a disaster.

- Review the Frequently Asked Questions below and be ready if a disaster declaration is made for your parish:
 - o [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\) – Before, During, and After a Disaster](#)
 - o [Reinstatement of a Child Care Center License Following a Disaster](#)
- Pay close attention to the messages from your local officials.
- Obtain your parish's Emergency Preparedness Contact phone number.
- Review the useful links below:
 - o <http://www.getagameplan.org/>
 - o <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov/>
- Be Safe.

REMINDER: Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks

It is imperative that vehicles are adequately inspected for children before staff exit the vehicle, especially as temperatures rise outside. Children can die in a hot vehicle in a matter of minutes. [Heat stroke](#) can happen when the outside temperature is as low as 57 degrees Fahrenheit.

A staff person shall

- physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all enclosed spaces and recesses of the vehicle interior.
- record the time of the visual passenger check and sign the log indicating that no child was left in the vehicle.

Please ensure staff have received proper training and repeated training if needed. If you have any questions, please contact a licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905 or email ldelicensing@la.gov.

REMINDER: Decrease in Two-Year-Old Child to Staff Ratio for All Center Types

Effective July 1, 2022, the child to staff ratio for two-year-olds decreased from 11:1 to 10:1. Ensure you have sufficient staff to meet this requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact a licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905 or email ldelicensing@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 Data Certification and Performance Profiles.

Webinar Date/Time: July 29 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.

NEW: Child Care Management Software Initiative (CCMSi)

Important news! CCMS vendors Brightwheel and Early Learning Ventures-Alliance CORE will be co-presenting on the topic of CCMS at the Early Childhood Conference this month. Please book and attend the CCMSi sessions to learn more about CCMS automation and how integration between these CCMS products helps to support your business operations.

For more information about the CCMSi, contact Shallan.Jones@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

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 the 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:

- July 19: General updates
- July 26: Teachstone® and CLASS 2nd Edition
- August 2: General updates

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

OTHER

NEW: Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

[The Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council](#) met on July 13. [Presentation slides](#) and additional meeting materials can be found on [BESE Board Docs website](#). For additional information regarding the ECCE Advisory Council, please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

IN THE NEWS

[Louisiana Legislature Passes Early Education and Child Care Bills](#) (BRPROUD)

[Early Childhood Education Expert Commits \\$5 Million To LSU Early Childhood Education Institute](#) (LSU Media Center)

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 community network lead agencies, please contact leadagency-support@la.gov.
- For all questions regarding child care criminal background check processing, please contact LDEccbc-processing@la.gov.
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

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