

October 15, 2020



News for Early Childhood Educators

Dear Colleagues,

The stress of the last few months can take its toll, and the Department is committed to reducing the trauma-related stress on communities with any available resources. The state has increased Mental Health Consultation (MHC) services for early learning centers and family child care, including families of young children, through its contract with Tulane. [Remote TeleMHC](#) is available to support individuals in Louisiana caring for young children, ages 0-6 years, by providing supportive services from early childhood mental health experts in areas such as:

- Child behavior & social emotional issues
- Supporting children during the COVID-19 crisis
- Teacher, director & parent support
- Classroom issues
- General stress and coping
- Other concerns related to caring for young children

Child care providers can lead the way to recovery by taking care of their own stress and trauma, guiding teachers and families to this resource, and leading discussions on how to identify stress and teach social-emotional learning.

This month's [Leaders Lagniappe](#) highlights the work of Drs. Angela Keyes and Allison Trigg to support the positive development of our state's youngest through the [TIKES program](#). Please take a moment to learn about this resource that is available to all centers.

Our monthly newsletter will also feature a monthly tip on trauma-informed care, as we focus on a Strong Start for the great state of Louisiana.**

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Upcoming Deadlines

- October 30- [Market Rate Survey](#) closes

Upcoming Events

- October 26-ECCE Commission Meeting

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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News for Early Childhood Educators
Special Edition

September 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Our state, like much of the nation, is navigating some difficult times. Between the global pandemic and recent weather events, families, businesses, and communities are really struggling. Data gathered from subscriber surveys and our state's verified quality rating system provide state agencies and educators with useful information to drive state initiatives to support early childhood care and education in Louisiana.

Market Rate Survey: Every three years the LDOE requests that child care providers across the state complete the Market Rate Survey (MRS). The MRS helps determine the true costs of high-quality child care and provides the Department with localized data used to determine the state's child care reimbursement rates. This may remember completing this year's Market Rate Survey. However, due to COVID-19, the Department must collect new data. Therefore, the Department is releasing a new **Market Rate Survey** that will close on October 30.

Louisiana Child Care Parent Poll: In addition to surveying child care providers, the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children is working in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education and Women's United of Louisiana to conduct a survey gathering information on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting Louisiana families with children under the age of 5. This survey is for any parent, guardian, or caregiver raising children in their home. The survey will take less than 15 minutes to complete and is available in English, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Please distribute this [survey](#) to the families that you serve to help us to understand and advocate for the child care needs of families with young children across the state.

2019-2020 Performance Profiles: Additionally, I am excited to announce that the 2019-2020 Early Childhood Performance Profiles will be released on September 30. The Department is hosting a [webinar](#) to review these results on September 23 at 9 a.m.

Dr. Cade Brantley
State Superintendent of Education

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

Mental Health Tip of the Month

****Self-Care tip for providers: *New health requirements can add stress to an already difficult job. Consider providing a morning and afternoon break to early learning staff, if possible.***

Updates for Teaching and Learning

NEW: Supporting Everyone's Mental Health Webinar Series

Beginning on Monday, October 19, the Brazelton Touchpoints Center is offering a three-part webinar series on supporting providers' and families' mental health. This series offers family-facing providers strategies they can use in their work that honor everyone's experiences, build resilience, and nurture self-care.

Each webinar is 90 minutes. [Register](#) for each webinar individually or [sign up](#) for the whole series.

Webinar Schedule:

Webinar 1: Honoring Each Person's Experience to Support Mental Health

Webinar Date & Time: Monday, October 19; 12:00 p.m.

Webinar 2: Building Resilience while Social Distancing: Parental Depression and Coping

Webinar Date & Time: October 26; 12:00 p.m.

Webinar 3: Nurturing the Nurturer: Self-care for Providers & Parents

Webinar Date & Time: November 2; 12:00 p.m.

The price is \$30 a webinar or \$75 for all three. For questions, contact

touchpoints@childrens.harvard.edu



NEW: Rhyming Resources

Louisiana early childhood educators can now register for World Nursery Rhyme Week 2020 and access a suite of free resources. The initiative is open to elementary schools, kindergartens, daycare settings, parents, preschools and anyone who works within early childhood education. Early years educators in the US who have registered will be taking part with their children either in the classroom or remotely online with their students. The initiative focuses on early literacy skills and language development.

World Nursery Rhyme Week this year runs from November 16-20! Register and receive free rhyming resources to mark the occasion.

Visit www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com for more information.

NEW: Together We Can Virtual Conference

Together We Can is an annual multi-disciplinary conference that focuses on children who have experienced abuse or neglect. The children may be in foster care, residential care, kinship care or have been reunited with their birth family. Sessions will provide many educational opportunities for professionals featuring both national and local experts. The TWC conference is geared toward social workers, attorneys, judges and court staff, CASA volunteers and staff, children's advocacy centers, law enforcement, educators and child welfare stakeholders—all working to make a difference in the lives of Louisiana's abused and neglected children.

The Together We Can conference offers in-depth learning opportunities which address policy and practice concerns, and will run November 4-6.

For information on conference fees, agenda, speaker lists, and more, visit <https://www.latwc.org/index.html>.

NEW: K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours

The Department will be hosting monthly CLASS® office hours for school systems to discuss topics around the [K-2 CLASS initiative](#). This will be a time for updates and questions related to the K-2 CLASS® Pilot for the 2020-2021 school year. Any school systems that are participating in the pilot are invited to attend.

If interested in joining the pilot, please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov.

Webinar Date & Time: October 20 at 12 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://zoom.us/j/2031661453?>

Meeting ID: 203 166 1453

NEW: Special Education Resources

The Department has updated the Louisiana Believes website to include the [Young Children with Disabilities landing page](#), which can be located under the Early Childhood Tab.

The following guidance documents have been updated and can now be located on the new landing page:

- [Developmental Screening Guidebook](#)
- [Early Childhood Transition Process](#)

Questions can be directed to brittany.braun@la.gov.

NEW: 'Calming the Storm- A Trauma-Informed Approach to Preparing for Disasters and Their Aftermath'- Webinar

Join TeachingStrategies for a [free, interactive webinar](#) to learn about the effect of trauma on brain development and strategies any teacher can implement in their classroom to become trauma-informed. Through activities, role play, video, and demonstrations, participants will learn how to identify signs and symptoms of student behavioral health concerns; explain how trauma affects learning and what to do about it; and appropriately respond to children and adults experiencing mental health challenges.

Participants will also [be trained](#) in effectively delivering Family and Teacher workshops at their site and provided with additional support resources.

Reminder: Teachstone Offers Recertification Extension Program

Teachstone recently announced an opportunity for Certified CLASS® Observers, Affiliate CLASS® Trainers, and CLASS® Group Coaching (MMCI) Coaches with expired certifications to seek recertification. Teachstone has developed a process to make it easier to rejoin these certification programs without the burden of retaking the original training.

All observers, affiliate trainers, and CGC/MMCI coaches whose certifications expired or will expire between January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 and who are unable to complete testing within the standard testing window are eligible for recertification. Request a recertification extension by filling out [this form](#). The cost of recertification remains the same.

Please note, CLASS® Observers, Coaches, and Trainers must maintain active certifications in order to keep collecting CLASS data and offering CLASS® training and coaching.

Questions regarding CLASS® can be directed to meredith.eckard@la.gov.

Reminder: Frog Street Pre-K at Home Online Learning Program

Frog Street is now expanding their distance learning solutions and launching a new *Frog Street Pre-K at Home* online subscription-based learning program! This interactive, hands-on program is perfect for home use to help family members be their child's best teacher. Current users of the Frog Street for Young Learners program will be transitioned to the new subscription-based program, beginning September 4.

Frog Street Pre-K at Home offers:

- 9 Pre-K thematic monthly units with daily family activities aligned with the Frog Street Pre-K Curriculum;
- 20 daily activities a week for 36 weeks using easy-to-find household items and digital resources in the program;
- Over 250 digital eBooks and eStories available in the Digital Library for use on any device (laptop, tablet, smartphone);
- Ready-to-use tips and ideas to help families develop interactive and purposeful reading strategies.

Learn more about [Frog Street Pre-K at Home](#).

Updates for Funding and Enrollment

LaCAP Relief Grants Round 4

The Department is announcing the 4th and final round of the Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grants that will award \$11 million in federal funding to child care providers. The [Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider \(LaCAP\) Relief Grant](#) is designed to help child care providers offset the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This fourth and final round of LaCAP grants will support Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) providers for costs incurred from the pandemic, including balances from the inability of some CCAP parents to pay out-of-pocket costs.

Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who are operational and serving children by November 1 are eligible to receive this grant. If you are temporarily not operational due to Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Delta, but plan on reopening by December 31, 2020, please complete the application. We will work with you on a one-on-one basis. Deadline to [apply](#) is **Thursday, October 22**.

Market Rate Survey (MRS)

The Department requests that all child care providers across the state complete the Market Rate Survey (MRS). Providers may have completed this year's Market Rate Survey. However, due to COVID-19, the Department must collect new data. The [Market Rate Survey](#) that will close on October 30.

For questions, please contact robyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com or valerie.black@la.gov.

Pre-K Program Payment Update

Payments based on allocations have been extended. For the period August through December 31, 2020, LA 4 school systems and NSECD providers will receive payments equal to their allocation as approved in Spring 2020.

All program providers will continue to report actual enrollment and attendance, as in the past during this period; however, payments will be based on the original allocation amount

Beginning in January, a shift will be made so that program providers will be paid based on *actual enrollment* (including students enrolled in virtual pre-K).

For questions regarding LA 4 or NSECD payments, please contact lindsey.bradford@la.gov.

CCAP Provider Payments

CCAP has extended child care payments to providers based on enrollment through December 31. After December 31, CCAP will begin child care payments to providers based on attendance through January 2021. Additionally, due to many hybrid school schedules, school age children who are normally part-time will remain full-time through January 2021.

CCAP Attendance

While CCAP has extended payments based on enrollment until December 31, providers are still required to use either the Point of Service (POS) device or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to track attendance. Failure to do so may jeopardize provider payments based on enrollment.

Client Redeterminations

Presently, CCAP client redeterminations are extended as follows:

- 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, Family Child Care & In-Home Providers



Non-Renewal of License for Licensed Child Care Centers

Currently, the CAFÉ webpage is not required to submit renewal applications. A jot form renewal application has been sent to each center that is required to renew their application. Each center should ensure the jot form renewal application is completed and submitted. Timely submission of the jot form is imperative. Renewal applications not received will result in a non-renewal of the license and the provider would need to reapply for licensure.

Reopening Forms for Licensed Child Care Centers

If a center or location is situated in any of the below parishes, the center MUST complete a [Reopening Form for Licensed Centers](#) or a [Reopening Form for Family Child Care and In-Home Providers](#) and submit it to the LDOE by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23, 2020. Failure to do so may result in suspension of the center's registration/certification pending the submission of the attached Reopening Form. Any reopening forms submitted on or prior to October 9, 2020 (date of landfall of Hurricane Delta) must be resubmitted.

- Acadia
- Calcasieu
- Cameron
- Jefferson Davis
- Vermilion

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

TIKES Mental Health Consultation

Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers in need during the COVID-19 crisis. Parents, Type I, II, & III child care centers, respite care center caregivers, and others caring for young children can request a consultation. Requests are typically answered within hours and scheduled for the next day. Complete a [request form](#) to request services.: <https://medicine.tulane.edu/departments/clinical-sciences/psychiatry/research/tikes>

Free Lead Testing

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is offering FREE testing for lead in drinking water child care programs. To learn more about the drinking water lead testing program and to submit an application for testing at a particular facility, visit <http://ldh.la.gov/SchoolLeadTesting>.

Updates for Directors

New Director Webinar

Learn about Louisiana's early childhood system in this informative webinar led by Department strategy members.

Webinar Date: October 23

Webinar Time: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Zoom link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93357045626>

Sharpen your Business Operations

The Department is offering a series of business-related trainings directly for centers this fall and spring. The trainings, when combined with the [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy \(LELA\)](#), can be applied toward the [Administrator's Credential](#).

Topics include:

- Budgets Projections and Planning
- Financial Reports and Internal Controls
- Recruiting and Retaining Staff
- Marketing your program
- Saving money through State Contracts
- Human Resources and Benefits
- Best Practices in CACFP administration (**does not replace sponsor training)
- Best Practices with Regulations

Completion of an [interest form](#) by October 23 is required to be registered. Space is limited.

ECAC renewals

For ECAC renewals, please utilize the [following guidance from Certification](#) to help submit requests for renewal. Not sure when to submit?

If the ECAC expires in October:

- Submit the renewal through [Teach LA Live!](#) ASAP
Allow 4-6 weeks processing time. Applicants should receive a certificate or further feedback by November 22

If the ECAC expires in November

- Submit the renewal through [Teach LA Live!](#) ASAP
Allow 4-6 weeks processing time. Applicants should receive a certificate or further feedback by December 4.

If the ECAC expires in December:

- Submit a renewal through [Teach LA Live!](#) by no later than November 7.
Allow 4-6 weeks processing time. Applicants should receive a certificate or further feedback.

Once an application is submitted, please check the email on file regularly for replies from the LDOE. Application submissions can be verified or check for any new messages using the History option on [Teach LA Live!](#). If an application is submitted by the Director, please follow-up with them to check for updates sent to their email or Teach LA Live! history.

Once an application is processed, additional feedback is provided or the certificate issued. Case feedback and certificate information can be reviewed on [TeachLouisiana.net](#). On the right side, choose *Status of a Certification Application* or *Verify a Certificate* or *Teaching Authorization*.

Any questions regarding the processing of an application should be submitted using Ask a Question at the top of [Teach LA Live!](#).

Updates for Lead Agencies



Weekly Webinar

The Early Childhood Team hosts 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

- October 20 - General information and updates
- October 27 - General information and updates
- November 3 - General information and updates

- November 10 - General information and updates

Recent Lead Agency Resources

- [October 6 Office Hours-Supporting Children with Disabilities](#)
- [October 13 Office Hours](#)

Early Childhood Fall Collaboratives

- September 29 and 30, [“Reopened, Refocused, and Reengaged”](#)
- November TBD, Super App Launch

Budgets in eGMS due

All budgets for the following funding sources are past due in eGMS. Please complete as soon as possible.

- Ready Start Networks
- COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery
- Infant CLASS
- Get Ready

Other

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission - Upcoming Meeting, October 26

The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will take place on October 26 at 11:00 a.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. Participants can also [livestream](#) the event.

For additional information, please email 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 at least three business days in advance of the meeting describing the assistance that is needed.

Subscribe to Our Monthly Newsletter

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, or send to stakeholders who can register as new subscribers.

Early Childhood in the News

[How to Forge a Solid Parent-Teacher Relationship](#) (The New York Times)

[Louisiana Launches New Online Home For Seeds To Success Program Thanks To USDA Farm To School Grant](#) (LouisianaBelieves)

[Louisiana Department of Education Releases Guidance to Support English Learners During Modified Operations](#) (LouisianaBelieves)

[What Would Schools Be Like If They Were More Like Children’s Museums? Designers of New Pittsburgh K-6 School Are Finding Out](#) (The 74)

[Youth Apprenticeship in Early Childhood Education: Lessons and Opportunities](#) (New America)

Contact Us

- For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact LDOECOVID19@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.



