



EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

April 14, 2022

So many great things are happening within Early Childhood. Last month, the Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Commission released [Forging a Bright Economic Future: LA B to 3](#) that calls for an increased and ongoing state investment of \$115 million per year over the next decade to expand access to affordable, high-quality early care and education for children below age 3. The investment recommended by the Commission would help achieve the balance between the cost of quality early care and education and a family's capacity to pay that true cost of care. This would also increase access for more than 9,200 additional Louisiana children each year.

In addition to the Commission's bold plan to increase access, the Department is striving to increase the quality of early childhood classrooms as we prepare our young learners for kindergarten and beyond. The LDOE is inviting stakeholders to provide [public comment](#) and feedback on the state's [draft revisions of Louisiana's Early Learning and Development Standards \(ELDS\)](#). These drafted revisions are the culmination of a year-long effort led by a committee of early childhood experts and stakeholders from around the state. The standards serve as a framework for supporting the implementation of high-quality, developmentally-appropriate early childhood programs. These standards are intended to help early childhood educators and families across Louisiana deepen their understanding of how children grow and develop in order to best prepare them for kindergarten and beyond.

Louisiana must continue to be a leader in early childhood education and provide young children with high-quality learning opportunities.

Upcoming Deadlines

- April 15: [Teacher Leader Summit Regular Registration](#) closes
- May 6: ARPA Grant Round 2 Application for Head Start/Early Head Start closes

Upcoming Events

- April 25: ARPA Grant Round 2 Application Release - Head Start/Early Head Start [ARPA Grant Round 2 Office Hours, Head Start/Early Head Start](#)
- April 28: [Monthly Office Hours for New Directors](#)
- April 29: [Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar](#)
- May 5: [ARPA Grant Round 2 Office Hours, Head Start/Early Head Start](#)
- May 5: [ECCE Advisory Council Meeting](#)
- May 18:

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 April 7, the Department hosted a webinar for early childhood providers. [Presentation slides](#) are available in the [Quality Providers Library](#) on the Louisiana Believes website. Providers can access the upcoming May provider webinar using the information below:

Webinar Date and Time: May 5 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

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: Early Learning and Development Standards Draft Revisions for Public Comment

The Louisiana Department of Education is inviting stakeholders to provide public comment and feedback on the state's [draft revisions of Louisiana's Early Learning and Development Standards \(ELDS\)](#).

During their April 6, 2022, meeting, the ELDS Review Committee unanimously endorsed the drafted standards revisions, which will establish a common vision for what the state of Louisiana wants children to learn before they enter kindergarten. The Department posted an online [public comment portal](#) to give stakeholders the opportunity to share their feedback on the revised standards and indicators. The portal can be accessed in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) until May 9, 2022. The Department will consider the public's feedback to make further revisions and submit the updated Early Learning and Development Standards to BESE for approval in June.

Please contact leslie.doyle@la.gov with questions.

NEW: Physical Activity and Outdoor Play and Learning Trainings

[Well-Ahead Louisiana](#) has partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health's Bureau of Family Health to provide the following trainings for child care centers and family child care providers:

- [Physical Activity Learning Session](#) – Nemours Children's Health designed [PALS](#) to teach staff physical activity best practices for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- [Outdoor Play & Learning Training](#) – [Pennington Biomedical Research Center](#) developed this training to teach research-based best practices related to outdoor play, the outdoor play environment, child care policies, and professional development related to outdoor play & learning.

Interested providers can contact a [Louisiana Child Care Health Consultant](#) to schedule a training.

NEW: Teaching Strategies® GOLD Upcoming Webinars

Register for webinars supporting Teaching Strategies® GOLD implementation. Select the link to explore available dates and times:

- [Teaching Strategies Community Call](#), April 21 at 2:30 p.m.
Join experts from Teaching Strategies to ask questions and stay informed. During this webinar, participants will learn about the latest enhancements to Teaching Strategies® products during a short demonstration of new features and content followed by Q&A.
- [GOLD Spring Checkpoint Support](#), May 5 at 2:30 p.m.
Join for a free, live support webinar for GOLD teachers that will walk through tracking documentation collection, completing checkpoint ratings, generating reports to support instruction, and generating reports to share with families.
- [GOLD Spring Reports Support](#), May 19 at 2:30 p.m.
Join for a free, live support webinar for GOLD administrators that will walk through generating outcome reports after the spring checkpoint and offer tips for ongoing program management.

NEW: Resources from Teachstone®

[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:

- [Teachstone Celebrates 2022 Week of the Young Child](#): Teachstone highlights the impact early childhood educators have on young children and recognizes that each day offers ample opportunities for meaningful interactions.
- [Tips for Supporting Brain Building in Infants and Toddlers](#): Deepen your understanding of child development and get brain-building tips with this blog post and on-demand webinar.

NEW: Design for Each and Every Learner: Universal Design for Learning Modules

The ED-funded TIES Center, in collaboration with Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) and the Lake Washington School District in Washington, released a set of [learning modules](#) to help educators learn more about Universal Design for Learning. The modules support educators in designing learning experiences that are inclusive for each and every learner. Specific examples illustrate how instruction can be designed to be inclusive of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

NEW: Science for Early Learners

Curiosity about the world around them provides opportunities for young children to experience science while expanding learning in all areas of development. Head Start's Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center is holding a related webinar, [Why Science](#), on April 26, at 2 p.m.

UPDATE: Teacher Leader Summit

Register your teachers for the [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) which will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both "Making a Comeback" and our 10th year for this event. [Regular registration](#) will close on April 15 or at sellout. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

UPDATE: New Orleans lifted the mask and vaccination mandate for entering facilities. Under the updated guidelines, Teacher Leader Summit will not require these.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

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

We are excited to announce that registration is open for the inaugural Early Childhood Conference - Powering Up Early Childhood! Join us in New Orleans July 22-24, 2022, for exciting speakers, informational sessions, and a wealth of training opportunities. The audience for this conference will be child care providers, directors, teachers, and families. More information can be found on the [Powering Up](#) webpage.

UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

NEW: LA 4 and NSECD Reimbursements

As a reminder, LA 4 and NSECD reimbursements will be made based on enrollment (up to, but not over the current seat allocation) January 2022 – May 2022.

LA 4 reimbursements (via funds labeled as TANF) for January 2022 were issued on March 14. LA 4 reimbursements (via funds labeled as SGF) for December 2021, January 2022, and February 2022 were issued on March 18.

NSECD reimbursements for January 2022 were issued on February 21, and reimbursements for February 2022 were issued on March 25.

Please contact kishia.grayson@la.gov with questions.

NEW: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization Grant Round 2 - Head Start/Early Head Start

The ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 for CCAP-certified Head Start and Early Head Start centers, serving CCAP children in full-day, full-year programs, will be released April 25, 2022 and will close May 6, 2022. Payments will be released May 30, 2022 through June 10, 2022.

ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 - **Head Start/Early Head Start** Dates:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| April 25 | ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 for Head Start and Early Head Start release |
| April 28, 9:30 a.m. | Office Hours |
| May 5, 9:30 a.m. | Office Hours |
| May 6 | ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Head Start/Early Head Start Application closes (no exceptions) |
| May 30 - June 10, 2022 | ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds released |

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: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization Grant - Round 2 for Child Care Centers (NOT including Head Starts and Early Head Starts)

The ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 has closed. Payments will be released on a rolling basis beginning May 2022. Please note that for all grants, providers must keep receipts and documentation of expenditures for the items paid from these funds. Also, providers must submit audit documentation upon request even if the provider has closed.

ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Child Care Center Funding Disbursement Dates:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Week of May 9-13, 2022 | ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds released in Regions 3 (Covington), 6 (Lake Charles), and 7 (Alexandria) |
| Week of May 16-20, 2022 | ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds released in Regions 2 (Baton Rouge), 5 (Lafayette), and 9 (Monroe) |
| Week of May 23-27, 2022 | ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds released in Regions 1 (Orleans), 4 (Thibodaux), and 8 (Shreveport) |

REMINDER: Information on Timeframe and Uses of ARPA Stabilization Grants

The Department issued this [letter](#) in response to questions about the timeframe of use of the ARPA Stabilization Grants. Included in the letter is the list of allowable uses with additional details. Please be reminded that ARPA Stabilization Grant funds may not be used for construction or major renovations, including land purchases.

REMINDER: Federal and State Taxes on LaCAP Grants, ARPA Stabilization Grants, Etc.

Grants provided through the stimulus funds (CARES, CRRSA, and ARPA) are subject to the same tax rules as regular CCDF funding. State tax rules apply; regarding federal rules, please contact the Internal Revenue Service for guidance. In some cases, funds used to cover operating expenses may be exempt from taxation.

REMINDER: CCAP Underutilized Authorizations for Families and Paying on Enrollment

CCAP conducts a monthly review 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 records are examined as part of the underutilization review. If a CCAP child has not attended at least one day in the month, the family is pulled for underutilization review.

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 contact families to assess the need for continued child care services. If families are not reached during this period, their CCAP authorizations will be discontinued at the end of the month, and they will need to reapply for CCAP.

As a reminder, CCAP payments are based on enrollment, not daily attendance. **Again, the Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) must be used for CCAP children every day they are in attendance.**

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.

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

NEW: Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Planning

All providers must conduct tornado drills at least once per month. These drills shall be conducted in the months of March, April, May, and June at various times of the day; shall include all children; and must be documented. A [sample form](#), titled "Monthly Tornado Drills," can be found in the Licensed Centers Library.

For more information, contact a licensing consultant at (225)342-9905 or Idelicensing@la.gov.

REMINDER: Email Contacts for Providers

All providers should ensure that the center's email address shared with the Department is an e-mail address specific to the center rather than specific to the center director or other staff member, in the event the director is no longer associated with the center. To request an update to your center's email address, please email your licensing consultant or Idelicensing@la.gov.

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.

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 Idelicensing@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 will decrease 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 Idelicensing@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR DIRECTORS

New: Monthly Office Hours for New Directors

Every month, the LDOE team hosts a webinar that focuses on a topic 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 School Readiness Tax Credits.

Webinar Date/Time: April 29 at 12 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://lode.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: Child Care Management Software Initiative (CCMSi)

Type III providers and CCAP-certified family child care providers can purchase a new subscription to an approved Child Care Management Software (CCMS) identified in the LDOE [CCMS Guidebook](#) and receive a one-time reimbursement of up to 80% (for a maximum reimbursement of \$1,000). [Apply online today!](#)

For more information about the CCMSi, contact shallan.jones@la.gov.

REMINDER: Tax Consultation

The Department has contracted with tax professionals to provide support services to licensed early learning centers and CCAP-certified family child care providers. These early childhood-trained tax professionals will provide up to two hours of tax consultation, at no-cost, to early learning providers of all license types (I, II, III and FCCs).

Interested providers can complete this [interest form](#) to schedule their consultation. For more information contact Shallan.Jones@la.gov.

REMINDER: Early Learning Provider Business Consultation

The Department is offering business consultation services through First Children's Finance for all licensed child care types and CCAP-certified family child care providers. These one-on-one consultation hours offer providers a unique and valuable opportunity to ask even more in-depth questions about their individual business.

To participate in consultation, contact Kari Stattleman with First Children's Finance at KariS@firstchildrensfinance.org.

UPDATES FOR COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

NEW: Shadow Scoring Requirement for Spring 2022

Currently, Bulletin 140 places three requirements on community network lead agencies for shadow scoring:

- 10% of all observations in each semester must be shadow scored

- Each local observer must be shadow scored
- Each network should perform a shadow score at least once in every age band observed during the year

Community Network lead agencies should review plans and identify action steps to meet these requirements during the 2021-2022 school year.

Community Network lead agencies should contact the Department if they anticipate requesting a waiver for specific observers who, through insurmountable obstacles, will not meet these requirements.

Please contact robert.jones4@la.gov for more information.

NEW: April BESE Seat Allocations

Notice of BESE approval of the 2022 – 2023 academic year seat allocations for The Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4), Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD), and allocated Birth through 3-year-old Seats (B-3 Seats) will be sent on Monday, April 18. The final amounts are subject to legislative appropriation.

Please contact kishia.grayson@la.gov for questions related to LA 4 and NSECD or devon.camarota@la.gov for questions related to B-3 Seats.

REMINDER: 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.

Missed an Office Hours Webinar? Find presentations from Community Network Lead Agency Office Hours located in the [Community Network Lead Agency Library](#).

The upcoming schedule for Weekly Webinars for Community Network lead agencies can be found below:

- April 19: Canceled due to Spring Break
- April 26: Canceled due to Spring Collaboratives
- May 3: *Believe!* Categories 1 and 2 and general updates
- May 10: *Believe!* Category 3 and general updates
- May 17: *Believe!* Category 4 and general updates

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 March 23. [Presentation slides](#) and the [agenda](#) of this meeting can be found online. The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will take place on May 18 at 1 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge and [live-streamed](#) online.

For additional information regarding the ECCE Advisory Council, please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

IN THE NEWS

[Portal Opens For Public Comment On Louisiana Early Learning And Development Standards](#)

[Louisiana Department Of Education Distributes \\$17 Million To Child Care Providers](#)

[Letters: Legislature should invest in early childhood education.](#) (The Advocate)

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 LDEcccbcprocessing@la.gov.
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

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