

## Office of Early Childhood Care and Education

Date: September 9, 2024  
To: Early Learning Center Providers, Family Child Care Providers, and In-Home Providers  
From: Mellynn Baker, Assistant Superintendent  
Re: Level 2 – Be Prepared Notice – Tropical Storm Francine

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) would like to notify you that Tropical Storm Francine has formed in the Gulf. Francine will strengthen over the next 48 hours as it moves north, and a Hurricane Watch is in effect for the Louisiana coast from Cameron eastward to Grand Isle. By late Tuesday, Francine is forecasted to turn northeast and accelerate toward the Louisiana coast, making landfall on Wednesday afternoon or evening. This system is expected to bring the potential for heavy winds, heavy rains, and flash flooding to the state in the coming days.

The LDOE will closely monitor conditions out of concern for your safety and for the safety of the children and families you serve. Please continue to monitor the [status of the storm and its impact on your area](#).

If you are a child care provider, please take the following steps to prepare:

- Have access to the [Early Learning Site Reopening Request form](#).
- 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.
- Pay close attention to the messages from your local officials, especially concerning [road closures](#) and hazardous conditions.
- Review the FAQs below and be ready if a disaster declaration is made for your parish.
  - [Child Care Program \(CCAP\) – Before, During and After a Disaster](#)
  - [Reinstatement of a Child Care Center License Following a Disaster](#)
- Visit the LDOE website ([www.louisianabelieves.com](http://www.louisianabelieves.com)) or call 1-877-453-2721.
- Obtain your [local OHSEP office](#) Emergency Preparedness Contact phone number.
- Review the below useful links:
  - <http://www.getagameplan.org/>
  - <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov/>
- Visit the Louisiana Department of Health's [recommendations](#), [FAQs](#), and [Minimum Standards for Operation](#) if under a boil-water advisory.
- Be safe.