



# EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

November 10, 2022

November is National Family Literacy Month. I hope you will join us throughout the month as we spotlight efforts to collaborate with families to help children read. You can find [free family literacy engagement resources](#) on our website to support literacy development at home. The resources include grab and go activities as well as tips for building literacy skills.

Strong literacy skills are essential for development. Just a few minutes spent each day on simple literacy activities can add up to a lifelong love of reading and learning!

## Upcoming Events

- November 16: Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council Meeting
- November 16: [Teaching Strategies® GOLD Update Webinar](#)
- November 30: [Young Children with Disabilities Community of Practice](#)
- December 1: [Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar](#)

## More Important Dates

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

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## Provider Updates

### NEW: Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar

On November 3, 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 December 1, 2022. Providers can access the upcoming November provider webinar using the information below:

**Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, December 1 at 1 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://l doe.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 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.

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### **UPDATES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

#### **NEW: Federal Student Debt Relief Application Now Available**

The [application](#) for Federal Student Debt Relief is now available online. This Federal Student Debt Relief program provides eligible borrowers with full or partial discharge of loans up to \$20,000 to Federal Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 to non-Pell Grant recipients.

Qualification:

- individuals who made less than \$125,000 in 2021 or 2020
- families who made less than \$250,000 in 2021 or 2020

The deadline to apply is December 31, 2023. Loan servicers will notify recipients when relief has been processed.

#### **NEW: Teaching Strategies® GOLD Upcoming Webinar**

The Department will host a webinar for network administrators on Wednesday, November 16:

**Webinar Topic:** GOLD ® Update Webinar

**Webinar Date/Time:** Wednesday, November 16 at 1 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://doe.zoom.us>

**Webinar ID:** 957 9272 6160

**Passcode:** 913429

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

Please read the Department's updated [TS GOLD ® Guidance](#) and [TS GOLD ® FAQ](#) documents for helpful information.

Questions or concerns can be directed to [ECAssessment@la.gov](mailto:ECAssessment@la.gov).

#### **REMINDER: Renew Your Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) to Continue Eligibility for School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTCs)**

Teachers and/or directors with Early Childhood Ancillary Certificates (ECACs) that will expire in November or December 2022 should submit renewals (CCR&Rs must submit renewal applications for processing) or initial [application](#) through [Teach LA Live!](#) immediately. Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time for each submission.

Once an application is submitted, please check email regularly for replies from the Department. Teachers or directors who submit can also verify application submission and check for any new messages using the "History" option on

## [Teach LA Live!](#)

Once an application is processed, additional feedback is provided or the certificate is issued. Case feedback is usually provided via email with instructions on how to correct the application. Certificate information can be reviewed on [TeachLouisiana.net](http://TeachLouisiana.net). On the right side, choose “Verify a Certificate” or “Teaching Authorization.”

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

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## **UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT**

### **REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Waitlist Effective October 1, 2022**

In order to maximize the benefits of CCAP for Louisiana families, providers, and communities, the Department has begun a CCAP waitlist for families that applied on or after October 1, 2022. With changes in rates & eligibility, the number of families applying and eligible for CCAP exceeds funds now available to serve families.

The waitlist will ensure that Louisiana families have access to CCAP on a first-come, first-served basis and that families can receive benefits as soon as funding is available. Families will be placed on the waitlist if they submit a complete CCAP application with all documentation and are determined eligible.

Children who are experiencing homelessness, children of families participating in TANF/STEP or Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, children in foster care, and eligible children with disabilities will not be placed on the waitlist.

For more information, please see the [CCAP Waitlist Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

### **REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Underutilized Authorizations for Families**

The CCAP Eligibility Team has resumed conducting monthly reviews of underutilized authorizations of children who have not attended child care within the previous month. The Tracking of Time Services (TOTS), Point of Service (POS), and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) attendance are examined as part of the underutilization review. Authorizations must be utilized by families at least once within a 30 day period to maintain CCAP certification.

The Provider Help Desk staff has been informing providers of the importance of families completing check in/out transactions when children are in attendance to maintain CCAP certification. If CCAP children are not attending, the Department will issue notices to families at the mailing address on file advising of non-usage of authorizations. Families that are not using CCAP will lose their CCAP authorizations, will need to reapply for CCAP, and will be placed on the waitlist if deemed eligible.

For assistance, please contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 250-7635 or (225) 252-9543, or enter a [ticket](#) in the Provider Ticket System..

### **REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) 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 is extending 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 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 [deccap@la.gov](mailto:deccap@la.gov) or by phone at 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543.

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

### **NEW: Orientation Training**

Prior to assuming sole responsibility for children, each staff member shall receive orientation.

Within seven calendar days of date of hire, each staff member shall:

- complete center-specific orientation regarding the policies and practices of the center
- complete the LDOE Key Training Module 1
- complete the DCFS online Mandated Reporter Training

Within 30 calendar days of date of hire, each staff member shall:

- complete LDOE Key Orientation Training Modules 2 and 3

Prior to assuming transportation duties, all staff members responsible for transporting children shall receive additional orientation training.

For questions, please contact the center's assigned licensing consultant.

### **NEW: Renewals in EdLink**

Providers must use the EdLink system to submit their renewal applications. Renewal applications must be submitted prior to the first day of the month in which the current license expires.

Providers can also visit the website for more training on

EdLink:<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/edlink-training>

For assistance with gaining access to EdLink or if your site already has access and has questions, the EdLink Support Team will be holding office hours every Tuesday and Thursday 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: Licensing Consultant Contact List**

Each center has an assigned consultant. A licensing consultant can be found below, by using the first letter of the center's name, excluding A, An, and The.:

- [Alicia.Bourgeois2@la.gov](mailto:Alicia.Bourgeois2@la.gov) - L, T
- [Alicia.Brown@la.gov](mailto:Alicia.Brown@la.gov) - M, S
- [Autumn.Sullivan@la.gov](mailto:Autumn.Sullivan@la.gov) - K, D, J
- [Curieni.Jackson2@la.gov](mailto:Curieni.Jackson2@la.gov) - A, N, O, U, V, W
- [DaryNeshia.Weaver2@la.gov](mailto:DaryNeshia.Weaver2@la.gov) - C, I, Y, Z
- [Phyllis.Politz@la.gov](mailto:Phyllis.Politz@la.gov) - P, G, R
- [Stacie.Griffin@la.gov](mailto:Stacie.Griffin@la.gov) - B, E, F, H, Q, X

For questions regarding Bulletin 137, please contact the center's assigned licensing consultant. For general questions, you may email [LDELicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDELicensing@la.gov).

#### **REMINDER: School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTCs)**

Parent SRTC tax forms will be mailed to Type III sites by December 2022. Director and staff member tax forms will be mailed by January 2023.

As a reminder, the requirements for the SRTC for Type III sites and Family Child Care educators is that educators must:

- enroll with Louisiana Pathways by submitting an [enrollment form](#) and [employment verification form](#)
- work in the site for at least six months of the calendar year, and
- work at least 30 hours per week at the site.

For leveling or re-leveling with the Louisiana Pathways Career ladders, new credentials and certifications should be submitted to Louisiana Pathways by no later than December 31, 2022. Providers are strongly encouraged, however, to submit documentation immediately.

For questions, please contact [demita.walker@la.gov](mailto:demita.walker@la.gov).

#### **REMINDER: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) 5-Year Renewal**

Five-year eligibility renewals for the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCBC) program will begin March 2023. Providers and applicants who were fingerprinted in 2018 upon the program's launch will be contacted via email to initiate the fingerprinting renewal process.

For questions, please contact a CCCBC Analyst at (225) 342-2716 or email [ldecccbcprocessing@la.gov](mailto:ldecccbcprocessing@la.gov).

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

Family Child Care sites can 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](mailto:FamilyChildCare@la.gov).

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## **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 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:

- November 15: Child Count Audit and Performance Profile Update
- November 22: Canceled
- November 29: General updates

Note that topics are subject to change. Please email [Amanda.Colon@la.gov](mailto:Amanda.Colon@la.gov) with questions.

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## OTHER

### **NEW: Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council Upcoming Meeting, November 16, 2022**

The next meeting for the ECCE Advisory Council will take place on November 16 at 1 p.m. in the Claiborne Building (Thomas Jefferson Room), located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. An overview of the ECCE Advisory Council will be available in the Early Childhood [Policy and Guidance Library](#). For additional information, please email [dana.russell2@la.gov](mailto:dana.russell2@la.gov).

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

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## IN THE NEWS

[Louisiana Shows Country's Largest Gains On Nation's Report Card](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[Pointe Coupee Early Childhood Education Sees Improvements in Pre-K Level Classrooms](#) (WAFB)

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## CONTACT US



- For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact [LDOECOVID19@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19@la.gov).
- For questions regarding licensing or child health and safety, please contact [LDElicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDElicensing@la.gov).
- For questions regarding community network lead agencies, please contact [leadagencyupport@la.gov](mailto:leadagencyupport@la.gov).
- For all questions regarding child care criminal background check processing, please contact [LDFcccbcprocessing@la.gov](mailto:LDFcccbcprocessing@la.gov).
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

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