

July 30, 2020



News for Early Childhood Educators

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new resources and tools to [support schools and child care programs reopening](#). Their updated guidance affirms the work we're doing in Louisiana. The CDC recommendations largely align with our Strong Start standards and best practices, as well as the reopening guidelines for [schools](#) and [child care](#). This speaks to the collaborative process used to develop our guidelines and the invaluable relationships we've developed with Louisiana's top medical experts.

The CDC recognizes the significant role schools and child care play beyond academic achievement. The updated guidance details the place these institutions hold in the day-to-day operations of a community and in supporting the whole child. Just as we have emphasized the importance of local decision making, the CDC encourages officials to make decisions about reopening based on available data and the levels of community transmission.

While the CDC guidance reports that children are at a lower risk for contracting COVID-19 than adults (adults make up 95 percent of cases), it also says schools and centers should expect positive cases among children and staff. Positive cases can occur even if you do everything right. What matters most is how you prepare now to respond to that situation.

There are a number of other areas where the CDC reinforces our Strong Start guidance. Some of these include social distancing, face coverings, hand washing, static groups, sanitizing frequently touched surfaces and collaborating with local health officials. The CDC also emphasizes regularly communicating, educating and reinforcing your plans with stakeholders. It's not enough to have a plan. You must ensure your stakeholders (most importantly families and employees) understand what's happening and are updated on a consistent basis.

Our Strong Start guidance, like the recent CDC resources, is based on the best available knowledge of the situation as it stands today. As the health crisis changes, the same may be required of our reopening plans. Thank you for continuing to prepare for an unprecedented academic year.

To assist early childhood providers in planning for this upcoming academic year, the Department will be hosting a webinar in partnership with outside state agencies on August 7. Representatives from the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal and Louisiana Department of Health's Office of Public Health and Sanitation Services will be available to answer questions from providers. If you have specific questions or concerns that you would like answered during this webinar, please complete this [form](#) by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 3. We will attempt to address these items during next week's webinar.

Webinar Date and Time: Friday, August 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159>

Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 441 892 1159

No matter what things look like next month, we will all be ready to help our children move forward.

Upcoming Deadlines

- The Mainstreet Recovery Grant application became live on July 28, applications are on a first come, first served basis

Upcoming Events

- [Virtual Town Hall Series for Schools \(Tips for Teachers, Nurses and Coaches\): August 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Virtual Town Hall Series for Schools \(Tips for School Support Staff\): August 18 at 1 p.m.](#)

More Important Dates

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

Please click the image below to read the **Early Childhood Newsletter** in your browser.

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Dear Colleagues,

The Louisiana Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment of Dr. Cade Brumley to be the next State Superintendent of Education. The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BSE) appointed Dr. Brumley to lead Louisiana's school system as of May 20, 2020, meeting. His official start date will be June 8, 2020.

BSE President Sandy Holloway issued the following statement following this confirmation:

"I applaud the Senate for their confirmation of Dr. Brumley today. These are unprecedented times; strong leadership will be important to the success of our short- and long-term work to address unfinished learning due to COVID-19 closures and to ensure that students and schools are positioned for a strong start next year. This will be a huge responsibility, but we have the right leader for it. Not only does Dr. Brumley have extensive K-12 experience and a proven track record of success, but he possesses perhaps the number one quality which BSE sought: the ability to effectively and harmoniously bring all parties to the table to move education forward. Louisiana needs a visionary leader, but more importantly we need an empathetic, cooperative, adaptable and trusting leader."

Please join us in welcoming him and in supporting his transition.

Additionally, Gov. Edwards announced Monday that following continued improvement in Louisiana's COVID-19 outlook and a significant increase in testing capacity and contact tracing, Louisiana will begin to open up schools of the White House's reopening strategy on June 5, in order to ensure the health and safety of children and staff, centers must continue to follow the required guidelines detailed in the [Office of Public Health's Reopening for Schools](#). Sites will be able to increase group size while maintaining current ratios. The Department is continuing to support our child care providers as they become operational again by funding a second round of LCAF Relief Grants. Approximately \$9M in grant funds are expected to be released to eligible public-funded providers who submitted an application by the second week of June.

I am also pleased to note the [Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) with nearly 6,000 educators in attendance. The next will convene through June 5.

[Download the newsletter for Early Childhood Educators](#)

COVID-19 Updates

Reminder: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Availability for School Reopening

As school systems plan for operations during the 2020-2021 school year, the Department is working in concert with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (GOHSEP) to address immediate personal protective equipment (PPE) needs.

GOHSEP will provide:

- at least one cloth (reusable/washable) mask for each student and faculty member;
- at least 2,000 disposable masks (for visitors and/or students/faculty that may forget their mask); and
- at least 3 thermometers per each school.

These provision standards are recommended as some individuals/parents will provide their own masks and others may not. However, this should address the PPE needs for public school systems and non-public schools for school reopening.

School systems should make PPE requests directly to the Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) directors in respective school systems by following the steps outlined below:

1. School systems should compile data that depicts number of students, number of faculty members and number of schools.

2. Each school system will make requests to the respective parish OHSEP based on data specified in number one (above bullet).
3. Requests for this should go to the [local parish OHSEP contact](#).
4. Delivery will be made to the school systems' warehouse for school distribution as systems already have a mechanism to disseminate supplies.

If there are additional PPE needs, please contact OHSEP directors to discuss the circumstances to ensure everyone can work together to address additional needs as circumstances require.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Main Street Recovery Grant Program

[Act 311](#) of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session enacted several COVID-19 relief funds including the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Fund that awards grants to eligible Louisiana small businesses to assist in their recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19. The Main Street Recovery Grant Program will be administered by the [Louisiana Department of Treasury and State Treasurer John Schroder](#). Act 311 set aside \$275 million for small business grants allowing businesses to apply for up to \$15,000 to cover eligible expenses. In the first sixty days of the program, \$40 million of the fund will be awarded to businesses owned by women, minorities and veterans.

The LDOE conducted a webinar regarding the Main Street Recovery Grant Program in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Treasury on July 27. A [recording of this webinar](#) is available on the Louisiana Believes YouTube channel as well as the LDOE COVID-19 landing page.

The [application](#) became live on July 28 at 9 a.m. To learn more, go to <https://www.louisianamainstreet.com/>. Questions can be directed to info@louisianamainstreet.com or found in the [Main Street Recovery FAQ](#).

Updates for Teaching and Learning

Strong Start 2020 Instructional Material and PD Vendor Guide Updates

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Instructional Materials Guidance](#) and [Professional Development Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with publishers and vendors to update each guide as they build and refine their supports. Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.



TeachingStrategies GOLD® updates

Last week, TeachingStrategies released new GOLD® features and functionality available in MyTeachingStrategies®, including

- the [Digital Content Library](#) to The Creative Curriculum® Cloud subscribers;
- the ability for teachers to [add Mighty Minutes® directly to weekly plans](#);
- family activities associated with [Intentional Teaching Experiences](#) and [Mighty Minutes®](#) that can be printed or shared digitally with families to extend learning at home and/or to facilitate distance learning; and
- [two-way communication between teachers and family members](#).

Users can check their MyTeachingStrategies® dashboard for regular updates to stay informed of recent updates and additional upcoming releases.

Any questions regarding GOLD® can be directed to meredith.eckard@la.gov

Pre-K-3 Assessment Guidance

The Department recently released a suite of guidance documents to help school systems (and early learning centers) plan assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.

- [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) outlines requirements and resources for assessing publicly funded children (ages 3-5) using TeachingStrategies GOLD® in various learning environments; including traditional, virtual, and hybrid.
- [2020-2021 TeachingStrategies GOLD® Guidance](#) has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP, and KEA.

Updates for Funding and Enrollment

LA 4 and NSECD

Any school systems or providers who will have a delayed school start date (after August 31) should notify [Lindsey Bradford](#) of the revised start date.

LDOE conducted a webinar on LA4 enrollment and attendance on 7/24, the links and slides can be found below

- [Recorded Webinar Part 1](#)
- [Recorded Webinar Part 2](#)
- [Slide Presentation](#)

Any questions regarding LA 4 or NSECD can be directed to lindsey.bradford@la.gov.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

LaCAP Relief Grant Round 3

LaCAP Grant 3 applications have been received and are being processed for distribution beginning August 1.

Provider Payments

CCAP will extend child care payments to providers based on enrollment through September 30. Providers will continue to be paid by enrollment and not by attendance per their center's capacity.

Client Redeterminations

Presently, CCAP client redeterminations are extended as follows:

- June and March redeterminations are extended to September 2020.
- July and April redeterminations are extended to October 2020.
- August and May redeterminations are extended to November 2020.

For questions regarding CCAP, please email the Provider Ticket System at <https://provider.supportsystem.com>

Updates for Licensed Centers



Electronic Device Policy Waiver

With more schools offering virtual instruction as an option this school year due to COVID-19, a [waiver](#) of Bulletin 137 §1509.A.9.b. Electronic Devices Policy is being offered to early learning centers. This waiver pertains to children ages four and older for whom care is being provided at a licensed early learning center simultaneously while the children are receiving virtual instruction or completing school work from the school in which they are enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. This waiver applies only to time spent receiving virtual instruction or completing school work that requires access to an electronic device.

The following information must be available on site:

- First and Last name of child enrolled in Virtual School
- Name of Accredited School
- Supporting documentation of enrollment in Virtual Learning

This waiver will remain in effect until May 31, 2021, unless terminated sooner by the Superintendent.

If you have any additional questions, contact your [Licensing Consultant](#) at (225) 342-9905.

Dangers of Hand Sanitizer with Methanol

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning about hand sanitizer

products that are labeled as containing ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol (i.e., methyl alcohol or wood alcohol) is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested. The hand sanitizer the LDOE made available through CCR&Rs and lead agencies is not part of the FDA recall and should be considered perfectly safe.

Please see the full [FDA news update on hand sanitizers with methanol](#) for more information.

If you have any questions, contact your [Licensing Consultant](#).

Field Trips

In an ongoing effort to decrease the spread of COVID-19, field trips continue to be prohibited until further notice. If you have questions about transportation guidelines, please see Appendix 3 of the [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#).

For COVID-19 updates, continue to monitor <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19>.

If you have any questions, contact your Licensing Consultant at (225) 342-9905.

Updates for Child Care Criminal Background Checks

The Department will continue to waive the LDOE fees for the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) and continue to cover the fee charged by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) until September 30. The remaining fingerprint fees must be paid prior to the applicant submitting fingerprints. The latest version for [Fingerprint Locations for CCCBCs](#) is dated July 7.

Questions regarding Child Care Criminal Background Checks can be directed to valerie.black@la.gov

Updates for Directors

Reminder: Supplies & PPE

For centers that are still searching for a vendor to help acquire cleaning supplies and PPE, please note all early learning centers are eligible for steep discounts on everyday items and big purchases, if they [complete authorization to use state contracts](#).

Promoting Hygiene

[The Health and Safety Resource Guide](#) has been updated to include new videos including hand hygiene, masks, and social distancing.

Questions about director support can be directed to emmy.odwyer@la.gov

Updates for Lead Agencies



New: ASQ® Participation Follow-Up Survey

Participants who attended the ASQ® Introduction Seminar last week are encouraged to complete the follow up [survey](#) linked here. Information from the survey will be used to inform guidance for a train-the-trainer opportunity.

Office Hours: Every Tuesday is Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood Team provides a Weekly Webinar for lead agency contacts. The purpose is to provide time each week to collaborate with other colleagues, learn new ideas, review Department updates, and answer questions for lead agencies. These

sessions are held on most Tuesdays at 3 p.m. and usually last a half-hour. Contact amanda.colon@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies

- August 4 at 3 p.m. - Extended office hours for an optional collaborative breakout session
- August 11 at 3 p.m. - Back to School webinar

Recent Lead Agency Resources

- [July 21 Office Hours webinar slides](#)
- [July 28 Office Hours webinar slides](#)
- Onboarding New Lead Agencies [Presentation](#) for both sessions
- Onboarding Session 1: Community network administrative functions, CLASS® observations, and accountability, [Session 1 recorded link](#)
- Onboarding Session 2: Coordinated enrollment and state funding, [Session 2 recorded link](#)

Other

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

The Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council met on July 22. [Presentation slides](#) and a [recording](#) of this meeting can be found online. For additional information regarding the [ECCE Advisory Council](#), please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

2020 Virtual Education Manager Institute: Available On-Demand

The [2020 Education Manager Institute](#) is now available on-demand. Viewers can access professional development targeted to their role as early childhood education leaders. The Institute sessions were designed to support Head Start education managers and leaders as they work with staff members, children, and families from a distance, but many topics and resources may also be useful to education leaders in child care settings.

Sessions include considerations for summer programming and supporting school readiness for all children. The On-Demand Institute is a resource-rich experience with many engaging opportunities to explore content and resources from the Office of Head Start (OHS) National Centers.

This was a live virtual event. To access this training, participants can [register](#) and watch the sessions and view the resources on-demand until September 2020.

Send questions or comments about this opportunity to the National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning at ecdctl@ecetta.info or (844)-261-3752 (toll-free).

Early Childhood in the News

[Louisiana Awarded \\$17 Million Grant From US Department of Education To Better Serve Students During Pandemic](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[Letters: Now More Than Ever, Support for Early Childhood Education is Vital](#) (The Advocate)

[Louisiana Allocates \\$31 Million in Federal Relief Funding To Ensure Strong Start For Children Birth Through Grade 1](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[TRIO Programs assists student-parents with childcare costs through CCAMPIS](#) (News Star)

[Survey Provides 'Moving Picture' of Pandemic's Turbulent Impact on Families With Young Children](#) (The 74)

[When Grandma Becomes an Early Childhood Educator](#) (New America)

Contact Us

- For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact LDOECOV19@la.gov
- For questions regarding licensing, or child health and safety, please contact ldelicensing@la.gov.
- For questions regarding lead agencies, please contact leadagencysupport@la.gov.
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact



earlychildhood@la.gov

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