



# EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

May 13, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, the nation celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week and Provider Appreciation Day. After everything Louisiana educators have endured this year, I think an argument should be made for National Teacher and Provider Appreciation **Year**.

Our teachers and providers have done hero's work serving children and families throughout the pandemic. There was no blueprint for what schools or centers should look like, but our teachers and providers showed up, adapted, and found a way to be there for children. I do not think it is a stretch to say that Louisiana educators are writing history with their actions during this pandemic. Studies will be conducted on how every state's education system responded to COVID-19 and recovered from its academic and emotional impact on children. I have seen amazing work in our classrooms and learned from the experiences of transformational educators, and I'm proud to help write our story alongside Louisiana's teachers.

Take time to let the educators in your life know they matter: whether you show it through words of encouragement, a hand-written note, or a lounge full of sweets, let's show our teachers they are valued professionals who deserve our appreciation every day of the year.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

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## Upcoming Deadlines

- May 14: [LA 4 Program Information Survey](#) due
- May 21: Deadline to complete the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding Planning [Survey](#)

- May 31: Teaching Strategies GOLD® checkpoint
- June 12: [2021-2022 Teacher Leader Advisors application](#) due

### Upcoming Events

- May 19: [Louisiana Child Care Development Fund \(CCDF\) State Plan Public Hearing](#)
- May 19: [Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting](#)
- May 19: CCAP Family Engagement Forum - Assumption Parish Community Center
- May 19: [TIKES Mental Health Wellness Wednesdays](#) - Journaling for Mindfulness
- May 26: [TIKES Mental Health Wellness Wednesdays](#) - Progressive Muscle Relaxation
- May 25–27: 2021 Teacher Leader Summit
- May 28: [Monthly Office Hours for New Directors](#)
- June 1–11: 2021 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series
- June 3: [Early Childhood Provider Updates Webinar](#)

### More Important Dates

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

## Monthly Mental Health

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you." - Anne Lamott

## Updates for COVID-19

### **NEW: ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding Planning Survey - Submit by May 21**

Through the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, Louisiana will receive nearly \$297 million in funds for CCDBG-supported projects and approximately \$475 million for child care stabilization. These funds will total more than \$770 million of further support for Louisiana child care providers and families and will be used to support child care stabilization, expanding access to child care, improving classroom quality, and providing further family support and engagement.

To assist the state in prioritizing this recovery spending, the Department is [surveying](#) the early childhood field to gather feedback regarding the prioritization of proposed eligible funding categories. Please share the survey with program teachers and leaders, families, and other community stakeholders.

Early childhood stakeholders are asked to complete the [survey](#) by Friday, May 21, 2021.

Please contact [karen.powell@la.gov](mailto:karen.powell@la.gov) with questions.

### **NEW: Upcoming Early Childhood Provider Updates Webinar (June)**

The Department will be 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 and Time:** June 3 at 1 p.m.

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

**Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799

**Meeting ID:** 935 9774 5872

**Passcode:** 641464

**NEW: Recording for Early Childhood Provider Updates Webinar (May)**

On May 6, the Department hosted a webinar for early childhood providers which included important updates relating to COVID-19 and reminders for all provider types. [Presentation slides](#) and a [recording](#) of this webinar are available on the [COVID-19 Landing Page](#) on the Louisiana Believes website.

**NEW: Free Virtual Teletherapy Services for Birth - 12th Grade Educators & Support Staff**

The Department has partnered with Ochsner Health to launch a virtual therapy program to provide access to free mental health visits for Louisiana’s educators and support staff. The Department has committed one million dollars to this project to ensure that we can take care of those that are taking care of our children. This work is in addition to our current partnership with TIKES to provide mental health consultation services. Through this service, educators and support staff will have access to four completely free and completely confidential counseling sessions with licensed mental health professionals.

Educators and support staff interested in participating should follow these steps:

1. Enroll in Ochsner Anywhere Care easily with the [online form](#).
2. Schedule an appointment through the website or download the Ochsner Anywhere Care app from the Google or Apple app store to start from a cell phone.
3. Enter Service Key “LDOE” when prompted. Use the coupon code “TEACH” when prompted.
4. Review available providers and appointment times and choose the most convenient option. Appointments are available M-F through 8 p.m., with additional appointments available on Saturday.

Please review this [flyer](#) and [FAQ](#) for more information. Please contact [studentwellbeing@la.gov](mailto:studentwellbeing@la.gov) with questions.

**NEW: 3Ts Factsheets on Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Sites/Schools During and After Extended Closures**

The Department, in partnership with CDC Healthy Schools, is promoting the publication of two fact sheets from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

1. [Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities During and After Extended Closures](#)
2. [Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Schools During and After Extended Closures](#)

These fact sheets are part of the [EPA 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities \(3Ts\) Toolkit](#); they provide guidance on maintaining drinking water quality during extended closures as well as recommend start-up procedures when reopening, to ensure drinking water is safe for consumption. The child care fact sheet is intended for facilities specializing in early care and education programs, including center-based and family child care homes, pre-Kindergarten programs, and Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Additional considerations are included for child care facilities that are non-community water systems (NCWSs) and child care facilities served by a private well. The school fact sheet includes information for schools that are served by or are public water systems (PWSs).

Please contact [stephen.guccione@la.gov](mailto:stephen.guccione@la.gov) with questions.

**NEW: Early Childhood Graduation Ceremonies**

Communities should review maximum capacity guidance from [opensafely.la.gov](https://opensafely.la.gov) to learn more about direction for indoor/outdoor ceremonies. Guidance for graduation ceremonies requires they be ticketed entry or reservations. Six feet of separation from other individuals not within the same household is recommended, and measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced. Individuals at a higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19 (the elderly, immunocompromised, etc.) should strictly adhere to all CDC guidelines and are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible.

For more information, please email [pheriche.perkins@la.gov](mailto:pheriche.perkins@la.gov).

## Updates for Teaching and Learning

### **NEW: A New GOLD® Standard**

Teaching Strategies is working on exciting enhancements to GOLD® making it a better formative assessment experience! This will include new streamlined workflows, mobile optimization, and fewer clicks. Please take a few minutes to watch each of these [Quick Hit videos](#) that highlight the benefits of the elevated GOLD® experience.

- [Add Documentation](#)
- [View Documentation](#)
- [At-A-Glance](#)

You can also check out the latest GOLD® Roadmap Recap video by logging into [MyTeachingStrategies®](#) and selecting the "GOLD® Roadmap Videos" icon in the bottom left corner of your dashboard.

For more information, please email [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov).

### **NEW: 2021-2022 Teacher Leader Advisors**

The Department is now accepting applications for [2021-2022 Teacher Leader Advisors](#). Teacher Leader Advisors work closely with Department staff throughout the year to make sure school systems and early childhood networks across the state have access to high-quality instructional materials. All interested birth through grade 12 Louisiana educators should complete the application by 5 p.m. June 12.

Please contact [LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov) or [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov) with questions.

### **NEW: Louisiana Farm to ECE**

Louisiana Farm to ECE Working Group is conducting a [survey](#) to assess the current state of Farm to ECE in the state. The survey collects data on ECE activities such as nutrition education, gardening, and local food procurement to enhance the health and well-being of young children and their families through Farm to ECE initiatives. All Louisiana early childhood education sites are invited to participate and will be sent a read-aloud book related to food and gardening for participation (one per site).

Please contact Megan Knapp, [mknapp3@tulane.edu](mailto:mknapp3@tulane.edu), with any questions. If you are interested in joining the statewide collaborative, please contact [Brynn@nolafoodpolicy.org](mailto:Brynn@nolafoodpolicy.org).

### **Reminder: Applying for the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate**

The [Initial Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate \(ECAC\) application](#) packet has been updated. Effective May 1, 2021, the new application packet must be used to apply for the Initial ECAC. Older versions of the

application submitted to the certification office will be closed without processing and an e-mail notification will be sent. Also effective May 1, 2021, a transcript from a BESE-approved CDA training program must be included with an initial ECAC application when qualifying with a CDA. Required supporting documents will be a copy of the CDA issued by the Council for Professional Recognition in Infant/Toddler or Preschool, a transcript reflecting completion of a BESE-approved CDA training program, and a copy of a high school diploma or equivalent.

If training began and at least 36 hours were completed prior to July 1, 2018, a transcript verifying the courses completed prior to July 1, 2018, and the Qualifying Training for CDA Addendum (found in the *CDA Competency Standards*) may be submitted in lieu of the transcript from a BESE-approved program. A copy of the CDA issued by the Council for Professional Recognition in Infant/Toddler or Preschool and a copy of a high school diploma or equivalent are still required.

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

#### **Reminder: Teacher Leader Summit (In-person) Session Scheduling**

The 2021 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 25-27 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Both the Department and the Convention Center are taking measures to promote the health and safety of all participants throughout the week.

New this year, educators have the opportunity to download graphics to share across their social media platforms to celebrate attending the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. The graphics can be found in the “*I’m Going Passes*” section of the [Summit Materials page](#). Be sure to use the #LATeacherLeaders in social media posts.

General Summit information can be found in the [overview document](#) posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

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

#### **Reminder: Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Registration**

To maximize the [delivery of content](#) and educator development, [The Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series](#) will take place from June 1-11, and sessions will be accessed remotely. The format will be similar to the Virtual Series offered during Spring 2020.

There will be a maximum overall registration limitation of 8,000, for which the Department is not allocating seats. [Registration](#) for the Virtual Series will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

#### **Reminder: TIKES Mental Health Consultation**

Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers in need of support during the COVID-19 crisis. Type I, II, & III child care center staff, parents, respite caregivers, and others caring for young children can request a consultation by completing a [request form](#).

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

## Updates for Funding and Enrollment

### **NEW: Child Care Assistance Payments and Attendance Tracking**

While CCAP has extended payments based on enrollment until December 31, providers are still required to use either the Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) device or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to track attendance.

Failure to properly track child care attendance may jeopardize provider payments based on enrollment. As future grants become available, providers failing to use TOTS or IVR will not be considered for the grants.

Any questions can be directed to [Jackie.Droddy2@la.gov](mailto:Jackie.Droddy2@la.gov) or [LDECCAP@la.gov](mailto:LDECCAP@la.gov).

### **NEW: LA 4 Program Information Survey**

In preparation for the upcoming school year, all LA 4 school systems and charters are required to submit the [2021-2022 LA 4 Program Information survey](#). This survey requests the information for your LA 4 Coordinators and contacts at the district or LEA level as well as provides the site names for all sites housing LA 4 classrooms within your district. The survey also requests information regarding your return-to-school plan for pre-K, curriculum, and funding sources. The survey must be completed by Friday, May 14.

Any questions regarding LA 4 can be directed to [pheriche.perkins@la.gov](mailto:pheriche.perkins@la.gov).

### **NEW: Pre-K Program Payment Update: LA 4/NSECD**

During the second semester, LA 4 and NSECD payments have continued based on enrollment rather than attendance.

- All LA 4 State General Funds payments through February have been issued as of March 25.
- TANF payments for February were issued on April 15. March TANF payments are pending with DCFS.
- March NSECD payments were issued on April 26.

At this time it is anticipated that payment based on attendance will resume for the 2021-2022 school year.

Any questions regarding LA 4 or NSECD can be directed to [pheriche.perkins@la.gov](mailto:pheriche.perkins@la.gov).

### **Reminder: 2020 Market Rate Survey**

The [2020 Market Rate Survey](#) is completed and posted on the Louisiana Believes website. This survey was conducted to identify both the typical rates charged by child providers across the state as well as to better understand the cost to those providers of providing quality child care. Thank you to all who participated.

Questions can be directed to [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

### **Reminder: Additional Grant Opportunities**

The Department anticipates making two additional grant opportunities available to Type III centers. More information will be provided this spring regarding the grant amounts and the grant application deadline.

- Early Childhood Teacher Stipend Grant: Type III centers will be eligible to apply for a grant to provide teacher stipends to supplement teacher pay during the pandemic.
- Accountability Participation Grant: Type III centers that participate in CLASS® observations this year (local and Picard) will be eligible to apply for a grant to offset additional costs and administrative burdens of participating in the accountability system this year.

Questions can be directed to [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

#### **Reminder: Underutilized Authorizations**

Effective June 1, CCAP will conduct an underutilization review of children who have not attended child care for the months of March, April, and May 2021. The Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) attendance for March, April, and May will be reviewed as a part of this process. If CCAP children are not attending, the Department will contact families to assess the need for continued child care services. If families are not reached during this period, their CCAP authorizations will be discontinued June 30, 2021, and they will need to reapply for CCAP.

Questions can be directed to the [Provider Ticket System](#) or the Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635.

#### **Reminder: CCAP on the Road**

In early April, CCAP began a series of forums designed to aid families in reaching their goals and to support providers as they strengthen quality services to families. CCAP serves as a bridge connecting families to quality child care services within our communities. In the upcoming months, CCAP will hold the following forums:

- |                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • April - June       | Family Engagement Forums          |
| • July - September   | Professional Collaboration Forums |
| • October - December | Provider Forums                   |

#### **Upcoming Family Engagement Forum:**

May 19, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Assumption Parish Community Center

4910 Highway 308

Napoleonville, LA 70390

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

## **Updates for Licensed Centers, Family Child Care, and In-Home Providers**

#### **NEW: Level One Notice**

With the beginning of hurricane season, the Department would like to remind providers to be prepared if a hurricane or other disaster occurs in their area or parish.

If an emergency covers a large geographical area such as a parish or region of the state, the Department will closely monitor conditions out of concern for the safety of staff, children, and families. Should a

disaster occur and the center or location is in a parish or area that the LDOE determines as impacted by the disaster, the provider's license or certification may be suspended until post-disaster approvals are obtained and the required Reopening Request is submitted to the LDOE.

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 the provider's area.
- Ensure that LDOE has a current cell phone number and email address.
- Review and update evacuation and safety plans.
- Practice evacuation and reunification plans.
- Let families know how communications will be made if the provider is unable to reopen following a disaster.
- Review the Frequently Asked Questions below and be ready if a disaster declaration is made for the provider's parish:
  - [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\) – Before, During and After a Disaster](#)
  - [Reinstatement of a Child Care Center License Following a Disaster](#)
- Pay close attention to the messages from local officials.
- Obtain the appropriate parish's [Emergency Preparedness Contact](#) phone number.
- Review the useful links below:
  - [Get A Game Plan](#)
  - [Emergency Louisiana](#)
- Be Safe.

Questions can be directed to [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

### **NEW: Back by Popular Demand: TIKES Mental Health Wellness Wednesdays**

In response to demand, the TIKES Mental Health Wellness Wednesdays are returning. Upcoming topics include:

- Journaling for Mindfulness - May 19
- Progressive Muscle Relaxation - May 26

Webinars will be held every Wednesday from 12:00-12:30 p.m. through June 30, 2021.

**Webinar Link:** <https://tulanehipaa.zoom.us/j/99180170548>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799

**Meeting ID:** 991 8017 0548

**Passcode:** 968036

All sessions are recorded and can be viewed on the [TIKES YouTube channel](#).

Questions can be directed to [michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov](mailto:michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov).

### **Reminder: CPR/Pediatric First Aid with Demonstration**

At least fifty percent of staff members on the premises of a center and accessible to children, or four staff members on the premises and accessible to children, whichever is less, shall have current certification in infant and child CPR, adult CPR, and/or pediatric first aid. This training can be completed online during the pandemic and must include a visual demonstration by the instructor that is observable via Skype, Zoom, or another live platform. As a reminder, First Aid/CPR certification is now available

through [Child Care Research and Referral Agencies \(CCR&Rs\)](#) to all directors, director designees, and center staff working in Type III centers and Registered Family Homes, at no cost. Please refer to your local CCR&R training calendar for course offerings. Space is limited.

Contact [michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov](mailto:michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: Behavior Management Policy**

Each center must develop, implement, and follow their written behavior management policy describing the methods of behavior guidance and management that shall be used at the center.

The Behavior Management Policy shall prohibit children from being subjected to any of the following:

- physical or corporal punishment;
- verbal abuse;
- the threat of a prohibited action;
- 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; and
- having active play time withheld for disciplinary purposes, except timeout may be used during active play time for an infraction incurred during the playtime.

Please ensure staff have received proper training and repeated training if needed.

Technical assistance through [Tulane](#) and [CCR&Rs](#) is available to all providers.

Questions can be directed to a [Licensing Consultant](#) at 225-342-9905 or [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov).

### **Reminder: TIKES Mental Health Consultation**

The Division of Licensing continues to recognize an increase in reports of inappropriate discipline. At no time should an owner, director, classroom teacher, or a parent subject a child to any of the following during child care hours of operation:

- 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; or
- 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 above are observed or if there is an allegation, a critical incident report must be completed within 24 hours or the next business day; the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) Child Welfare Division must also be notified within 24 hours or the next business day; and the parent must be

notified immediately. Depending on the severity of the inappropriate discipline, law enforcement may need to be notified.

If your child care center would like to receive additional support and training in this area, Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers, including parents; Type I, II, and III child care centers; Family Child Care and In-Home providers; respite caregivers; and others caring for young children. Requests are typically answered within hours and scheduled for the next day.

Complete the request [form](#) to request services.

#### **Reminder: Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks**

As temperatures rise outside, it is imperative that vehicles are adequately inspected for children before staff exit the vehicle.

A staff person shall physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and 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.

As with the behavior management policy, please ensure staff have received proper training and repeated training if needed.

Questions can be directed to a Licensing Consultant at 225-342-9905 or [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov).

#### **Reminder: Bulletin 137 Orientation**

The purpose of a new employee orientation is to welcome new employees, communicate important policy, and introduce the employee to their new workplace. Within seven calendar days of the first day present at the center and prior to assuming sole responsibility for any children, each staff member must receive orientation to the policies and practices of the center, that at a minimum shall include knowledge of the licensing regulations.

During the orientation process, directors should ensure staff members are familiar with the [Child Care Facility Licensing Information](#) page on the [Louisiana Believes website](#) for access to both an electronic version of Bulletin 137 and the free Bulletin 137 Licensing Regulation courses. A physical or electronic version of [Bulletin 137](#) should be available for quick reference. When meeting with either your Licensing specialist or consultant in regards to clarification on any section of the regulations, the Division of Licensing staff will ask that Bulletin 137 is referenced with all inquiries.

Questions can be directed to a [Licensing Consultant](#) at 225-342-9905 or [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov).

#### **Reminder: Early Learning Center Policies**

Policies are an essential part of day-to-day operations. Not only do policies ensure compliance for staff, they also give guidance for decision-making. According to [Bulletin 137](#) Section 1509, early learning centers must 1) establish in writing, 2) prominently post or show the parent's signature of receipt, and 3) implement the policies and minimum provisions below. Providers should review each policy and ensure all requirements are included in their center's policy.

Required Policies		
Child Abuse and Neglect Policy	Non-Discrimination Policy	Admissions Policy
Disclosure of Information Policy	Complaint Policy	Parental Access Policy
Parental Involvement Policy	Behavior Management Policy	Electronic Devices Policy
Computer Practices Policy	Programs, Movies, and Video Games Policy	Monitoring Policy

Questions can be directed to a [Licensing Consultant](#) at 225-342-9905 or [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto:ldelicensing@la.gov).

## Updates for Directors

### Reminder: Opportunity for Free or Low-Cost Health Insurance for the Child Care Workforce

According to the [2019 North Carolina Early Care and Workforce Study](#), 52% of the child care workforce employed in child care centers have no (not full or even partial) health care coverage through their jobs, and 16% of family child care providers do not have health care coverage. A number of important changes were made under the American Rescue Plan Act to help make health insurance more affordable for individuals and families purchasing health care coverage through the federal marketplace, [HealthCare.Gov](#). What can free or low cost health insurance mean for the workforce? Please visit [HealthCare.Gov](#) for more information.

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

### Reminder: Monthly Office Hours for New Directors

Every month, the LDOE team will hold 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 will be an overview of Louisiana Pathways and functions of the database system, professional development, and the availability of scholarships.

**Webinar Date and Time:** May 28 at 10 a.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99928176003>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1-346-248-7799

**Meeting ID:** 999 2817 6003

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

## Updates for Lead Agencies

### Reminder: Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood Team holds Office Hours every Tuesday for lead agency contacts. The purpose of the webinars is to provide updates and answer questions for lead agencies.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies:

- May 18 - General Updates
- May 25 - General Updates
- June 1 - General Updates

Contact [amanda.colon@la.gov](mailto:amanda.colon@la.gov) with questions.

## Other

### NEW: Family Website Survey

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, created a [Family Website Survey](#). The goal of the survey is to understand what information families would want to see through a new early childhood family website. This website will help families learn about school readiness, access health and safety resources, and increase advocacy efforts. Lead agencies and early childhood providers are encouraged to share this [survey](#) with families.

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

### NEW: Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council - Upcoming Meeting, May 19

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will take place on May 19 at 1 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. This meeting will be open to the public and [live-streamed](#) online. An [overview of the ECCE Advisory Council](#) and meeting materials are available on the [Louisiana Believes website](#).

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

*NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov) at least three business days in advance of the meeting, describing the assistance that is needed.*

### Reminder: CCDF State Plan Public Meeting Notice

The Louisiana Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan outlines how CCDF funds will be used to provide access to and improve the quality of child care in Louisiana. Each State Plan is in effect for three years. Louisiana's plan for the next three years will be submitted by June 30, 2021, and will be in effect from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2024. On May 19 the Department will hold a public hearing to receive feedback and accept public comments regarding the provision of child care services under the [proposed CCDF Plan](#). This public meeting will be held in the Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room A/B (room 1-136 A/B), 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 at 10 a.m. and will be [live-streamed](#).

Questions can be directed to [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

NOTICE: *In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact [leslie.doyle@la.gov](mailto:leslie.doyle@la.gov) at least three business days in advance of the meeting, describing the assistance that is needed.*

### **Subscribe to Our Monthly Newsletter by Completing this Form**

The Early Childhood Newsletter is released as a monthly edition! To ensure all subscribers are current, please complete this [form](#) in order to receive our next monthly edition. Please also send this [form](#) to stakeholders who can register as new subscribers.

## **Early Childhood in the News**

[BESE Awards \\$30 Million to Ready Start Networks to Kickstart LA B to 3 and Expand Access to High-quality Care and Education](#)

(Bossier Press - Tribune)

[Letter: COVID-19 Increases Need for Early Care and Education Funding in Louisiana](#)

(Shreveport Times)

[Louisiana State Senate to Debate Whether to Mandate Kindergarten](#)

(WBRZ/Associated Press)



## **Contact**

For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact [LDOECOVID19@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19@la.gov).

For questions regarding licensing or child health and safety, please contact [LDElicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDElicensing@la.gov).

For questions regarding 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).

For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).