



# EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

May 11, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated every May. More than just a time to acknowledge Louisiana's K-12 teachers, it's also important that we honor the impact made by teachers for children ages birth to four. May also includes National Child Care Provider Day. Regardless of the occasion, I want to thank our early childhood care and education community for caring for the youngest learners.

Take time to let the educators in your life know they matter. Let's show our teachers and providers they are valued professionals who deserve our appreciation in May and every day of the year.

Dr. Cade Brumley

## Upcoming Deadlines

- May 15: Final date to enter all Spring CLASS® Observations into the [EC Portal](#)
- May 17: [LPIC 2023 Provider Survey](#) deadline
- May 26: Final date to submit the [2023-2024 Academic Approval Program Assurances](#)
- May 31: Teaching Strategies® GOLD Spring Checkpoint Due
- May 31: [LDOE Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey](#) Deadline
- June 30: Final date for free business support services for child care

## Upcoming Events

- May 17: [GOLD® Update Webinar for Community Network Lead Agencies and GOLD® Administrators](#)
- May 18: [Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting](#)
- May 26: [New Director Webinar](#)
- May 30-June 1: [2023 Teacher Leader Summit: Accelerate to Success](#)
- June 2-3: [2023 Early Childhood Conference: Foundations for Success](#)

## More Important Dates

Please see the [LDOE School System Support Calendar](#).

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## Provider Updates

### NEW: Early Childhood Provider Update Webinars

On May 4, the Department hosted a webinar for early childhood providers. [Presentation slides](#) are available in the [Quality Providers Library](#) on the Louisiana Believes website.

There will be no monthly provider webinar in June. The next monthly provider webinar will be held July 6, 2023. Providers can access the upcoming July provider webinar using the information below:

<b>Webinar Date/Time:</b>	Thursday, July 6 at 1 p.m.
<b>Webinar Link:</b>	<a href="https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872">https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872</a>
<b>Phone Number:</b>	1-312-626-6799
<b>Meeting ID:</b>	935 9774 5872
<b>Passcode:</b>	641464

### NEW: 2023 Provider Survey

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children is conducting an annual survey of child care providers in Louisiana. The survey is being conducted in partnership with the Child Care Association of Louisiana, the Louisiana Association of the Education of Young Children, the Louisiana Association of United Ways, and resource and referral agencies across the state.

Participation in this survey will help with understanding the current issues facing early care and education providers in Louisiana. Findings from the survey will help make the case for more support for the sector. All providers are encouraged to complete this survey, answering as many questions as possible.

Providers may complete the 2023 Provider Survey online in [English](#); the survey is also available in [Spanish](#) and [Vietnamese](#). Responses are requested by Wednesday, May 17th.

For any questions, please contact [info@policyinstitutela.org](mailto:info@policyinstitutela.org).

### REMINDER: TIKES Mental Health Consultation

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) is an intervention that teams a mental health professional with early childhood professionals to improve the behavioral health of young children in early learning settings. The TIKES ECMHC provides support at no cost to Type III and registered Family Child Care sites. Onsite support and professional development is provided for teachers and other early childhood professionals by early childhood mental health specialists.

For more information visit the [TIKES](#) webpage.

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## UPDATES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

### NEW: 2022-2023 Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey

The Department of Education is conducting its annual statewide [Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey](#). This survey will be emailed on Friday, May 12, to all early childhood lead teachers in publicly-funded sites through the email address in their Teaching Strategies GOLD® accounts. The Department is asking that all early childhood Lead Teachers in publicly-funded sites complete this brief online survey that measures levels of teacher satisfaction with the training or

supports available to them. The results from this survey will be aggregated at the Community Network Lead Agency level and shared as an informational metric on the Community Network Lead Agency Performance Profile. Note that individual results of the survey are confidential and will never be shared with programs or Lead Agencies. Teachers are asked to complete the Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey by May 31, 2023.

Please contact [robert.jones4@la.gov](mailto:robert.jones4@la.gov) with questions.

**NEW: 2023-2024 Type III and Family Child Care Program Partner Assurances for Academic Approval**

2022-2023 Academic Approval certificates will expire on June 30, 2023. Type III centers and Family Child Care sites with Academic Approval must renew their Academic Approval by submitting the [2023-2024 Program Partner Assurances](#) to the Department by Friday, May 26, 2023. Signed Program Partner Assurances may only be submitted using the 2023-2024 Program Partner Assurance [online form](#); no paper forms are accepted.

2023-2024 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 2023-2024 Academic Approval certificates at their sites starting July 1, 2023.

Please contact [kishia.grayson@la.gov](mailto:kishia.grayson@la.gov) with questions regarding Academic Approval.

If you are a Family Child Care provider and would like to learn more about the benefits and requirements of Academic Approval, please contact [felicia.jackson3@la.gov](mailto:felicia.jackson3@la.gov).

**NEW: Louisiana Healthcare Navigators—Connecting Early Childhood Care and Education Staff to Healthcare Options**

The Louisiana Department of Education is partnering with the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center (SWLAHEC) to connect early childhood educators with healthcare options for which they are eligible for. Starting in May 2023, Early Childhood Healthcare Navigators for a Healthy Louisiana will provide free one-on-one assistance to early childhood educators, checking eligibility for, applying for, and updating existing account information for Medicaid, LaCHIP and/or Marketplace Insurance Plans.

Early Childhood Healthcare Navigators, located in every parish, will provide the following supports:

- Education on health insurance options
- Information on how to utilize health coverage
- Information on how to locate providers
- Information on how to access preventive care
- Flexible meeting times and locations
- Help to consumers to keep their information up-to-date
- Help to navigate the Health Insurance Marketplace
- Navigator Newsletter

Have questions on how to get this free one-on-one assistance? Do one of the following below, which takes less than 2 minutes!



- Scan the QR code and fill out the short online form
- Email [navigators@swlahec.com](mailto:navigators@swlahec.com)
- Visit [www.GetCoveredLA.org](http://www.GetCoveredLA.org) or call 1-800-435-2432

Contact [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov) for questions about this opportunity.

**REMINDER: 2023 Early Childhood Conference for Child Care Providers and Teachers**

The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to host the second annual Early Childhood Conference – *Foundations for Success!* The conference will take place from June 2-3, 2023, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC).

The conference will provide opportunities for education and training for early childhood care and education (ECCE) professionals, including child care administrators, teachers, and family child care providers. The content and breakout sessions will support the following LDOE *Believe to Achieve* educational priorities:

- Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment
- Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children
- Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships
- Enhance communication and guidance for family engagement and support

Registered attendees will have the opportunity to earn up to 10 Louisiana Pathways-approved hours. Be sure to download the Cvent App from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to view sessions, view exhibitors, create a schedule, and more.

More information on the Early Childhood Conference can be found in the [2023 Early Childhood Conference Overview](#).

**REMINDER: 2023 Teacher Leader Summit**

The Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional development conference that brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2023-2024 academic year.

This year’s Teacher Leader Summit will focus on educators’ ability to *accelerate to success* every single day.

- The Teacher Leader Summit will take place from May 30-June 1, 2023, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC).
- Registrants can download the Cvent App from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to view sessions, view exhibitors, create a schedule, and more.

More information on the Teacher Leader Summit can be found in the [2023 Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#).

**NEW: Teachstone® – The CLASS® Learning Community**

The CLASS® Learning Community is a group of educators dedicated to helping children 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. New webinars, both live and on-demand, include:

- [What is CLASS® and How to Do It](#), May 17, at 2:00 p.m.
- [The CDA with CLASS®](#) (on demand)
- [How Can Your Interactions Change the Lives of Children](#) (on demand)

**NEW: GOLD® Update Webinar for Community Network Lead Agencies and GOLD® Administrators**

The Department hosts monthly GOLD® update webinars for site and network leaders and site support agencies such as CCR&Rs. Please also read the Department's [TS GOLD® Guidance](#) and [TS GOLD® FAQ](#) documents for helpful information and GOLD® protocols.

The May GOLD® webinar will focus on the upcoming Spring Checkpoint and end-of-year support. The Department will provide information related to GOLD® data hygiene to prepare for the end-of-year closeout as well as Spring Checkpoint reminders. Participants can access the GOLD® informational webinar using the information below:

<b>Webinar Date/Time:</b>	Wednesday, May 17, at 1:00 p.m.
<b>Webinar Link:</b>	<a href="https://ldoe.zoom.us">https://ldoe.zoom.us</a>
<b>Phone Number:</b>	1-312-626-6799
<b>Meeting ID:</b>	974 0485 0210
<b>Passcode:</b>	980775

Please contact [ECAssessment@la.gov](mailto:ECAssessment@la.gov) with any questions.

### **NEW: Teaching Strategies GOLD® Webinars and Resources**

Teaching Strategies offers several [on-demand recorded webinars](#) for early childhood teachers and leaders. Visit the [Learning in Action Library](#) for tips and classroom support. Some spotlight activities include [Web of Investigations](#) and [Classroom Materials that Promote Content Learning](#).

### **NEW: Early Childhood Young Children with Disabilities (YCWD) Community of Practice**

The Early Childhood YCWD Community of Practice provides a time for Part B, Section 619 special education coordinators and coaches to receive updates and collaborate.

The May Community of Practice has been canceled because the Department will provide three young children with disabilities sessions at the Teacher Leader Summit and the Early Childhood Conference. These sessions include:

- Early Identification and Developmental Screening in Early Childhood
- Promoting Inclusion in Early Childhood Settings
- Accelerate Learning in Early Childhood

Participants will learn more about how to ensure early detection and intervention, best practices in inclusion, and embedding accelerated learning opportunities for young children in early childhood settings.

Please contact [caitlyn.robinson@la.gov](mailto:caitlyn.robinson@la.gov) with any questions.

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## **UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT**

### **REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) KinderConnect Attendance Tracking System**

The Louisiana Department of Education has transitioned to KinderConnect as its mandatory attendance tracking system.

TOTS is no longer active, and the online portal is no longer accessible; any transactions recorded on the TOTS POS device or IVR will not be transmitted to the LDOE. The Department's previous TOTS contractor, Conduent, will not take any action to collect POS or biometric scanners from providers or Community Network Lead Agencies. Providers and administrators can dispose of the equipment as they see fit.

KinderConnect is continuing to host webinars to help with the transition to this new mandatory attendance tracking system. May KinderConnect webinars and training have been updated on the [EdLink Support](#) page.

**REMINDER: ARPA Stabilization Grant Assessment (Rounds 1 & 2)**

The LDOE is conducting a grant assessment related to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization grants. The LDOE has partnered with Postlethwaite and Netterville (P&N) to collect information regarding the use of ARPA Stabilization grant funds. LDOE will also use this information to direct future technical assistance.

Participation in the assessment, just like the survey that preceded the assessment, is required. Failure to comply with Postlethwaite and Netterville requests, during any part of the assessment process, will impact a site's ability to receive future grants and may impact a site's ability to receive CCAP payments.

If you have questions, contact the LDOE Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543. If you require technical assistance regarding how to complete any requests for documents from P&N, contact P&N at [info@LDOE-pnsurvey.com](mailto:info@LDOE-pnsurvey.com).

**REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Quarterly Bonus Payments**

Children who do not attend their child care program regularly do not receive the benefit of high-quality child care. During the 2020 COVID emergency, the Department suspended payments based on attendance and began payments based on enrollment.

Monthly CCAP payments will continue to be based on enrollment; however, moving forward quarterly bonus payments will be paid based on attendance. The Department will utilize the KinderConnect system to track attendance, so it is critical that your families utilize this system each day their child is in attendance.

**REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Eligibility Redetermination for Families**

The LDOE CCAP team sends notifications of upcoming redeterminations to providers and families monthly.

Families must respond immediately with a new CCAP [redetermination application](#), check stubs, and immunization records. The case will not be extended if documents are not received according to the dates on the CCAP 11RC - Redetermination Notice (to families) and CCAP 11RCP - Provider Redetermination Notice (to providers).

Failure to submit the redetermination application and all required documents will result in the closure of the family's CCAP case. Once the case is closed, if services are still needed the family will need to reapply for CCAP and will be placed on the waitlist, if deemed eligible. As a reminder, if the application is not received by the 15th of the redetermination month the client and the provider will receive a Notice of Terminated Services effective for the last day of the month.

**REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Underutilized Authorizations for Families**

The CCAP Eligibility Team conducts monthly reviews of underutilized authorizations of children who have not attended child care within the previous month. Attendance recorded in the site's attendance tracking system, KinderConnect, is examined as part of the underutilization review. Authorizations must be utilized by families within a 30-day period to maintain CCAP certification.

The CCAP Provider Help Desk staff has been informing providers of the importance of families completing check in/out transactions when children are in attendance, in order to maintain CCAP certification. If CCAP children are not attending, the Department will issue notices to families at the mailing address on file, advising families of non-usage of

authorizations. Families that are not using CCAP will lose their CCAP authorizations, will need to reapply for CCAP, and will be placed on the waitlist, if deemed eligible.

For assistance, please contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 250-7635 or (225) 252-9543 or enter a [ticket](#) in the Provider Help Desk Ticket System.

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## UPDATES FOR LICENSED CENTERS, FAMILY CHILD CARE, AND IN-HOME PROVIDERS

### NEW: Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks

As a reminder, 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 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 with outside temperatures: **Children can die in a hot vehicle in a matter of minutes.**

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

- prior to leaving center for destination
- upon arrival at each destination
- prior to departure from each destination and
- upon return to center

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

For any questions, please contact the site's [licensing consultant](#).

### REMINDER: Behavior Management Policy

Each site must develop, implement, and follow a written behavior management policy that describes the methods of behavior guidances to be used. This policy must prohibit any children from being subjected to any of the following:

- physical or corporal punishment which includes but is not limited to
  - yelling
  - slapping
  - spanking
  - yanking
  - shaking
  - pinching
  - exposure to extreme temperatures or other measures producing physical pain
  - putting anything in the mouth of a child
  - requiring a child to exercise, or
  - placing a child in an uncomfortable position

- verbal abuse, which includes but is not limited to
  - using offensive or profane language
  - telling a child to “shut up” or
  - making derogatory remarks about children or family members of children in the presence of children
- the threat of a prohibited action even if there is no intent to follow through with the threat
- being disciplined by another child
- being bullied by another child
- being deprived of food or beverages
- being restrained by devices such as high chairs or feeding tables for disciplinary purposes
- having active play time withheld for disciplinary purposes, except timeout may be used during active play time for an infraction incurred during the playtime;

If any of the prohibited methods occurs, this is considered a critical reportable incident that requires notification immediately to the parent, possibly law enforcement, and both the Department and DCFS-Child Welfare within 24 hours.

For any questions, please contact the site’s [licensing consultant](#).

**REMINDER: Communication with Providers**

The Department is receiving many email bounce backs when sending out emails containing important information. All communication from the Department will be sent via email to the most recent email address provided. The site’s email address should not be the director’s personal email address.

There should also be a dedicated working phone with a number dedicated to the site that is capable of incoming and outgoing calls that is readily available at the site at all times. Sites located in schools and churches must have a phone within the licensed area.

Notify your [consultant](#) immediately if there is a change in your site’s email address or phone number.

**REMINDER: Tornado Drills**

Tornado drills shall be conducted at least once per month in each of the following months: March, April, May, and June. These drills shall be done at various times of the day, shall include all children, and shall be documented.

For any questions, please contact the site’s [licensing consultant](#).

**REMINDER: Reinstatement of Licensure Fees**

Effective March 1, 2023, licensure fees were requested upon submission of an application for early learning centers. Fees will continue to be requested as follows:

- \$25 fee for each application for initial licensure. **NOTE:** This fee shall be applied toward the total licensure fee, which is due prior to the issuance of an initial license, if applicable.
- \$25 fee for any change that requires the issuance of a new license or the reissuance of a current license outside of the regular renewal of the license. For example: changes in capacity, name, age range, and transportation.
- Annual licensure fees for each early learning center based on the licensed capacity of the center. See Section 313 of Bulletin 137 for the fee scale.

Annual licensure fees will not be requested for Type I centers owned or operated by churches or religious organizations.

For any questions, please contact the site's [licensing consultant](#).

### **REMINDER: EdLink Licensing System and Training Opportunities**

All providers must use the EdLink system to submit new Licensing applications, renewal Licensing applications, Licensing request changes and to access the Department's new attendance system, KinderConnect.

#### Renewal applications

- must be submitted prior to the first day of the month in which the current license expires and
- can be started up to 90 prior to the expiration date.

The Department is offering multiple [EdLink trainings](#) where providers will be given instructions for accessing and navigating the system. For the month of May, training is scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. It is highly recommended that you attend each session in the order in which they are listed. All sessions do require PRE-registration, through the links below, so please register early, and note that space is limited.

- May Mondays 12:00-1:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Accessing Edlink [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcOyhqDlrG9LjFxCt\\_RBevBnA5s2-xVt](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcOyhqDlrG9LjFxCt_RBevBnA5s2-xVt)
- May Tuesdays 12:00-1:45 p.m. or 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Completing Type I, II, and III Applications  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArfuuvrD4jG9yl8Cq-TFsqZGtjx0ZIm-wm](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArfuuvrD4jG9yl8Cq-TFsqZGtjx0ZIm-wm)  
Staff Entry [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-igqTgsGtUzNhGml3wBIYQJ0DUPqJ0I](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-igqTgsGtUzNhGml3wBIYQJ0DUPqJ0I)
- May Thursdays 12:30-1:30 p.m. or 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Basic Computer Functions and Tools for Using EdLink:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIkdu6trDgjGdMIJZU8H\\_x6z8\\_rVEvmlzC](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIkdu6trDgjGdMIJZU8H_x6z8_rVEvmlzC)  
Completing In Home and Family Home Renewal Applications:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvf-mvpjgoGNdwlyj9LhJg6l3gqINIEkTp](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvf-mvpjgoGNdwlyj9LhJg6l3gqINIEkTp)

If you have any questions regarding EdLink, please submit a ticket at [EdLink Support Ticket System](#). You can also visit our [EdLink Training](#) page to access training videos and training manuals. For detailed guidance and screenshots on how to register in EdLink and for access to other resources, please visit the Department's [EdLink Support](#) page.

### **REMINDER: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) 5-Year Renewal and Fingerprint Vendor Transition**

Child Care Criminal Background Check determinations began expiring in March 2023. Providers and applicants who were fingerprinted in 2018 are contacted via email to initiate the fingerprinting renewal process within 90 days of the CCCBC determination expiration date. The renewal process must be initiated by the provider. Please remind therapists, contractors, and other recurring visitors that they should renew their CCCBCs timely in order to provide continued services and notify them that there is a new fingerprinting vendor and new fingerprinting sites.

Providers should ensure rosters are up-to-date, with all current employees listed, or providers will not receive an email notification to initiate the renewal application for employees. CCCBC determinations will expire if they are not renewed in time. As a reminder, fingerprint resubmission is required for renewal applications. A hard identification card, such as a state-issued driver's license or state identification card, is required to submit fingerprints; LA Wallet or a digital driver's license is not acceptable.

Note that on Monday, May 8, 2023, fingerprinting for the CCCBC system transitioned from fingerprint vendor Gemalto to IDEMIA; fingerprinting with Gemalto/Thales concluded Thursday, May 4, 2023. If a payment was submitted to

Gemalto for fingerprinting and the applicant was not able to fingerprint by May 4, 2023, providers will be reimbursed by Gemalto/Thales no later than May 18, 2023.

The new fingerprinting vendor, IDEMIA, offers two payment options: payment at the time of service by credit card, business check, or money order made payable to IDEMIA or “No Charge Authorization Codes” (NCACs), also referred to as coupon codes. The NCAC service will allow sites to establish an account that is backed by a major credit card (currently VISA, MasterCard, Discover and AMEX). The benefit of a NCAC account is that providers are only charged once their applicants are fingerprinted.

Please view [detailed instructions](#) to create a No Charge Authorization Code account. NCAC account setup may take up to a week for processing. Completed Authorization forms should be faxed to 952-945-3326 or emailed to [LAUEPACCOUNTS@US.IDEMIA.com](mailto:LAUEPACCOUNTS@US.IDEMIA.com). Cash is **not** an acceptable payment option. Please view a list of [current fingerprinting locations](#).

Fees for fingerprinting services going forward are as follows:

- State and Federal Livescan: \$55.75 or \$60.75 depending on the site selected for appointment
- State and Federal Hard Version Fingerprint Card for former Louisiana Residents: \$55.00
- Former Louisiana Residents Livescan: Same as above with additional \$39.99 convenience fee

For questions, please contact a CCCBC Analyst at (225) 342-2716 or email [ideccbcprocessing@la.gov](mailto:ideccbcprocessing@la.gov).

#### **REMINDER: Business Supports for Early Childhood Providers**

The LDOE is continuing to assist Type I, II, and III centers and CCAP-certified Family Child Care providers through a wide range of business supports designed to strengthen businesses by empowering and educating early childhood administrators in business leadership. Please review this [important information](#) on how to participate, how to [sign up](#), and the eligibility requirements for these opportunities. The opportunities mentioned in this section are available until June 30, 2023.

Please contact [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov) with any questions.

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## **UPDATES FOR DIRECTORS**

### **NEW: Monthly Office Hours for New Directors**

Every month, the LDOE team holds a webinar that focuses on a topic related to early childhood quality while also helping to expand directors’ network of peers. Office hours are targeted towards new directors. Come learn about Type III requirements, connect with other directors, and stay up-to-date with upcoming events and deadlines.

This month’s topic is *“Learn the Signs, Act Early: Monitoring Child Development in Early Childhood”*. Participants will gain a better understanding of addressing supports for young children with disabilities.

<b>Webinar Date/Time:</b>	May 26, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.
<b>Webinar Link:</b>	<a href="https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92700204655">https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92700204655</a>
<b>Webinar Phone Number:</b>	1-470-381-2552
<b>Meeting ID:</b>	927 0020 4655
<b>Passcode:</b>	212827

Contact [tella.henderson@la.gov](mailto:tella.henderson@la.gov) with any questions.

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## UPDATES FOR COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

### **NEW: Weekly Webinar for Community Network Lead Agencies**

The Early Childhood team hosts Office Hours most Tuesdays at 3 p.m. for Community Network Lead Agency contacts. The purpose of these webinars is to provide updates and answer questions for Community Network Lead Agencies. Presentations from previous Community Network Lead Agency Office Hours are located in the [Community Network Lead Agency Library](#).

The upcoming schedule for weekly webinars for Community Network Lead Agencies can be found below:

- May 16: Early Childhood Updates and End of Year Close Out
- May 23: Early Childhood Updates and End of Year Close Out
- May 30: No Office Hours due to Teacher Leader Summit
- June 6: Early Childhood Updates and End of Year Close Out

Note that topics are subject to change. Please email [devon.camarota@la.gov](mailto:devon.camarota@la.gov) with questions.

### **NEW: Spring 2023 CLASS<sup>®</sup> Observation Completion**

Community Network Lead Agencies should plan to have all observations entered into the [EC Portal](#) by May 15, 2023, the deadline for the Spring Observation Period.

If you anticipate challenges with completing all required observations, please contact [robert.jones4@la.gov](mailto:robert.jones4@la.gov).

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## OTHER

### **NEW: Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council Upcoming Meeting, May 18, 2023**

The next Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting will take place on May 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in the Thomas Jefferson Room ([livestream](#)) in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. An overview of the ECCE Advisory Council meeting materials are available online in the [Policy and Guidance Library](#).

For additional information, please email [Claudette.Jones@la.gov](mailto:Claudette.Jones@la.gov).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for special assistance at this meeting please contact [Claudette.Jones@la.gov](mailto:Claudette.Jones@la.gov) at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.

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## IN THE NEWS

[Louisiana Announces Finalists for Second Annual Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year](#)

(Louisianabelieves.com)

[Entergy Advocates for Early Child Care and Education at the Louisiana State Capitol](#) (entergynewsroom.com)

[Ready Louisiana Calls on Legislature to Save Seats, Ramp up Early Education Funding](#) (The Bogalusa Daily News)

[Louisiana House Committee Removes \\$52 million for Childcare Assistance on Early Ed Day](#) (The Daily Advertiser)

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## CONTACT US



- For questions regarding licensing or child health and safety, please contact [LDElicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDElicensing@la.gov).
- For questions regarding community network lead agencies, please contact [leadagencysupport@la.gov](mailto:leadagencysupport@la.gov).
- For all questions regarding child care criminal background check processing, please contact [LDEccbcprocessing@la.gov](mailto:LDEccbcprocessing@la.gov).
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