



# EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

October 13, 2022

## Upcoming Events

- October 18: [GOLD® Webinar: Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#)
- October 19: Early Childhood Family Survey Opens
- October 25: [GOLD® Webinar: Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#)
- October 26: [GOLD® Webinar: Collecting Observational Data Using Frog Street \(Infants - PreK, 2013\) for Site Administrators](#)
- October 27: [GOLD® Webinar: Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#)
- October 28: [Monthly Office Hours for New Directors](#)
- November 2: Early Childhood Family Survey Closes
- November 3: [Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar](#)

## More Important Dates

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

## In This Issue

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## UPDATES FOR COVID-19

### NEW: Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar

On October 6, 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 November 3, 2022. Providers can access the upcoming November provider webinar using the information below:

**Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, November 3 at 1 p.m.

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

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## UPDATES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

### **NEW: Frog Street and GOLD®: Collecting Observational Data Using Frog Street Curriculum (Infant-PreK, 2013)**

Frog Street Press will be partnering with the LDOE to host a webinar for site leaders utilizing Frog Street Infant-PreK 2013 curriculum. Participants can access the informational webinar using the information below:

**Webinar Topic:** Collecting Observational Data While Using Frog Street Curriculum (Infant-PreK, 2013)

**Webinar Audience:** Site Administrators

**Webinar Date/Time:** October 26 at 1 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89794543114?from=addon>

**Meeting ID:** 897 9454 3114

Please contact [ECAssessment@la.gov](mailto: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](#): October 18 at 3 p.m.
- [Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#): October 25 at 3 p.m.
- [Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#): October 27 at 3 p.m.

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).

### **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:

- [Back to School with CLASS® Resource Kit](#) :
  - 10 Things to Know Before Your CLASS® Observation
  - Helping Students Learn the Rules
  - How to Set Up Infant & Toddler Learning Spaces
  - 5 Scaffolding Strategies
  - Lunchtime Conversations
  - Classroom Transitions
  - Morning Greeting Strategies to Engage Children in Conversation

- Increasing Self- and Parallel-Talk
- Behavior Guidance Strategies
- Teaching with CLASS® Podcast: [Setting up your classroom for success](#)

#### **REMINDER: 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](#).

#### **REMINDER: Powering Up Early Childhood Conference 2022 Continuing Education Certificates**

Clock hour certificates have been distributed via [ccapevents@la.gov](mailto: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](mailto:ccapevents@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 expire in October or November 2022 should submit renewal or initial [application](#) through [Teach LA Live!](#) as soon as possible.

Once an application is submitted, please check email regularly for replies from the Department. Those 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](#). 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**

### **NEW: 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 \(FAQs\)](#).

#### **NEW: 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 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](mailto:ldccap@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: Renewals in EdLink**

Providers with access to EdLink should use the system to submit their renewal applications. If providers are receiving assistance from the EdLink team to complete the renewal application and it is determined the issue cannot be resolved at that time, an email will be sent on how to complete the renewal application process.

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 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: Licensing Consultant Contact**

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

- [Alicia.Bourgeois@la.gov](mailto:Alicia.Bourgeois@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
- [DaryNeisha.Weaver2@la.gov](mailto:DaryNeisha.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.

#### **NEW: Director and Family Child Care Levels and Parent Forms for School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTCs)**

The Department is sending email notifications of star rating and levels to eligible directors by the week of October 17, 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 educator's 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 that documentation in October or November.

Parent School Readiness Tax Credit forms will be mailed to Type III centers by December 2022.

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 [idecccbcprocessing@la.gov](mailto:idecccbcprocessing@la.gov).

#### **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 timeframes 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

- Change Report for Adding Transportation — up to 30 days
- Change Report for Adding a Director/Designee — up to 30 days

For questions, please contact a licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905 or email [Idelicensing@la.gov](mailto:Idelicensing@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).

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

Type III centers and CCAP-certified family child care providers can benefit from free and 100% confidential help with taxes; Quickbooks; understanding tax and financial documents, statements or applications; or more from a certified early childhood-trained Tax Accountant.

Contact Andrea City at [andrea@jwroyston.com](mailto:andrea@jwroyston.com) with JWRA, Inc. if you are interested in free tax support.

#### **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, policy, marketing, staffing, and more? 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](mailto:KariS@FirstChildrensFinance.org) with questions or to schedule a meeting.

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## **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 the Child Care Management Software (CCMS) Initiative:

**Webinar Date/Time:** October 28 at 12 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://l doe.zoom.us/j/99075363953>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1-346-248-7799

**Passcode:** 126700

**Meeting ID:** 99075363953

Please contact [Tella.Henderson@la.gov](mailto:Tella.Henderson@la.gov) with any questions.

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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:

- October 11: Release of Jotform link for submission of Coordinated Enrollment Plan
- October 18: *Believe!* Grant information
- October 25: Super App information
- November 1: General reminders

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) Commission Upcoming Meeting, November 1, 2022**

The next meeting for the ECCE Commission will take place on November 1 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 Commission 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 Department of Education Establishes Waitlist for Child Care Assistance Program Starting October 1](#)  
(Louisiana Believes)

[Closing the Health Disparities Gap for Children with Developmental Language Disorders](#) (LSU Media Center)

[Bossier Early Childhood Ready Start Surveys](#) (KTBS)

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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 [leadagencysupport@la.gov](mailto:leadagencysupport@la.gov).
- For all questions regarding child care criminal background check processing, please contact [LDEcccbcprocessing@la.gov](mailto:LDEcccbcprocessing@la.gov).
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

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