



Early Childhood Provider Updates

October 6, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Updates for Providers
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Updates
- Licensing Updates
- Teaching and Learning Updates
- Guest Speaker: Christy Bellue, Director of Certification
- 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



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 in a timely manner.

At this time, the Department is experiencing response delays due to staff shortages, an increase in CCAP applications, and provider/participant queries. The present wait time for case processing is 60-90 days. Please know there will be no adverse action on a family's case as a result of our delay.

Please assist families with submitting all requested documents ensuring all verifications and documents include a case number or time and attendance number. CCAP staff will contact families as soon as possible.

Please **do not resubmit** applications, verification documents, payment documents or change requests again; this slows processing times when duplicates are received.

Families can expect a letter in the mail sharing what is needed on their case during the processing time. The Department began extending redeterminations, with July 2022 cases, by 12 additional months (not to exceed 24 months of service).

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

CCAP Backlog

Redeterminations

- June and July redeterminations (except for those awaiting verification) have been completed.

Initial Applications

- An outside contracted entity will assist in processing applications received prior to October 1, 2022.
- Please allow 60 days processing time on all new applications.

Provider Help Desk Tickets

- Tickets submitted through the Provider Ticket System are being processed in the order received. Inquiries are being researched by the Regional Program Specialist and updates are provided in the ticket system upon completion. It is important to note that one ticket can include 60 or more entries. The team is working to catch up, but the pace is slow due to the ticket content. Please refrain from submitting multiple tickets with the same issue.

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

CCAP Backlog cont.

Scanning

- The scanning team is working very hard to clear the backlog of documents. They are less than two weeks behind. New staff from a third party have joined the team to assist with the backlog.

Underutilized Authorizations

- 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.
- Families that are not using CCAP will lose their CCAP authorizations. Families should expect to receive notices at the mailing address on file.

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

Waitlist for CCAP

In order to maximize the benefits of CCAP for Louisiana families, providers, and communities, the Department will begin a CCAP waitlist for families that apply on or after October 1, 2022.

- The waitlist will ensure that Louisiana families have access to CCAP on a first-come, first-served basis so 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.
- Families remain on the waitlist for up to one year before having to reapply for assistance.
- 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.

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

Frequently Asked Questions

Launching a statewide waiting list for families will likely create additional questions and opportunities for collaboration to ensure families are supported throughout the process.

The Department has published [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the waitlist, providing key insight on questions including:

- **Is there a limit to the number of families that can be placed on the waitlist?**
Not at this time.
- **What verification documents are needed to be removed from the waitlist?**
If it has been 30 days or more, families will be required to provide updated verification.
- **How long does the family have to return the requested verification?**
The requested verification must be returned within ten business days of the date on the notice.

Child Care Assistance Program Updates

Opportunities for Collaboration & Next Steps

In order to maximize the benefits of CCAP for Louisiana families, providers, and communities, the Department will begin a CCAP waitlist for families that apply on or after October 1, 2022.

Key opportunities for collaboration between the Department and providers include providing clarity for families regarding the waitlist:

- Providers will not receive any reimbursement while families are on the waitlist.
- Families have 30 days after they are removed from the waitlist to enroll their child in a child care facility.
- CCAP staff will provide families with information about child care options near them when they are removed from the waitlist. Families may enroll at the nearest available option and submit a Change form (CCAP 10) to attend their first choice when a spot becomes available at their first choice.



Licensing Updates

Licensing Updates

Application Processing Time Frames

In an effort to ensure Licensing applications and requests are completed in time for services to be provided to children, please anticipate the processing time frames below. If all required documentation is not submitted, there will be additional delays in processing requests.

Please note: All new licensing applications must be submitted in EdLink.

Here are the timelines for processing the following types of requests:

- 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 any Bulletin 137 questions, call 225-342-9905 or email ldelicensing@la.gov.

Licensing Updates

EdLink

Providers with access to EdLink should continue to use the system to complete renewal applications and change requests.

- If you are receiving assistance from the EdLink team to complete your renewal application and it is determined your issue cannot be resolved at that time, you will receive an email on how to complete your renewal application.
- For assistance with gaining access to EdLink or already have access and have 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: 9756525 9173

Licensing Consultant Contact

Each center has an assigned consultant. You can find your consultant below by the first letter of the center's name excluding A, An, and The.

Alicia.Brown@la.gov - M, S	Alicia.Bourgeois@la.gov - L,T
Curieni.Jackson2@la.gov - A, N, O, U, V, W	DaryNeisha.Weaver2@la.gov - C, I, Y, Z
Stacie.Griffin@la.gov - B, E, F, H, Q, X	Phyllis.Politz@la.gov - P, G, R
Autumn.Sullivan@la.gov -K, D, J	

If you have any questions regarding Bulletin 137, please contact your licensing consultant.

Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Updates



Child Care Criminal Background Check Updates

Renewals and Reinstatement of Pre-Pandemic Fees

Five-year eligibility renewals for the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) program will begin March 2023.

- As part of the renewal process, providers and applicants fingerprinted upon the program's launch in 2018 will be contacted via email to initiate the re-fingerprinting process.
- Previously, as part of the COVID 19 response, the Department covered CCCBC fees and family copayments. As of July 1, 2022, fees requirements were reinstated.

For questions, please contact LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov.



Teaching and Learning Updates

Teaching and Learning Updates

Calculating Performance Scores

For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, the Department utilized “hold harmless” to avoid penalizing sites where scores declined due to hardships brought on by the pandemic

Because of increased observation capacity in 2021-2022, the upcoming performance profiles will calculate sites’ performance score based on the dimensions of all observations after third-party replacement in the 2021-2022 school year

For classes that were not observed in Spring 2022 due to qualifying for the Bulletin 140 Emergency Rule, the Department will use the Fall CLASS® score after third-party replacement as an approximation for the spring local observation to calculate Performance Scores.

Teaching and Learning Updates

Child Count Guidance for Program Partners

As established in Bulletin 140, community network lead agencies and early childhood sites must work together to submit a count of all publicly-funded children twice each academic year.

Child count captures the current enrollment of publicly-funded children (B-5) at each site on October 1* and February 1 of each academic year. Data collected during child count is critical and used by many different stakeholders.

The Department created a [guidance document for program partners](#) containing three key steps to successfully complete child count:

- Step 1: Understanding the Child Count Process
- Step 2: Preparing for Child Count
- Step 3: Completing and Submitting the Child Count Template to the Lead Agency

**Please note that October 1, 2022 count will reflect a snapshot of enrollment counts on September 30, 2022, since October 1 falls on a Saturday.*

Teaching and Learning Updates

Teaching Strategies GOLD® Updates

GOLD® is an authentic observational assessment system that provides teachers with the information they need to support their children's development and learning.

All children, ages birth-5, enrolled in public and nonpublic pre-K, Head Start, and child care centers that receive public funding must be assessed with Teaching Strategies GOLD®. Teachers must finalize Fall GOLD® checkpoint ratings by **October 31**.

GOLD® Fall Checkpoint Support Webinar: This support webinar will cover the features and functionalities teachers use to complete the GOLD® Fall checkpoint in MyTeachingStrategies®.

- [Thursday, October 13, at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, October 18, at 3 p.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, October 25, at 3 p.m.](#)

Archived webinars are available on-demand,

- [Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers](#)
- [Fall Checkpoint Support for Administrators](#)

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.

School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)

SRTC forms for directors, teachers, and parents will be sent in the coming months.

The Department will send email notifications of star rating and levels to eligible Type III directors by mid-October 2022.

Director and staff member tax forms will be mailed by January 2023.

- For re-leveling with Louisiana Pathways Career ladders, new credentials and certifications should be submitted before **December 31, 2022**, to [Louisiana Pathways](#).
- Directors and Teachers with an expiring ancillary certificate must renew it nine weeks before expiration via the [Louisiana Department of Education's Educator Certification Portal](#).

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

For more information about School Readiness Tax Credits contact demita.walker@la.gov.

Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

Nominations from the field closed on September 30 at 5 p.m. All nominated candidates will be notified and provided next steps in the application process. At this time nominations are closed.

Nominated candidates can expect:

- Application guidance available on the Louisiana Believes website in October
- Teacher and Leader of the Year application live **now** and available through January 30.
- Optional technical assistance webinars each month for questions on application requirements and best practices
 - Invites will be emailed to candidates and posted on the Louisiana Believes website
- Answers to applicant questions and support via email from devon.camarota@la.gov

Directors and nominators are asked to support any applicants you may have nominated, so their applications can be as compelling as possible.



Guest Speaker:
Christy Bellue
Director of Certification

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate

When should I submit my renewal or application for the ECAC to continue to be eligible for SRTC?

Expiration	October	Submit your renewal or initial application through Teach LA Live! Immediately	Allow 4-5 weeks processing time. You should receive your certificate or further feedback by November 1.
	November	Submit your renewal or initial application through Teach LA Live! no later than October 15	Allow 4-5 weeks processing time. You should receive your certificate or further feedback by November 19.
	December	Submit your renewal or initial application through Teach LA Live! no later than November 15	Allow 4-6 weeks processing time. You should receive your certificate or further feedback by December 31.
	January	Please wait to submit your renewal application until after 1/1/2023. If your certificate is valid on 1/1/2023, you will be eligible for SRTC.	

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate

Once an application is submitted, ***please check your email regularly for replies from the LDOE.*** You can also verify your application submission and check for any new messages using the *History* option on [Teach LA Live!](#). If your application is submitted by your Director, please follow-up with them to check for updates sent to their email or [Teach LA Live!](#) *History*.

Once your application is processed, additional feedback is provided or the certificate 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 your application should be submitted using ***Ask a Question*** at the top of [Teach LA Live!](#).

Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events

Webinar

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

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

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

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872>

Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 935 9774 5872

Upcoming Events

Teaching Strategies GOLD® Updates

Frog Street will host a webinar to support site implementation of TS GOLD® for classrooms utilizing Frog Street curriculum.

- Webinar Topic:** Collecting Observational Assessment Data Using Frog Street Curriculum (Infant - PreK, 2013)
- Webinar Audience:** Site Administrators
- Webinar Date/Time:** Wednesday, October 26, at 1 p.m.
- Webinar Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89794543114?from=addon>
- Meeting ID:** 897 9454 3114

Upcoming Events

New Director Office Hours

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

The next office hours will focus on Louisiana Pathways.

Providers can access the next office hours webinar using the information below:

Webinar Date/Time:	Friday, October 28, at 12 p.m.
Webinar Link:	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99075363953
Passcode:	126700
Phone Number:	1-346-248-7799
Meeting ID:	990 7536 3953

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

