



Early Childhood Provider Updates

May 5, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Updates for Providers
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Updates
- Licensing Updates
- Teaching and Learning Updates
- Guest Speaker: Amy Friedlander, Opportunities Exchange
- 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
- **Updated:** [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#)
- Questions regarding COVID-19, contact LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov



COVID-19 Updates

ARPA Stabilization Grant, Round 2 Release Timeline

The Department released the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization Grant Round 2 on March 24, 2022. Providers open and serving children by March 31, 2022 were eligible to apply.

ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Release of Funds Timeline

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)

COVID-19 Updates

ARPA Grant Round 2, Head Start/Early Head Start

The Department released 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, on April 25, 2022.

April 25	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Application for Head Start and Early Head Start release
April 28, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Office Hours
May 5, 9:30 - 10:30 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 Head Start/Early Head Start funds released

Please contact the Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635, 225-252-9543 or via the [Provider Ticket System](#) for additional assistance.

COVID-19 Updates

Fees

Beginning July 1, 2022, CCCBC fees and family copayments will be reinstated.

In response to COVID-19, the Department has been covering CCCBC fees and family copayments. Beginning July 1, 2022, these fees will be reinstated as they were prior to the pandemic.

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: State daily rate for child age birth to 11 months is \$68.00. Parent's co-payment of State rate is \$2.00. State will pay \$66.00/day resulting in a weekly payment to provider of \$330.00.



Early Childhood Workforce Support Opportunity



Teacher Pay PILOT Program



UNIVERSITY *of*
LOUISIANA
L A F A Y E T T E ®

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Public Policy Center

The Louisiana Department of Education is partnering with the Blanco Center at University of Louisiana at Lafayette to run a two year study that will improve teacher pay.



Who's eligible?

Type III, CCAP-certified centers are eligible to participate in the pilot program which will impact the pay for the center's teachers that work 30 or more hours per week.



Applying

- Approximately 3,000 teachers will be selected through a randomization process
 - Half will receive a \$2,000 annual increase (possibly \$2,080)
 - Half will receive a 10% annual pay increase
- Centers who are not selected but are willing to participate in the control group will receive a stipend to answer follow-up surveys

Timeline

- Applications will be offered in June
- Centers will be informed in July whether they were selected
- Funding will begin August 2022
- A second round of funding will be dispersed in August 2023
- The pilot will end August 2024



Child Care Assistance Program Updates

Provider Forum

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will be conducting a virtual Provider Forum on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 1 p.m.

The Forum will provide updates across varied divisions within the Office of Early Childhood. Updates will include CCAP Regulations, Licensing Overview, Provider Payments, and general support for providers.

Providers are encouraged to attend as a wealth of information will be covered. A Forum invitation including time and Zoom access information was emailed to providers on May 4, 2022.

Please contact the Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543 or via the [Provider Ticket System](#) for additional assistance.

Grant Assessment Recommendations - Expenditures & Record Keeping

Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N) has completed assessments of the use of CCDF funds distributed through LaCAP relief grants and has provided key recommendations.

The following is a list of recommendations as a result of the utilization of grant funds assessment:

- Identify and track expenses that were paid for using grant funds during the normal course of business.
- If grant funding is received from multiple sources, identify and track which grant funding was applied for each expense.
- For all expense transactions, maintain supporting documentation that includes itemized receipts detailing the individual items and/or services purchased.

Grant Assessment Recommendations - Expenditures & Record Keeping, cont.

- For all expense transactions, maintain supporting documentation that includes proof of payment by the child care provider. Examples include, but are not limited to, cash receipts, copies of cleared checks, bank statements, and credit card statements.
- For any payments made with cash or cash apps, maintain receipts and records of who was paid, the goods or services, the total amount paid with cash and the date of the transaction.
 - If cash or payments from a cash app are withdrawn from a bank account, maintain records of the specific cash withdrawals that are tied to the transaction.
- For facility-reimbursed transactions, maintain supporting documentation that includes the itemized receipts and evidence of the facility's reimbursement to the initial payee.
- For any expense transactions split between multiple facilities, record the portion of the expense incurred by each facility.

Grant Assessment Recommendations - Expenditures & Record Keeping, cont.

- Maintain signed agreements, such as lease agreements or promissory notes, that cover the date of the transaction.
- For any verbal agreements, obtain written documentation to evidence the details of the agreement.
- For all full-time and temporary employees, maintain employment history, including name, title/position, and dates of employment.
- For any enrollment subsidies or tuition write-offs, at a minimum, record the name of the child, dates of services, write-off amounts and the date the write-off occurred.

Licensing Updates



Annual Level 1 Notice

The Department would like to remind you to be prepared if a hurricane or other disaster occurs in your area or parish.

If an emergency covers a large geographical area such as a parish or region of the state, the LDOE will closely monitor conditions out of concern for your safety and for the safety of the children and families you serve. Please know that should a disaster occur and your center or location is in a parish or area that the LDOE determines as impacted by the disaster, your license or certification may be suspended until you obtain post-disaster approvals and submit the required Reopening Request to the LDOE.

Annual Level 1 Notice

In the event of a potential disaster, take the following steps to prepare:

- Stay up-to-date with the status of any storm or other potential natural disaster and its impact on your area.
- Ensure that LDOE has your current cell phone number and email address.
- Review and update evacuation and safety plans.
- Practice evacuation and reunification plans.
- Let families know how you will communicate if you are unable to reopen following a disaster.
- Review the Frequently Asked Questions below and be ready if a disaster declaration is made for your parish.
- Pay close attention to the messages from your local officials.
- Obtain your parish's Emergency Preparedness Contact phone number.
- Review the useful links below:
 - <http://www.getagameplan.org/>
 - <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov/>

CPR/PFA Vendor Training

The deadline is approaching for vendors to complete training.

- Currently, all center staff must have CPR/PFA certification.
- June 3, 2022, is the last day approved CPR/PFA vendors can complete trainings and request payment from the Department. Any invoice for training conducted after June 3, 2022, will not be processed.
- June 30, 2022, is the last day invoices will be accepted for trainings. Any invoice submitted to the Department after June 30, 2022, will not be processed.
- After June 3, 2022, we encourage CRP/PFA vendors to share their availability with child care providers and continue to provide CPR/PFA training. Please note that the Department will **NOT** be responsible for payments for trainings conducted after June 3, 2022.

Licensing Updates

Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks

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

- 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.
- The staff member shall 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.

Upcoming Bulletin 137 Changes

This summer there are updates to Child to Staff Ratio and Indoor Space regulations.

Indoor Space

- Effective June 1, 2022, a center may request and seek approval from the Office of State Fire Marshal and the Department, that for children ages 4 and above, a minimum of 25 square feet of usable indoor space shall be available per child in the specified space for 4 year-old and above use only.

Child to Staff Ratio

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

EdLink Licensing Updates

April 2022	May 2022	June 2022 - July 2022
Ongoing System Testing and Training	Continuous Provider Support Hours	
Provider webinar will be recorded and posted on Louisiana Believes	Targeted Provider Training	Provider Training for updates
	Edlink Goes Live!!	



Teaching and Learning Updates

Academic Approval

2021-2022 Academic Approval certificates will expire on June 30, 2022.

Providers must renew their Academic Approval by submitting the [2022-2023 Program Partner Assurances](#) to the Department by Friday, May 20, 2022.

- Signed Program Partner Assurances may only be submitted using the [2022-2023 Program Partner Assurances](#) online form provided, no paper forms are accepted.
- 2022-2023 Academic Approval certificates will be automatically generated following the successful submission of the assurances and will be emailed to the email address provided in the online form.
- Providers should retain these copies for their records as well as post their 2022-2023 Academic Approval certificates at their sites starting July 1, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of these assurances, please email kishia.grayson@la.gov.

Academic Approval Webinar for FCCs

Family Child Care providers are invited and encouraged to attend an upcoming webinar around Academic Approval.

Date & Time	Link	Audience
May 4, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92715399220	FCCs referred by CACFP Sponsors
May 11, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96048542027	All FCCs across Louisiana

Please contact felicia.jackson3@la.gov with questions.

Annual Teacher Survey

*The Department is soliciting feedback from Lead Teachers on their experiences during the current academic year through the annual Lead Teacher Survey, now open until **May 31, 2022**.*

The Department is currently conducting the 2021-2022 Lead Teacher Survey to gather feedback from teachers to shape plans and priorities for the upcoming academic year.

- The Department has shared a link to the survey directly to Lead Teachers using the email addresses collected through TS Gold®.
- The survey covers questions such as teachers' experiences with CLASS® Observations, TS Gold®, curriculum use, coaching, and workforce supports.
- The Department will publish information on teacher support as part of Community Network Performance Profiles for the 2021-2022 school year.

Please contact Robert Jones at robert.jones4@la.gov with any questions.

Act 386: Mandatory Kindergarten Attendance

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, children must attend a kindergarten program and pass an entry assessment to enter first grade.

- The Department has begun sharing information with school systems who will enroll students for first grade, qualifying programs are:
 - Full-day, for a full school year
 - Public school, non-public school, or a home-study program
- Senate Bill 177, if passed, would delay the new Kindergarten requirements for one year. The Department will continue to provide updates to stakeholders as requirements change.

Please contact Ashley.Townsend@la.gov with questions.

Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) Review

Following more than a year of intense stakeholder review by early learning experts and partner agencies around the state, Louisiana's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) Review Committee endorsed a [draft of revised standards](#) on April 6, 2022.

- Draft standards are available for public comment this month.
- Draft standards and all meeting materials of the ELDS Review Committee are available in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#).

April 2022	Public Comment/Feedback Process
May 2022	ECCE Advisory Council, Bulletin 136 Revision
June 2022	BESE, Bulletin 136 Revision
Fall 2022	ELDS roll out

**Guest Speaker:
Amy Friedlander,
Opportunities Exchange**



CHILD CARE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE SYSTEMS (CCMS)

Powering ECE Business & Pedagogy

Presented on May 5, 2022
Amy Friedlander, Opportunities Exchange

CCMS can.....

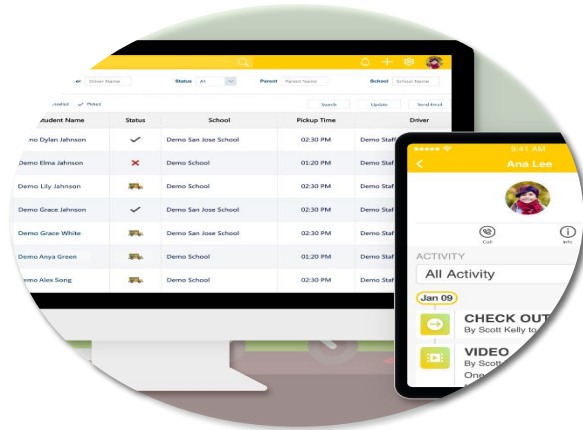
Improve administrative practices

- Save time – 7 hours or more per week
- Increase accuracy – no human errors

Improve program quality

- Increase means of communication with families and staff
- Save time on lesson planning and documentation

CCMS & Administrative Practices



Full Enrollment

- Online enrollment
- Create forms
- Request documents and e-signatures

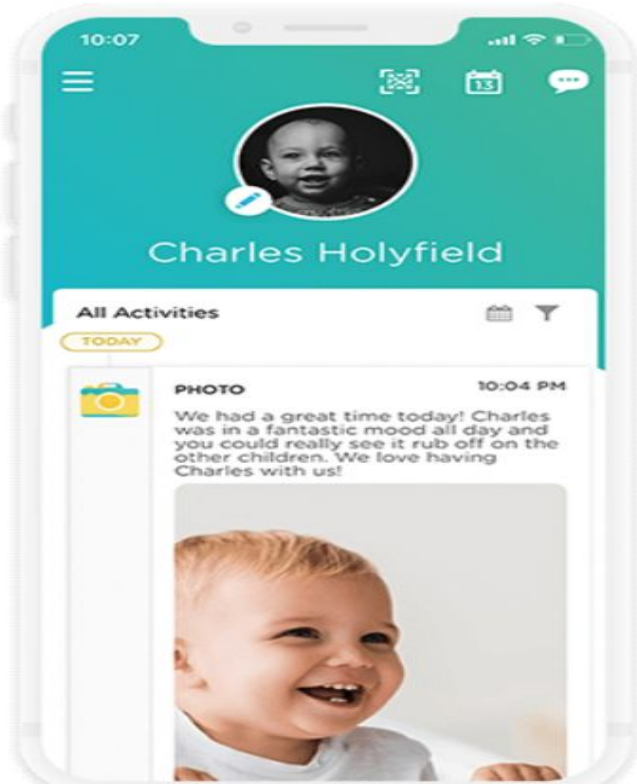
Full Fee Collection

- Invoicing/reminders automated
- Electronic payments reduce bad debt
- Data informed decisions

Revenue Covers per child Cost

- Manage student-teacher ratios
- Generate financial reports

Family Engagement



Track In-Class Activities & Development Milestones

- Create daily activities that can then be shared with parents, and connect those activities to state standards
- Support a wide variety of learning/child-centered methodologies
- Assess and report on developmental milestones

Family Communication

Communicate and Engage with Parents

- Share daily activities, videos, photos and newsletters with parents
- Use the app for easy, two-way communication
- Keep parents engaged with calendars to promote upcoming events



Reminders

Send quick reminders that include a date and a time



Emergency alerts

Easily send alerts – including SMS and mobile messages

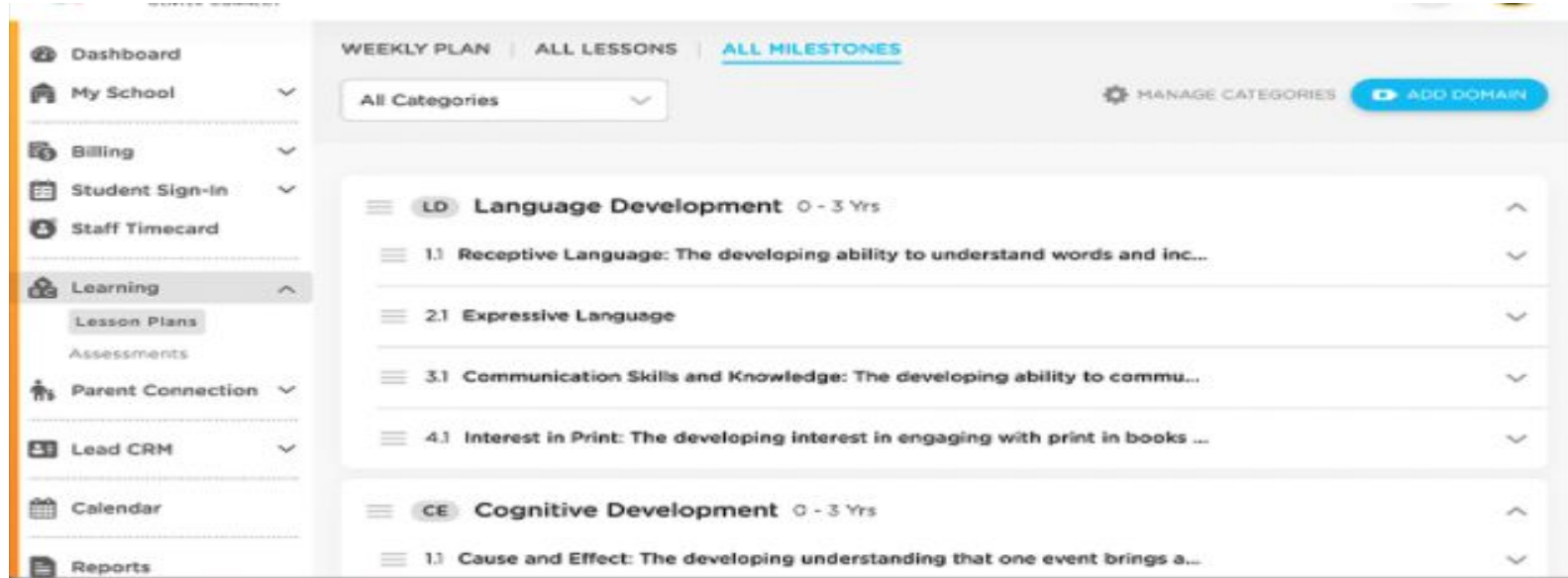


Parent messaging

Easily engage and build trust with families, and message everyone at once as needed

Lesson Planning

Leverage pre-loaded state early learning standards to simplify lesson planning and share lesson plans with families to continue learning at home



Learning & Assessments

- Record student progress with text or voice
- Track child development in a particular area or domain
- Develop custom milestones for center's specific learning needs



Data rich reports

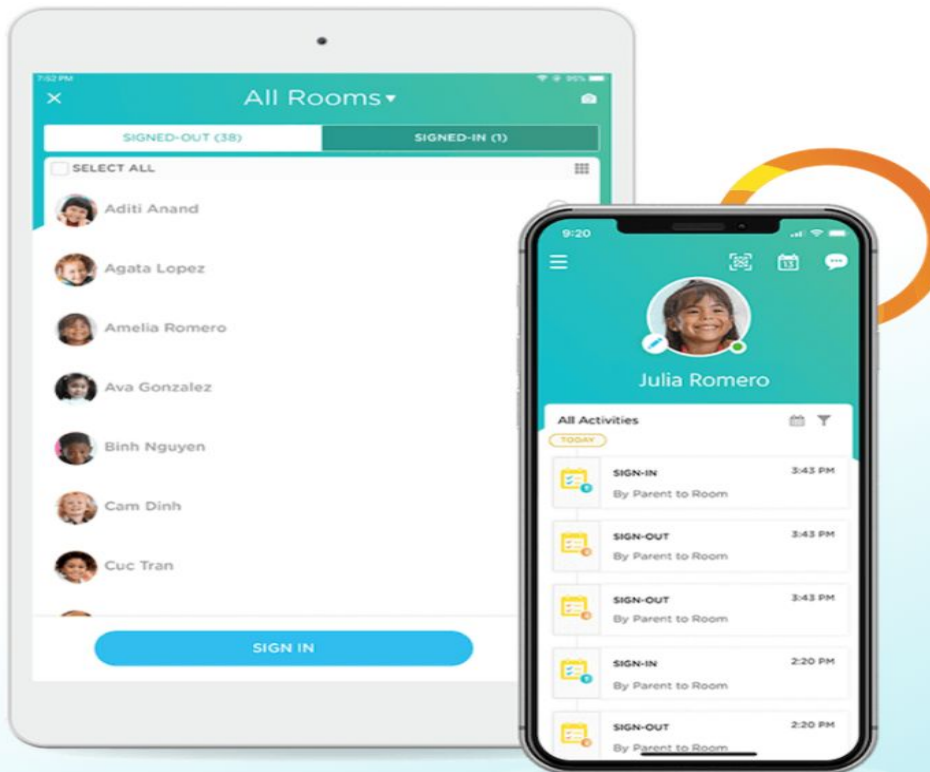
Track and analyze student or classroom progress with data-rich reports



Sharing controls

Share learning and development with staff and parents on your own schedule

Saves Time



For Parents

Check in/check out
Enrollment paperwork
Compliance paperwork
Payment
Summary of annual payments

For Providers

Automated timekeeping
Timekeeping reports for payroll
Electronic staff & child recordkeeping
Access student, family and staff
Records anytime and from anywhere

Saves Money/Increases Revenue



Tuition collection

Set up recurring statements once and brightwheel will automate the rest



One-time charges

Add additional one-time charges to a student's statement for late pick up, lunches, or field trips



Attendance-based billing

Track the hours a student is in school, apply an hourly rate, and seamlessly charge the total amount



Mobile payments & autopay

Allow families to pay while on-the-go and never chase a payment again



Discounts

Easily apply discounts as a percentage or a dollar amount



Subsidy tracking

Manage and reconcile subsidy funds with ease

Generates Financial Data

- Invoices and payments are automatically reconciled
- Software can “talk to” accounting and payroll systems – reducing errors and increasing access to accurate, current financial data
- Financial data is available for analysis and action

ECE Automation Makes it Possible



How is the LDOE Supporting CCMS Use?

The LDOE is helping providers save time and money through the use of automation which will sustain Louisiana child care centers and improve business outcomes overall.

The Child Care Management Software (CCMS) Initiative Strategy provides the following (through the LDOE and contractors of the LDOE):

- Subsidize 80% of the first year costs for up to \$1,000 for Type III and CCAP certified Family Child Care Home providers to implement CCMS
- Laura Marchand (Contractor with LDOE) with Childcare Resources, Inc. can provide support to:
 - assist with account set up in the CCMS
 - enter data (child and teacher records) into the CCMS
 - provide ongoing support to utilize the CCCMS to its fullest potential!

Please contact shallan.jones@la.gov or your local CCR&R agency with questions related to CCMSi.

Please contact Laura Marchand for CCMS support at lauragmarchand@yahoo.com



Opportunities
Exchange

For More Information ...

Opportunities Exchange

Profiles, Tools,
Resources, Metrics,
Issue Briefs and more ...

www.oppex.org





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**

To learn more and register, visit: louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood-conference-2022

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**

STEVE SPANGLER
STEM ADVOCATE AND INFLUENCER



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 is hosting a webinar to provide more details about the upcoming Teacher Compensation Pilot.

At the webinar the Department will review the application for the Teacher Compensation Pilot.

Providers can access the webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** TBD
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872>
- **Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 935 9774 5872

Upcoming Webinar

The Department is hosting monthly webinars for early childhood providers. These webinars will include important updates relating to COVID-19 and reminders for all provider types.

Providers can access the next provider webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, July 7 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

