

February 27, 2020



News for Early Childhood Educators

Dear Colleagues,

It is very important for the state to have comprehensive information about the costs of care for families in every part of our state for children in centers. All licensed Type I, Type II, Type III, family child care (FCC), in-home, and CCAP school providers recently received an email and a postcard announcing the Louisiana Department of Education's **2020 Market Rate Survey**, which is being conducted to collect current data about the cost of child care. The [Market Rate Survey](#) provides incredibly important data that helps the Department best serve families in need in Louisiana, including setting Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates and understanding provider costs associated with offering quality early childhood education across the state.

If you are a provider and have not already done so, please complete the survey as soon as possible for the child care and early education services you provide. The survey will close **April 3, 2020**.

The Department encourages all partners of child care centers to help disseminate the survey. Collecting accurate information is critical to the Department's work to improve access and increase quality for all children.

The survey is available to complete online: <http://bit.ly/ldoemrs>.

The survey is confidential and individual answers will not be reported publicly. Public reporting of results will only include information combined from all providers by type and region, (e.g., "50% of Type III providers serve 3 year olds"). Additionally, you may refuse to answer any questions or end the survey at any time.

In addition to the survey, LDOE will be using a third-party vendor, Emergent Method, to hold focus groups across the state to better understand the costs to providers of providing high-quality child care. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming focus group, please contact Robyn Stiles at (225) 372-5102 or by email at robbyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com. She can also answer any questions you have about the survey process.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey. Your feedback is a critical component of our collaborative efforts to support Louisiana's youngest learners.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

[@LouisianaSupe](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **March 4-** For Lead Agencies: Informational Webinar on Ready Start Network Cohort 3 application

Upcoming Deadlines

- **February 28-** For Lead Agencies: February Child Count due
- **February 28-** Coordinated Enrollment Plan due
- **February 28-** GOLD winter checkpoint due
- **March 1-** [Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Early Bird Registration](#) ends

More Important Dates

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

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

In this Issue

- Updates for Teaching & Learning
- Updates for Licensed Centers
- Updates for Directors
- Updates for Lead Agencies
- Early Childhood in the News
- Other
- Contact Us



News for Early Childhood Educators

February 27, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

You recently received a postcard announcing the Louisiana Department of Education's 2020 Market Rate Survey, which is being conducted to collect current data about the cost of child care in Louisiana. These data will be used to assist us in setting our Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates and to better understand provider costs associated with offering quality early childhood education in Louisiana.

If you have not already done so, please complete the survey to avoid as possible for the child care and early education services you provide. The survey will close April 3, 2020.

To complete the survey online, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/2u686mz>

The survey is confidential and individual answers will not be reported publicly. Public reporting of results will only include information aggregated from all providers by type and region (e.g., "70% of 3-year-old providers serve 3-year olds"). Additionally, you may refuse to answer any questions or end the survey at any time.

In addition to the survey, Emergent Method will also be holding focus groups across the state to better understand the costs to providers of providing high-quality child care. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming focus group, please contact Bridget Stokes at (225) 375-0202 or by email at stokes.bridget@emergentmethod.com. She can also answer any questions you have about the survey process.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey. Your feedback is a critical component of our collaborative efforts to support Louisiana's youngest learners.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

@LouisianaLDOE

In This Issue

- Updates for Teaching and Learning
- Updates for Funding and Enrollment

[Download the weekly Newsletter for Early Childhood Educators.](#)

Updates for Teaching and Learning

Updates for Teaching and Learning

GOLD® Tip of the Month

Teaching Strategies is now offering continuing professional development courses, available under users' general GOLD® accounts. Courses are available under the Develop tab in users' accounts, and cover topics such as Infant Care, to Family Child Care. Users earn a certificate for each completed course.

Reminder: GOLD® winter checkpoint documentation and levels due February 28.

For questions regarding GOLD®, please contact meredith.eckard@la.gov.

Upcoming CLASS® Webinars and Resources

This month, in honor of Black History Month, and Dual Language Learner week, Teachstone is offering a few webinars to reflect on how to increase inclusivity and improve interactions in the course of this important work.

Webinar: CLASS® and Equity for Coaches

Learn how coaches can use CLASS as a tool to build equity in their coaching practices. Explore ways to address bias during coaching conversations and more.

Date: March 24

Time: 1:00 p.m. (CST)

More information regarding [this webinar](#) is available.

CLASS® Spanish Suite

Every student deserves high-quality teacher-student interactions. To help fulfill this need, Teachstone is committed to training teachers who serve Spanish-speaking communities. To explore these resources, visit [the Spanish Suite](#).

Pre-K/Kindergarten CLASS® Dual-Enrollment Training

CLASS® observers who need both Pre-K and Kindergarten-3rd grade observation training are invited to participate in a 2.5 day dual-enrollment training March 2-4 at the Gladys Higdon Instructional Resource Center in Alexandria.

For more information, including [additional logistics and registration](#), please visit the Teachstone website and search for locally hosted events.

For questions regarding CLASS, please contact taylor.dunn@la.gov.

Teacher Leader Summit Registration



The 2020 Teacher Summit will take place May 27–29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. [Regular registration](#) is now open.

Important Information to Know:

- A Summit [Overview Document](#) has been published to answer the most frequently asked questions.
- Participants can start booking hotel rooms with the hotels listed in the [Overview Document](#).
- The Department will release a full session list publicly on April 8.
- Participants will be required to pre-select their sessions in the Summit Sched app prior to attending the event. This is the same process as last year.
- Registration closes on May 11.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Updates for Funding and Enrollment

Updates for Funding and Enrollment

LA 4 Payment Updates:

- LA 4 TANF payments for December were issued 1/30/2020.
- LA 4 State General fund payments for December were issued 2/10/2020.

NSECD Payment Updates:

- NSECD payments for January were issued on 2/21/2020.

Contact Lindsey.Bradford@la.gov with any questions.



Child Care Assistance Program

The Child Care Assistance Program is supporting the 2020 United States Census and [Louisiana's Children Count campaign](#). During March 16 - 30, CCAP program staff is committed to completing their household census by taking a few moments to answer the census survey located at 2020census.gov. Providers and participants are encouraged to join our efforts and complete the survey during this period also.

The Department has also provided a 2020 Census Toolkit on louisianabelieves.com. April 1 is National Census Day allowing people across the nation to complete the census anytime, anywhere and online from any device or phone or email.

Updates for Licensed Centers



Supervision and Transportation Campaign

There has been a significant increase in reports of children being left unsupervised in licensed centers, on play yards, and in vehicles. The Division of Licensing will work closer with early learning centers to support their efforts to keep children safe and to improve providers' knowledge of the supervision requirements.

Starting this month, the Division of Licensing will be at early learning centers to closely observe the supervision of the center, play yards, and transportation. If there are any serious deficiencies, the early learning center will be referred to receive on-site technical assistance.

Medication

Administering medication to children in an early learning is very serious and can become dangerous if the wrong medication or the wrong amount is given. Providers **must** ensure medication is administered at prescribed times. It is important that staff who administer medication follow the directions provided and record the following:

1. name of the child and medication name and dosage administered;
2. date and time medication administered;
3. documentation of telephone contact with parent prior to giving "as needed" medication;
4. signature of person administering medication or witnessing the child administering own medication;
5. signature of person completing the form; and
6. when a parent administers medication to his/her own child on center premises, the medication administration record shall be documented by either the parent or a staff member

Remember whether administering medication or not, each early learning center shall have at least two staff members trained in medication administration and at least one trained staff member on the premises during the hours of operation. This training must be completed by an approved child care health consultant every two years.

Scheduling Annual Required Training

To reduce the chances of a deficiency being given for annual required training, it is recommended that Providers use tools to help them remember to schedule required training. For example, if your CPR/PFA certifications expire

April 2020, it is a great idea to schedule the training at least a month or two in advance to allow time for the documentation to be received. Some useful tools include the use of desk, computer, and phone calendar reminders, or scheduling annual trainings on the same day/week every year.

Updates for Directors

Director Support Toolbox

The job of a child care director covers a lot of territory, from licensing to accountability. The Department has created a [Director Support Toolbox](#) to put all the resources directors need at their fingertips. Check it out!



Reminder: CDA Amnesty Renewal Program

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, the Council for Professional Recognition will be celebrating 45 years of the CDA®! To celebrate, the Council will offer a limited-time CDA® Renewal Amnesty Program. This program will allow anyone with a CDA® credential expiration date as far back as January 1, 2010, an opportunity to complete the renewal process and make their credential active again.

ELIGIBILITY

- Expiration date as far back as January 1, 2010
- Must meet all current renewal requirements
- Apply online using [YourCouncil](#) (click here to learn about account access)

The program will run from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020. All applications and payments (\$125) must be submitted online **by March 31, 2020**. No exceptions or extensions will be granted. Start preparing today by downloading the free [CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide](#) available on the Council's website. The [CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide](#) provides detailed information about the renewal requirements



[Paula Polito](#) is a state and national leader who is most proud of her leadership as director of her family business, [Bear-y Cherry Tree](#) in Ready Start Jefferson. Learn about her journey in this month's [Leaders' Lagniappe](#).

"It is my mission to provide high-quality care and education to all families"
-Paula Polito

Updates for Lead Agencies



Ready Start Network Cohort 3 application

The Department has released the [Request for Applications](#) for Ready Start Network Cohort 3. All currently established early childhood community networks are eligible to apply through their lead agency. Read more about [Ready Start Networks](#). An informational webinar will be held March 4 at noon to review [the application](#) and answer any questions. Contact lizzie.cosse@la.gov with questions.

Webinar Date: Wednesday, March 4 at 12:00 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/990268076>

Webinar Phone: +1 408 638 0968 US

Early Childhood March Collaboration Meetings

The Department would like to announce the dates for the Early Childhood March Collaboration meetings. All early childhood lead agencies are required to be represented at the March Collaboration meetings. Registration is not required for these meetings and lead agency representatives may attend at any of the locations noted below.

- March 9- Baton Rouge
- March 10- Jefferson
- March 17 -Bossier City
- March 20- Lafayette

Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood Team holds a weekly webinar/conference call question and answer session for lead agencies. The half-hour sessions are held on most Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. The Early Childhood Team will provide updates and reminders. Additional topics will be determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information to the Zoom webinar account has been sent to all lead agency contacts.

Contact amanda.colon@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- March 3 at 3:00 p.m. Special guest
- March 10 at 3:00 p.m. DirectMatch Training
- March 16 at 3:00 p.m. General topics
- March 23 at 3:00 p.m. General topics

Bi-weekly Community of Practice Webinar/Conference Call for Ready Start Network Lead Agencies

Every other Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Ready Start Network Lead Agencies convene to discuss their progress and solve problems. Lead agency contacts who are interested in “listening in” to learn more about what Ready Start Networks are doing, please email lizzie.cosse@la.gov to receive the information to connect to the webinar.

Whitelisting Summit App Provider

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 27–29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. **Registration** is now open. The Department will release a full session list publicly on April 8. Participants will be required to pre-select their sessions in the Summit Sched app prior to attending the event. This is the same process as last year.

In order for Summit participants who have completed the Eventbrite registration process to receive an invitation to schedule their sessions on April 8, immediate steps are required by each school system.

School systems should immediately:

- require participants to register for the event using their official school provided email address,
- work with their IT providers to whitelist “@sched.com”
- work with their IT providers to whitelist all communications for the IP address [198.2.136.100](https://www.198.2.136.100)

Please contact LDOEEvents@la.gov with questions.

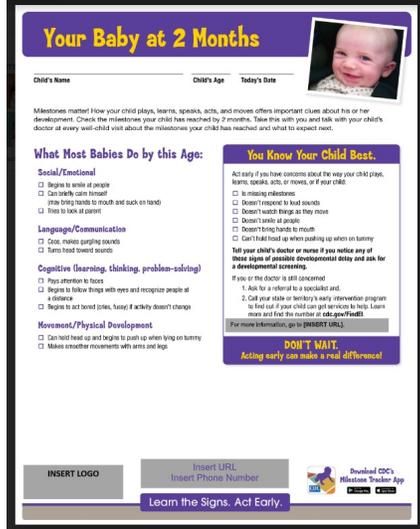
Customizable Resources for Lead Agencies

Learn the Signs. Act Early. is a federally funded program through the CDC that provides free resources and materials to support the early identification and screening process for children birth to five.

The LDOE is partnering with the Department of Health to provide customized and co-branded materials. Brochures and milestone posters can be edited to include Early Steps and Child Find contact numbers. A visual logo can also be included.

The image displays a collection of educational materials for the 'Learn the Signs. Act Early.' program. It includes:

- Brochure:** A document titled 'Learn the Signs. Act Early.' with sections for:
 - Learn the signs of your child's development and act early if you ever have a concern.** (Includes instructions to download the CDC's FREE Milestones Tracker app or visit cdc.gov/Milestones).
 - YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST.** (Encourages parents to act if concerned about milestones, learn, speak, act, or move, and to talk to a doctor or developmental screener).
 - IF YOU OR THE DOCTOR IS STILL CONCERNED:** (Provides steps: 1. Ask for a referral to a specialist and, 2. Call for a free evaluation to find out if your child can get services to help. It also lists phone numbers for cdc.gov/Concared and la.gov/Concared).
 - DON'T WAIT.** (States 'Acting early can make a real difference!')
- Poster:** A poster titled 'Track Your Child's Developmental Milestones' featuring a photo of a child and a 'Milestones Matter!' section that explains how play, learning, speaking, and acting provide clues about development.
- Logos:** A section for 'Insert Logo(s)' with the 'Learn the Signs. Act Early.' logo and a 'Partnership with the Department of Health' logo.



If interested in obtaining customized materials, please reach out to brittany.braun@la.gov.

Visit [Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#) to learn more about the suite of free materials and resources that are available!

Other

New Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Providers Wanted

Interested in becoming an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) Provider? There is a new online application process to streamline this process! Reference the [guidance document](#) and [timeline](#) for more information.

Questions regarding ECAC programs can be directed to michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov

Help us improve!

The Office of Early Childhood is continually assessing our customer service and identifying ways to improve. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete this short [survey](#). The information submitted will remain confidential. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Early Childhood in the News

[Supporting Early Learning in America- Policies for a New Decade](#) (New America)

[The 74 Interview: Outgoing Louisiana Chief John White on the New Orleans Experiment, His Longevity and What It Means to be Well Educated](#) (The 74)

[Newly-formed state panel discuss teacher pay, early education needs in Louisiana](#) (The Advocate)

[How play is making a comeback in kindergarten](#) (The Hechinger Report)

[Louisiana Department of Education releases 2020 Census Toolkit for Teachers, Families](#) (LouisianaBelieves)



Contact Us

- 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.

Subscribe to the newsletter

If someone you know wishes to receive this newsletter, please register to subscribe using the button below!

[Subscribe](#)

www.louisianabelieves.com