



# EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

December 8, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Please accept warm holiday wishes from our team at the Department. It is our heartfelt hope that both our team and yours will be spending this holiday with family, relaxing, reflecting, and recharging. We are – all of us – so greatly blessed to serve this sacred mission of educating the next generation. We feel gratitude for that blessing most intensely this time of year and are grateful to serve that mission alongside each of you.

## Upcoming Deadlines

- January 30: Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Award Applications due at 5 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

- December 14: [Young Children with Disabilities Community of Practice](#)
- January 11: [Early Childhood Investigations Webinar: Supporting Trauma-Informed Play to Facilitate Healing in Early Childhood Programs](#)
- January 18: [Teaching Strategies® GOLD Update Webinar](#)
- February 2: [Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar](#)
- February 24: [New Director Webinar](#)
- March 7: [Plain Talk Literacy and Learning Pre-Conference Day](#)

## More Important Dates

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

## In This Issue

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## Provider Updates

### NEW: Early Childhood Provider Update Webinars

On December 1, the Department hosted a webinar for early childhood providers. [Presentation slides](#) are available in the [Quality Providers Library](#) on the Louisiana Believes website.

The next monthly provider webinar will be held February 2, 2023. Providers can access the upcoming February provider webinar using the information below:

**Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, February 2 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

### **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: Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast Episode Release**

Listen to 2022 Louisiana Early Childhood Leader of the Year Rochelle Wilcox talk about what it means to value children, what makes a classroom special, and how to keep teachers motivated to go above and beyond for their children. Educators can subscribe to the [Teacher Leader Lagniappe podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

### **NEW: Early Childhood Investigations Webinar**

Play and play-based learning are important for healthy growth and development of all children and are psychologically and physically restorative for children with a history of trauma. This session, presented by child development and trauma specialist Dr. Barbara Sorrels, will focus on the benefits of play to healthy brains and bodies and will include practical strategies for creating effective play-based classrooms to help children flourish and heal.

Join this webinar to learn to:

- Identify the key components of a safe and effective learning/caring environment: predictable, home-like, safe communication and attention to the child's internal state
- Understand the importance of routine and how to effectively establish classroom procedures that support children's autonomy
- Understand the neurobiological power of play
- Identify essential types of play for trauma-responsive environments and how to introduce play to children

The [Supporting Trauma-Informed Play to Facilitate Healing in Early Childhood Programs](#) webinar will be held January 11 at 12:00 p.m.

### **NEW: Teaching Strategies® GOLD Upcoming Webinar**

The Department will host a webinar for network administrators on Wednesday, January 18:

**Webinar Topic:** GOLD® Update Webinar

**Webinar Date/Time:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023

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

**Webinar ID:** 974 0485 0210

**Passcode:** 980775

Teaching Strategies also offers several [on-demand recorded webinars](#) for early childhood teachers and leaders. Please read the Department's updated [TS GOLD® Guidance](#) and [TS GOLD® FAQ](#) documents for helpful information.

Questions or concerns can be directed to [ECAssessment@la.gov](mailto:ECAssessment@la.gov).

### **NEW: Young Children with Disabilities 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. Participants can access the YCWD Community of Practice webinar using the information below.

**Webinar Topic:** Strategies For Success

**Webinar Date/Time:** Wednesday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/6920610085?>

**Passcode:** gyiy3F

Please contact [Caitlyn.Robinson@la.gov](mailto:Caitlyn.Robinson@la.gov) with any questions or concerns.

### **REMINDER: Renew Your Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) to Continue Eligibility for School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTCs)**

Teachers and/or directors with Early Childhood Ancillary Certificates (ECACs) that will expire before December 31, 2022, should submit renewals or initial [applications](#) through [Teach LA Live!](#) immediately. Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time for each submission. Family Child Care professionals should reach out to their CCR&R for assistance in submitting the ECAC renewal application.

Once an application is submitted, please check email regularly for replies from the Department. Teachers or directors who submit can also verify application submission and check for any new messages using the "History" option on [Teach LA Live!](#).

Once an application is processed, additional feedback is provided or the certificate is issued. Case feedback is usually provided via email with instructions on how to correct the application, if needed. Certificate information can be reviewed on [TeachLouisiana.net](#). On the right side, choose "Verify a Certificate" or "Teaching Authorization."

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

### **REMINDER: Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Award Applications Live!**

All candidates for this award program have been nominated and applications have been distributed. Supporting documents to guide candidates are found in the Early Childhood section on the [Louisiana Believes Awards page](#). Applications are due Monday, January 30 at 5 p.m.

Please contact [devon.camarota@la.gov](mailto:devon.camarota@la.gov) for more information or technical assistance.

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## **UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT**

**REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Waitlist Effective October 1, 2022**

In order to maximize the benefits of CCAP for Louisiana families, providers, and communities, the Department has begun a CCAP waitlist for families that applied on or after October 1, 2022. With changes in rates & eligibility, the number of families applying and eligible for CCAP exceeds funds now available to serve families. The waitlist will ensure that Louisiana families have access to CCAP on a first-come, first-served basis and that families can receive benefits as soon as funding is available. Families will be placed on the waitlist if they submit a complete CCAP application with all documentation and are determined eligible.

Children who are experiencing homelessness, children of families participating in TANF/STEP or Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, children in foster care, and eligible children with disabilities will not be placed on the waitlist.

For more information, please see the [CCAP Waitlist Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

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

The CCAP Eligibility Team has resumed conducting monthly reviews of underutilized authorizations of children who have not attended child care within the previous month. The Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) attendance are examined as part of the underutilization review.

Authorizations must be utilized by families at least once within a 30-day period to maintain CCAP certification.

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

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

**NEW: Notification of Closure**

Providers must make notification to the Division of Licensing via email of any temporary or permanent closures.

- Notification must be made within one day of a temporary closure lasting more than five calendar days but less than 30 calendar days.
- Notification must be made within seven calendar days of a permanent closure, which is a closure of more than 30 calendar days.

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

**REMINDER: Orientation Training**

Prior to assuming sole responsibility for children, each staff member shall receive orientation.

Within seven calendar days of date of hire, each staff member shall:

- complete center-specific orientation regarding the policies and practices of the center
- complete the LDOE Orientation Key Training Module 1
- complete the DCFS online Mandated Reporter Training

Within 30 calendar days of date of hire, each staff member shall:

- complete LDOE Orientation Key Training Modules 2 and 3

Prior to assuming transportation duties, all staff members responsible for transporting children shall receive additional orientation training.

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

**REMINDER: Renewals in EdLink**

Providers must use the EdLink system to submit their renewal applications. Renewal applications must be submitted prior to the first day of the month in which the current license expires.

Providers can also visit the website for more training on EdLink:

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/edlink-training>.

For assistance with gaining access to EdLink or if your site already has access and has questions, the EdLink Support Team will be holding office hours every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Please see the information below to join:

**Webinar Link:** <https://doe.zoom.us/j/97565259173>

**Phone Number:** 1-470-381-2522

**Meeting ID:** 975 6525 9173

**REMINDER: School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)**

Parent SRTC tax forms will be mailed to Type III sites in December 2022. Director and staff member tax forms will be mailed by January 2023.

As a reminder, the requirements for the SRTC for Type III sites and Family Child Care educators is that educators must:

- enroll with Louisiana Pathways by submitting an [enrollment form](#) and [employment verification form](#)
- work in the site for at least six months of the calendar year, and
- work at least 30 hours per week at the site.

For leveling or re-leveling with the Louisiana Pathways Career ladders, new credentials and certifications should be submitted to Louisiana Pathways by no later than December 31, 2022. Providers are strongly encouraged, however, to submit documentation immediately.

For questions, please contact [demita.walker@la.gov](mailto:demita.walker@la.gov).

**REMINDER: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) 5-Year Renewal**

Five-year eligibility renewals for the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) program will begin March 2023. Providers and applicants who were fingerprinted in 2018 upon the program's launch will be contacted via email to initiate the fingerprinting renewal process.

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

**REMINDER: 2022-2023 Family Child Care Program Partner Assurances for Academic Approval**

Family Child Care sites can opt into Academic Approval by submitting the [2022-2023 Program Partner Assurances](#) to

the Department.

To learn more about the benefits and requirements of Academic Approval, please contact [FamilyChildCare@la.gov](mailto:FamilyChildCare@la.gov).

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## UPDATES FOR DIRECTORS

### **NEW: Early Childhood Child Care Management Software Initiative (CCMSi)**

The Early Childhood Child Care Management Software Initiative (CCMSi) application is now live in eGMS. CCR&Rs can now begin submitting provider applications for reimbursement after assurances are signed in eGMS. Providers can now participate by signing up for a year's subscription of a Tier 1 Child Care Management Software system and return the proof of purchase to the CCR&R. More information can be found in the [CCMSi guidebook](#).

Questions or concerns should be directed to [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov).

### **REMINDER: Free Tax Consultation**

Type III centers and CCAP-certified Family Child Care providers can benefit from free and 100% confidential help with taxes; Quickbooks; understanding tax and financial documents, statements, or applications; or more from a certified early childhood-trained Tax Accountant.

Contact Andrea City at [andrea@jwroyston.com](mailto:andrea@jwroyston.com) with JWRA, Inc. if you are interested in free tax support.

### **REMINDER: Early Childhood Business Consultation**

Interested in receiving one-on-one confidential and free business consultation from national early childhood business experts on any child care business topics, including but not limited to finance, policy, marketing, staffing, and more? The individual consultation provided by First Children's Finance's very own Kari Stattleman is completely confidential and individualized.

Contact Kari Stattleman at [KariS@FirstChildrensFinance.org](mailto:KariS@FirstChildrensFinance.org) with questions or to schedule a meeting.

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## UPDATES FOR COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

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

The Early Childhood team holds Office Hours every Tuesday 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:

- December 6: General updates
- December 13: General updates
- December 20: Canceled
- December 27: Canceled

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

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## OTHER

### **NEW: Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Commission Upcoming Meeting, January 19, 2023**

The next ECCE Commission meeting will take place on January 19 at 1 p.m. in the Claiborne Building (Thomas Jefferson Room), located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge. An overview of the ECCE Commission is available in the Early Childhood [Policy and Guidance Library](#).

For additional information, please email [dana.russell2@la.gov](mailto:dana.russell2@la.gov).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for special assistance at this meeting please contact [dana.russell2@la.gov](mailto:dana.russell2@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

[Policy Institute and Blanco Center Release Report to Inform Local Governments of Various Strategies to Help Finance Child Care](#). (LPIC)

[Louisiana Parents Face Long Lists, High Costs As They Grapple with Limited Childcare Options. But State Grants to Programs Might Help Ease Some of the Burden](#). (NOLA.com)

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## CONTACT US



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

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