

Early Childhood Updates

10.15.2020



Agenda

- **Resources**
- **Teaching and Learning Updates**
- **Funding and Enrollment**
- **Updates for Providers**
- **Next Steps**

COVID-19 Resources for Early Childhood

The Department has prepared a host of resources and materials to support lead agencies, schools, and child care providers during this uncertain time.

COVID-19 Resources:

- LDOE COVID-19 [landing page](#) and [library](#)
- LDOE Strong Start 2020 [landing page](#) and [library](#)
- COVID-19 [FAQ](#) for early childhood
- [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#)
- Questions regarding COVID-19, contact LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov



Teaching and Learning Updates

Teaching and Learning Updates

Virtual Pre-K Toolkit

The Department [released a toolkit](#) to provide guidance for how to design and implement a [virtual pre-K program](#) in the 2020-2021 school year.

The [toolkit](#) provides both requirements and recommendations for quality implementation, including:

- Requirements for virtual settings;
- Synchronous and asynchronous definitions;
- Sample schedules for teachers and families;
- Guidance for completing assessments virtually;
- Ideas for providing materials at home; and
- Tips for publicizing a virtual option.

Questions or concerns about implementing virtual pre-K can be directed to meredith.eckard@la.gov.

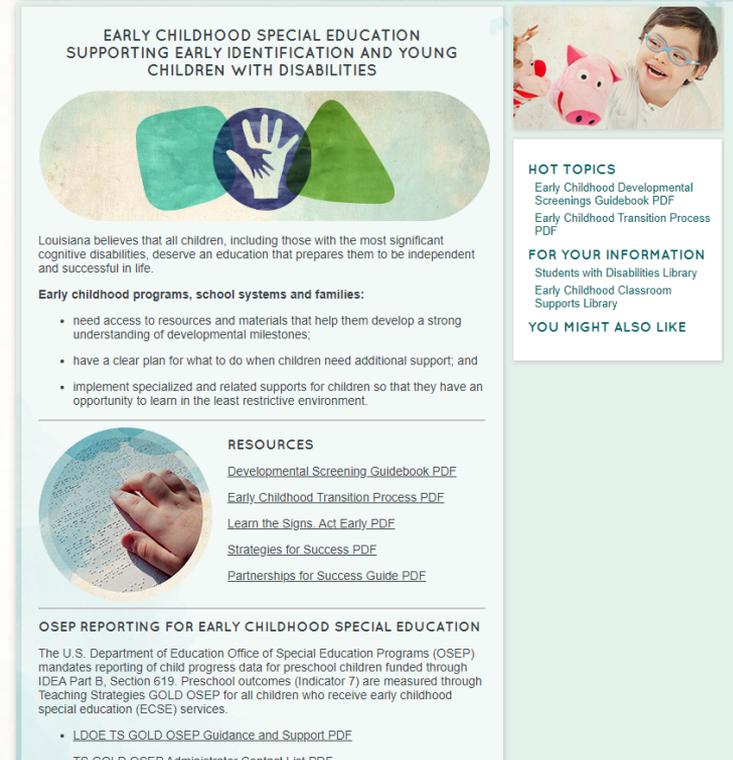
Teaching and Learning Updates

Resources for Young Children with Disabilities

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](#)



**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION
SUPPORTING EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND YOUNG
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

Louisiana believes that all children, including those with the most significant cognitive disabilities, deserve an education that prepares them to be independent and successful in life.

Early childhood programs, school systems and families:

- need access to resources and materials that help them develop a strong understanding of developmental milestones;
- have a clear plan for what to do when children need additional support; and
- implement specialized and related supports for children so that they have an opportunity to learn in the least restrictive environment.

RESOURCES

- [Developmental Screening Guidebook PDF](#)
- [Early Childhood Transition Process PDF](#)
- [Learn the Signs. Act Early PDF](#)
- [Strategies for Success PDF](#)
- [Partnerships for Success Guide PDF](#)

OSEP REPORTING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) mandates reporting of child progress data for preschool children funded through IDEA Part B, Section 619. Preschool outcomes (Indicator 7) are measured through Teaching Strategies GOLD OSEP for all children who receive early childhood special education (ECSE) services.

- [LDOE TS GOLD OSEP Guidance and Support PDF](#)
- [TS GOLD OSEP Administrator Contact List PDF](#)

HOT TOPICS

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- [Students with Disabilities Library](#)
- [Early Childhood Classroom Supports Library](#)

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

Teaching and Learning Updates

Resources for Supporting Developmental Milestones

[Learn the Signs. Act Early. \(LTSAE\)](#) is a federally mandated program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that encourages parents of children ages birth to 5 years of age and providers who care for them to:

- learn the signs of healthy development;
- monitor every child's early development; and
- act early on possible developmental concerns (i.e., talk with doctors and ask for developmental screening).

The Louisiana Department of Education has partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health to offer early childhood networks the opportunity to co-brand and customize some of the LTSAE materials.

Providers interested in obtaining free materials, please contact your lead agency contact.

Funding and Enrollment

Funding and Enrollment Market Rate Survey

Every three years the Department requests that child care providers across the state complete the Market Rate Survey (MRS). The MRS helps the Department 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 rates.

While directors may have previously completed this survey during spring 2020, **please complete it again and provide the most up-to-date information and rates**, with the understanding that your rates and/or enrollment may have changed due to COVID-19. The previous survey had to end early and cannot be considered valid.

The [new Market Rate Survey](#) closes on October 30.

For questions, please contact robyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com.

Funding and Enrollment

2020 Census

Louisiana's self-response rate for the [2020 Census](#) is only 60 percent, which is below the national average. Please encourage employees, families and friends to complete the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students and younger children, such as

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches
- Maternal and child health programs
- Planning, preparedness and recovery efforts for national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#) and hurricanes.

The Department has created a [2020 Census Toolbox](#) with general resources and activities for engaging children and families.



Funding and Enrollment

Pre-K Program Payment Update

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.

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

Beginning in January 2021, a shift will be made so that 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.

Funding and Enrollment

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Provider Payments

CCAP has extended child care payments to providers based on enrollment through December 31. After December 31, CCAP will begin child care payments to providers 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.

Attendance

While CCAP has extended payments based on enrollment until December 31, providers are still required to use either the Point of Service (POS) device or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to track attendance. Failure to do so may jeopardize your payments on enrollment.

Client Redeterminations

Presently, CCAP client redeterminations are extended as follows:

- July and April redeterminations are extended to October 2020.
- August and May redeterminations are extended to November 2020.

Funding and Enrollment

LaCAP Relief Grants

The Department is announcing the 4th and final round of the Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grants that will award \$11 million in federal funding to child care providers.

The [Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider \(LaCAP\) Relief Grant](#) is designed to help child care providers offset the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This fourth and final round of LaCAP grants will support Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) providers for costs incurred from the pandemic, including balances from the inability of some CCAP parents to pay out-of-pocket costs.

- **LaCAP Relief Grant Round 4:** Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who are operational and serving children by November 1 are eligible to receive this grant. If you are temporarily not operational due to Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Delta, but plan on reopening by December 31, 2020, please complete the application. We will work with you on a one-on-one basis. Deadline to [apply](#) is Thursday, October 22, 2020.

Funding and Enrollment

Encouraging Families to Attend Child Care

The Department understands that providers are having a lower than normal attendance of children.

In an effort to increase the number of children attending child care where education of our youngest learners can occur and to maintain continuity-of-care, the Department is allowing the LaCAP Grants (Rounds 1- 4) to be used towards offsetting the out-of-pocket costs owed by CCAP families created between March 16, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

We are encouraging families to work with current providers to make arrangements for balances that occur March 2020 through December 2020. However, should a family with a balance created between March 16 and December 31, 2020, wish to move to another provider, the LDOE will work with families on a one-on-one basis and may not require a zero balance letter.

General Updates

Updates for Providers

Licensing Renewals

Licensed providers must timely submit a renewal application in order to maintain a valid license.

Licenses will become a non-renewal if an application for renewal and all required documents are not submitted timely.

- Once deemed as a non-renewal, the center would need to apply for a new license.
- When it is time to renew LDELicensing@la.gov will send a renewal JotForm application.
- The license will not be affected by providers who have requested, but not received inspections from the Office of State Fire Marshal, New Orleans Fire Department and Department of Health, but Providers should submit the approvals as soon as they are received.

Updates for Providers

LDOE Business Trainings

The Department is offering a series of business-related trainings directly for centers this fall and spring. The trainings, when combined with the [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy \(LELA\)](#), can be applied toward the [Administrator's Credential](#). Topics include:

- Budgets Projections and Planning
- Financial Reports and Internal Controls
- Recruiting and Retaining Staff
- Marketing your program
- Saving money through State Contracts
- Human Resources and Benefits
- Best Practices in CACFP administration (**does not replace sponsor training)
- Best Practices with Regulations

Complete [interest form](#) by October 23 to register. Spaces is limited.

Updates for Providers

TIKES Mental Health Consultation

The Department partners with Tulane to offer TIKES Mental Health Consultation support for the mental health of young children and their families, including:

- Child behavior & social emotional issues
- Supporting children during the COVID-19 crisis
- Teacher, director and parent support
- Classroom issues
- General stress and coping

During the COVID-19 crisis, Louisiana caregivers can access supports via telephone or secure video platform. 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:

<https://medicine.tulane.edu/departments/clinicalsciences/psychiatry/research/tikes>

Updates for Providers

Hurricane Delta, Notice 3 - Disaster Declaration

The Department has issued a [Notice 3](#) due to the Governor's Disaster Declaration Request in the following parishes:

- Acadia
- Calcasieu
- Cameron
- Jefferson Davis
- Vermillion

The Notice 3 requires centers and family homes in the affected parishes to submit a reopening form by October 23, 2020.

More information can be found on the [Emergency Preparedness](#) page, or email LDElicensing@la.gov.

Next Steps

Next Steps

Contact List

- **Child Care Licensing**
 - call 225-342-9905
 - email ldelicensing@la.gov or email [licensing consultants](#) directly
- **Child Care Assistance Program**
 - call 225-229-4147
 - email ldeccap@la.gov or enter a ticket for scheduled help at the [Provider Help Desk](#)
- **Child Care Provider Certification**
 - email providercertification@la.gov
- **Child Care Criminal Background Checks**
 - call 225-342-2716 or 225-342-5311 o email LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov
- **General Early Childhood Support**
 - email earlychildhood@la.gov