



Early Childhood Provider Updates

July 7, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Updates
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Updates
- Licensing Updates
- Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Updates
- EdLink Updates
- Teaching and Learning Updates
- Teaching Strategies GOLD: Planning for Next Year
- Upcoming Events

Welcome!



COVID-19 Updates for Providers



COVID-19 Resources



- LDOE COVID-19 [landing page](#) and [library](#)
- LDOE *BELIEVE!* [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



COVID-19 Updates

[OPH Guidelines](#) - There are no new revisions to the guidelines at this time, but the Department is working with LDH on outbreak reporting criteria. We will keep you informed as soon as this has been finalized by OPH.

[COVID-19 Vaccines](#) - Children 6 months and older are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.



Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Updates

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

Inquiry Response Delays

Thank you for your patience in our delayed response to provider requests for assistance. We value all providers and are working diligently to address concerns as timely as possible. Response delays are due to staff shortages, an increase in CCAP applications, and an increase in provider queries.

Please allow additional time for our response. Continue to place concerns in the [Provider Ticket System](#). There will be no adverse action on the family's case as a result of our delay.

Please have families submit all requested documents. CCAP staff will contact families as soon as possible. Again, thanks for partnering with the Child Care Assistance Program.

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

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 ldccap@la.gov or by phone at 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543.

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

Family Copayments

Beginning August 1, 2022, family copayments will be reinstated.

In response to COVID-19, family copayments were waived. **Beginning August 1, 2022, copayments will be reinstated.**

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: The state's daily rate for a child, birth to 11 months, is \$68.00. The parent's copayment of the daily rate is \$2.00. The state will pay \$66.00 per day resulting in a weekly payment to the provider of \$330.00.

Licensing Updates



Licensing Updates

Reminder: Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks

May 1 was [National Heat Stroke Day](#). The negative consequences of extreme heat are so significant that Louisiana has a [law](#) prohibiting leaving children unattended in a vehicle. A first offense for leaving a child under the age of six unattended or unsupervised in a car will net a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment up to six months or both. Each subsequent offense will can result in felony imprisonment for no less than one year and a fine of no less than \$1,000.

As required in [Bulletin 137](#) §2017, 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.

Licensing Updates

Reminder: Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks

A visual passenger check of a vehicle is required to ensure that no child is left in the vehicle.

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 interior of the vehicle.
- record the time of the visual passenger check and sign the log, indicating that no child was left in the vehicle.

Licensing Updates

Reminder: Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks

During all field trips, a visual inspection is required for vehicles used to transport children if the vehicle is provided by the center, a contractual arrangement, or parent provided.

Each vehicle shall have a vehicle passenger check and a face-to-name count conducted at each of the following times:

1. prior to leaving center for destination;
2. upon arrival at and prior to departure from each destination; and
3. upon return to center.

Licensing Updates

Reminder: Child to Staff Ratio Update

Effective July 1, 2022, the child-to-staff ratio for two-year-olds decreased to 10:1.

Below is the current child to staff ratio for all license types.

| Age of Child | Ratio |
|--------------|-------|
| 2 years | 10:1 |

Licensing Updates

Emergency Preparedness

With the recent school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, the Department encourages you to revisit and practice your lockdown procedures. The Department also recommends 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.

There will be two sessions at the Early Childhood Conference provided by The Institute for Childhood Preparedness. One session will be on Situational Awareness and the other on De-escalation Techniques. The LDOE will also provide several opportunities this fall for in-person Active Shooter Preparedness trainings which will be held across the state. More information will be forthcoming.



Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBCs)

Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBCs)

Out-of-State Changes

Missouri, Colorado, and South Dakota are now requiring that background information be sent to the applicant instead of directly to the Department as the state agency:

- This may delay the time for applicants from those states to be made eligible.
- This will also force the applicant to make sure the paperwork is sent to the Louisiana Department of Education's CCCBC Unit once it is received by the applicant.

The Department is currently working on a resolution with these outside state agencies.

Until this issue is resolved, please note that the applicant will need to provide the Department's CCCBC Unit with the documentation.

Child Care Criminal Background Checks

Fees Reinstated

In response to COVID-19, the Department had been covering Child Care Criminal Background Check fees and family copayments. Beginning July 1, 2022, these fees were reinstated as they were prior to the pandemic.

If you have any questions, please email LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov.

EdLink Updates



EdLink Updates

The Department is excited to announce that EdLink Licensing will be live soon.

The Department is gradually adding providers as each center's renewal date approaches. This will begin with August and September renewals. Those with renewals in August and September will be contacted by the Division of Licensing.

As a reminder, the TOTS machines or IVR must continue to be used to track attendance until we have converted over to EdLink for the Child Care Assistance Program. We anticipate that that transition will occur in early fall.



Teaching and Learning Updates

Teaching and Learning Updates

Care for the Caregiver: Free Virtual Therapy

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.

Teaching and Learning Updates

Talking with Children about Traumatic Events

Talking with children about traumatic events can be challenging. Whether it's addressing concerns about images of war, natural disasters, or community violence, it can be difficult to know where to start.

[ChildCare Education Institute](#) shares information to support teachers in looking for signs that a child may be experiencing fear or anxiety about traumatic events and strategies to build resilience.

Below you will find a number of resources for providers and families that include more details about talking to children about traumatic events:

- [Helping Children Cope After a Traumatic Event – Child Mind Institute](#)
- [Nine Tips for Talking with Kids about Trauma – The Greater Good Science Center At the University of California, Berkeley](#)
- [Talking with Children about Tragedies and Other News Events – American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Talking to Kids about Traumatic Events with Tips and Videos – Child Care Resource Center: Strengthening Families](#)
- [Supporting Young Children after Crisis Events – National Association for the Education of Young Children](#)

Teaching and Learning Updates

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.

Early childhood educators can also join relevant conversations within [The CLASS Learning Community](#).

Teaching and Learning Updates

Performance Profile Data Certification

Data Certification is a critical process that allows each site to ensure that self-reported informational metrics are accurately captured and reflected in their annual Performance Profile.

- Data Certification captures various informational metrics as reported in the CLASS® Portal, rolled up at the network, site, and classroom-level.
- Community network lead agencies work with programs to verify information.
- All informational metrics should reflect what was true on October 1, 2021, unless otherwise specified.
- If a classroom was open October 1, informational metrics should still be reported even if the information changed or the classroom closed before the end of the year.
- All data, for all sites and classrooms, must be certified by community network lead agencies in the Louisiana Data Review system and will be reported in the 2022-2023 Performance Profiles.

Programs should provide any needed corrections to their community network lead agency in July.

Contact Alicia Franklin at alicia.franklin@la.gov for assistance.

Teaching and Learning Updates

Early Childhood (EC) Teacher and Leader of the Year

The Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists have been announced, and the winners will be revealed on July 30, at an Awards Gala in New Orleans.

| EC Teacher of the Year Finalists | EC Leader of the Year Finalists |
|---|--|
| Janie Clement <i>(Napoleonville Primary Head Start)</i> Kayla Joseph <i>(St. James Parish Head Start in Lutcher)</i> Melissa Loucks <i>(Riverside Educational Development Center in New Roads)</i> Annie Richardson <i>(Caneview K-8 Head Start in Port Allen)</i> Natalie Sullivan <i>(Lafourche Parish Head Start in Thibodaux)</i> | Charli Beall <i>(Busy Bees Academy of Learning in Shreveport)</i> Cindy Bennett Beatty <i>(Riverside Educational Development Center in New Roads)</i> Jennifer Kelsay <i>(The Garden of Knowledge in Bogalusa)</i> LeeAnn Price <i>(Foundations Christian Learning Center in Pineville)</i> Rochelle Wilcox <i>(Wilcox Academy in New Orleans)</i> |



Buy tickets to the gala
on [Eventbrite](#).

Teaching and Learning Updates

CCMS/CCMSi at the Early Childhood Conference

The following sessions will inform attendees about CCMS and EdLink integrations, including how a CCMS can save you time and money and how the LDOE is supporting usage.



| | |
|--|--|
| Child Care Management Software Initiative (CCMS) | Saturday 1:30pm, 2:45pm, 4:00pm |
| EdLink and CCAP Attendance | Friday 2:45pm, 4:00pm, Sunday 9:45am |





Teaching Strategies GOLD: Planning for Next Year



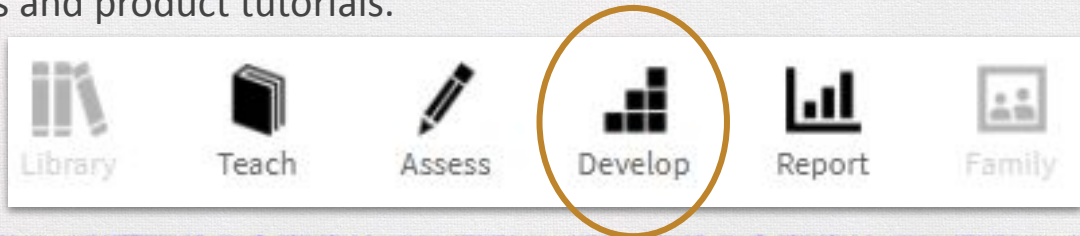
MyTeachingStrategies® Online Courses

In Louisiana's early childhood classrooms, GOLD® by TeachingStrategies is used to measure each child's growth and development for multiple purposes.

The Department supports programs and educators in using assessments to strengthen the learning and development of young children. This includes classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and special education service providers. Providing professional development opportunities helps educators grow confident in the use of the assessment tool and use assessment data to intentionally plan learning experiences.

"My Courses," in the "Develop" area of MyTeachingStrategies®, provides access to your online professional development courses and product tutorials.

[detailed directions for
accessing online courses](#)



MyTeachingStrategies® Online Courses

Below are suggested trainings for all early childhood educators that assess children using *GOLD*®. The following trainings are free of charge and available to anyone with a MyTeachingStrategies account.

- The Power of GOLD® (2 hrs)
- Introducing MyTeachingStrategies® (2 hrs)
- Objectives for Development and Learning (10 hrs)
- [Interrater Reliability Certification](#)

While the Department does not require GOLD® users to complete any online courses at this time, we **highly recommend** completing the following tutorials and courses to learn more about the GOLD® assessment tool and MyTeachingStrategies®.

GOLD[®] Webinar Opportunities

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](#))
- Back-to-School Support for Returning Teachers ([Register](#))
- Back-to-School Support for Administrators ([Register](#))
- What Does It Really Mean to Be Trauma Informed? ([Register](#))

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

Interrater Reliability Certification

The Interrater Reliability Certification is an online certification process that gives educators the opportunity to ensure the accuracy of their ratings by evaluating and assigning levels to the documentation in sample child portfolios.

Interrater Reliability Certification

- increases the accuracy and consistency of your preliminary and checkpoint ratings,
- improves planning for individual children by helping you assess children accurately, and
- identifies professional development needs by using data collected during the certification process.

Please note that there is *no cost* for IRR certification and it is *valid for three years*.

While not required by the Department at this time, *it is recommended that all administrators and instructional coaches* of publicly-funded early childhood programs maintain IRR certification records for all staff to ensure the validity and reliability of GOLD® data.

***GOLD*® Onboarding Resources**

- [***GOLD*® Model Implementation Plan**](#) outlines the recommended professional development, best practices, and resources that will support a successful first year of implementation.
- [***GOLD*® Preparing for Implementation Document**](#) helps administrators reflect on pre-implementation by identifying measures of success, building a professional development plan, planning for logistics, and reviewing fidelity FAQs.
- [**Professional Development Plan for Year One**](#) supports administrators in creating a comprehensive, meaningful, and responsive professional development plan for your teams.
- [***GOLD*® Getting Started Checklists**](#) provide tactical steps so users can feel confident in independently getting started in *GOLD*®. There is a [**New Administrator Getting Started Checklist**](#), a [**New Teacher Getting Started Checklist**](#), a [**Returning Administrator Getting Started Checklist**](#), and a [**Returning Teacher Checklist**](#).
- [***GOLD*® User Guides**](#) provide users with the comprehensive collection of steps and year-round support to ensure a successful *GOLD*® implementation. There is an [**Administrator User Guide**](#) and a [**Teacher User Guide**](#).

GOLD® Back-to-School Webinar

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® Update Webinar for Network 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 or concerns.

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

Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events

New Director Office Hours

The purpose of the New Director Office Hours is to provide new administrators and directors with a deeper understanding of LDOE requirements for Type III centers.

The next office hours will focus on Data Certification and Performance Profiles. Providers can access the next office hours webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Friday, July 29, at noon
- **Webinar Link:** [July New Director Office Hours](#)
- **Passcode:** 126700
- **Phone Number:** 1-346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID:** 990 7536 3953

Upcoming Events

Early Childhood Investigations Webinar

Play is the heart and heartbeat of early childhood programs, and it is our job as early childhood educators to offer environments and opportunities for healthy play.

In this upcoming 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.

Upcoming Events

Early Childhood Conference

JOIN US FOR:

-  Free CPR Certification
-  Exciting Educational Sessions
-  Dynamic Keynote Speakers
-  Earn up to 12 Louisiana Pathways approved hours

 **EARLY CHILDHOOD
POWERING UP
CONFERENCE 2022**

**JULY 22-24, 2022
NEW ORLEANS, LA**

When: July 22-24
(Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)

Where: New Orleans, LA

Who: EC directors/providers, child care teachers, and families

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

Early Childhood Conference

Sneak Peak - A Few of the Keynote Speakers



POWERING UP
EARLY CHILDHOOD
CONFERENCE 2022

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

LOUIS FINNEY, JR.
CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SMART START OF FORSYTH COUNTY, INC.



POWERING UP
EARLY CHILDHOOD
CONFERENCE 2022

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

TABATHA ROSPROY
2020 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Early Childhood Conference

Sneak Peak - A Few of the Keynote Speakers

Master Caleb

The World's Youngest
Motivational Speaker



Upcoming Webinar

The Department hosts monthly webinars for early childhood providers. These webinars include important updates and reminders for all provider types.

Providers can access the next 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

Contact Info

Child Care Licensing

- Call 225-342-9905
- Email ldelicensing@la.gov or email licensing consultants directly

Child Care Assistance Program

- Call 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543
- Email ldeccap@la.gov or enter a [ticket](#) at the Provider Help Desk
- TOTS Assistance: Jackie.Droddy2@la.gov

Child Care Provider Certification

- Email providercertification@la.gov

Child Care Criminal Background Checks

- Call 225-342-2716 or 225-342-5311 or email LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov

General Early Childhood Support

- Email earlychildhood@la.gov

