



**Early Childhood 2021-2022
Teacher and Leader of the
Year**

December 14 and 15

Agenda

- I. Timeline
- II. Vision of Teacher and Leader of the Year
- III. Online Application
- IV. *Application Support & Resources - will review as time allows*
- V. Dates and Deadlines



**Vision of
Teacher and Leader
of the Year**



Louisiana Believes...



Children are our highest priority



Equity matters



Families are our partners



Choice expands opportunities



Educators are valued professionals



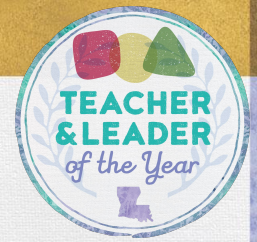
Schools are invaluable to communities



Graduates must be ready



Our future is bright



Vision of Teacher and Leader of the Year

Louisiana will be the one of the first states to officially honor an Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year in 2021-2022, and the first to do so through the Department of Education.

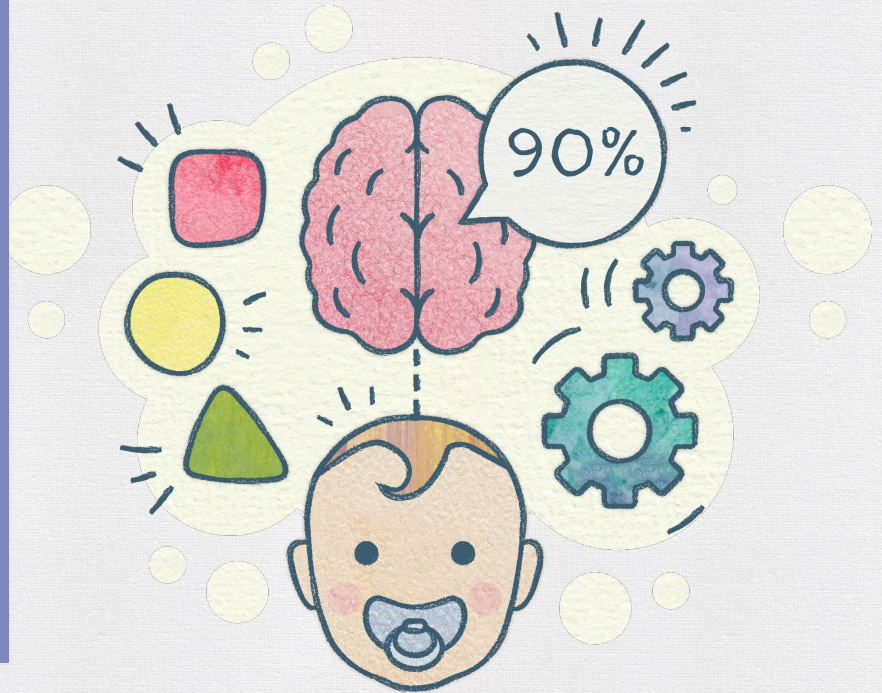
In the Early Childhood field, Louisiana strives to achieve the following:

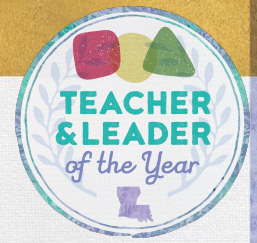
- **Strengthens the child care system** to meet the needs of all families and support the stabilization of the child care sector.
- **Expands supply of and access to high-quality early childhood** options for families and to identify opportunities to sustain that expansion long-term.
- **Prepares and supports teachers** to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions that meet the developmental needs of children every day.
- **Empowers families** to access tools and resources to support their children's development.

Early Childhood Matters

The first five years are the most critical in the development of a child's brain. From birth to age three, children grow and learn at the most intense rate, forming more than a million neural connections every second; these are the years when children are learning how to learn. 90% of a child's brain development happens before age 5.

[1] Louisiana recognizes that early childhood educators are critical to the success of our children, our economy and our society. It's time to celebrate them!



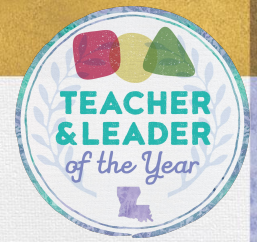


Teacher and Leader of the Year

Louisiana Department of Education will honor an Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year. Louisiana will be the first state honoring the entire Early Childhood Field in this way.

The Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Process will:

- Mirror the PreK-12 nomination, application, and review process
- Evaluate applicants based on a rigorous, vision-aligned review process that highlights the skills of high-quality educators
- Honor finalists at Teacher Leader Summit 2022
- Award winner(s) with valuable prizes to acknowledge their contributions to the field
- Elevate the field of Early Childhood Education in a way not yet seen in the United States, and position Louisiana as an innovative leader in the field of education



Teacher and Leader of the Year

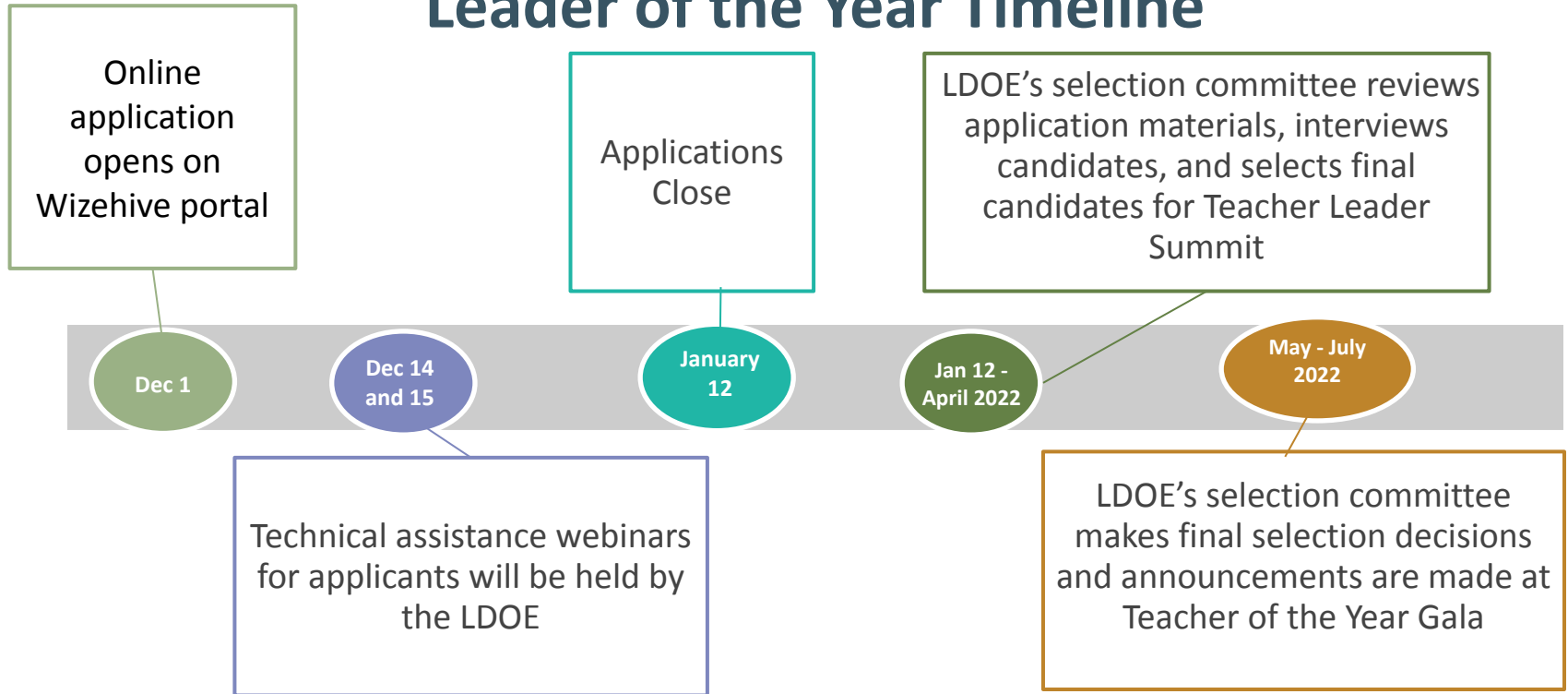
Louisiana Department of Education will honor an Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year. Louisiana will be the first state honoring the entire Early Childhood Field in this way.

Eligible applicants are teachers and leaders serving children in Type III centers, Early Head Start or Head Start Center, or Family Child Care providers (FCC) participating in the FCC Pilot.

The winners will be honored for contributions such as:

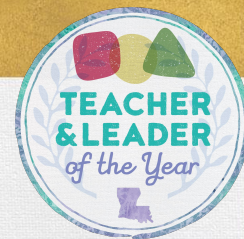
- Demonstrating excellence in the field, guiding children of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
- Demonstrating leadership and innovation in classrooms and in the community, helping children be successful.
- Creating a culture of growth and development and positivity through collaboration with colleagues, children, families, and community.

2021-2022 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Timeline



**2021-2022 Early Childhood
Teacher and Leader of the Year Online
Application**





The Online Application

The online application portal for both Teacher and Leader of the Year requires applicants to create a basic profile.

The [online application](#) can be found in this slide deck and on the [Louisiana Believes Awards Page](#).

All applicants will need to “sign up” by creating a username and password, then completing the profile prompts with basic personal information, such as name and address.

The screenshot shows a web page for signing in or signing up. On the left, under the heading "Sign In/Sign Up Instructions", there are two sections: "For New Users:" which explains that clicking "Sign Up" will prompt the user to enter an email and create a password (at least 8 characters), and "For Returning Users:" which explains that clicking "Sign In" will prompt the user to enter their email and password, and that a "Forgot your password?" link is available. A "Note:" at the bottom advises using Chrome. On the right, under the heading "Sign In", there are input fields for "Email" and "Password" (with a toggle for visibility), a "Log In" button, and a "Forgot your password?" link. Below this, under the heading "Need an Account?", there is a red star icon and a "Sign Up" button.

The Online Application

Creating a profile is the first step to be able to access the application.

Your profile information will be used for any contact needed between you and the LDOE. It will save once you complete your profile.

Profile Information

Name *

Email Address (Please enter the same email address here you used when you logged in.) *

Address Line 1 *

Address Line 2

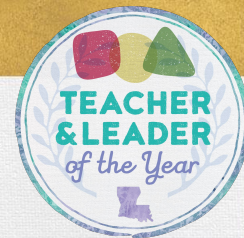
City *

State *

Zip Code *

School System/District *

Schools *



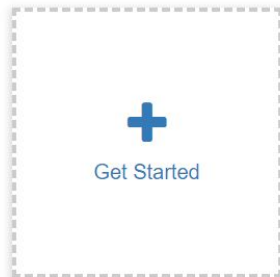
The Online Application

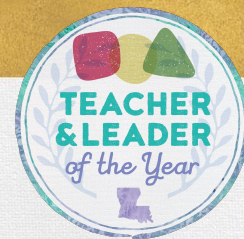
The online application can be started and saved over time, and you are able to go back to your application for edits until you finally “submit.”

You will click the “get started” button to begin the application.

To begin, click “+Get Started” below. When you return to this Homepage, you can see the status of your submission by the colored status bar below the submission card.

- If the status bar is gray, your submission is under review, and no action needs to be taken.
- If the status bar is blue, there is an action required. Click on the Submission Card to complete.
- If the status bar is red, there is an error. Please reach out to the Administrator of this program.



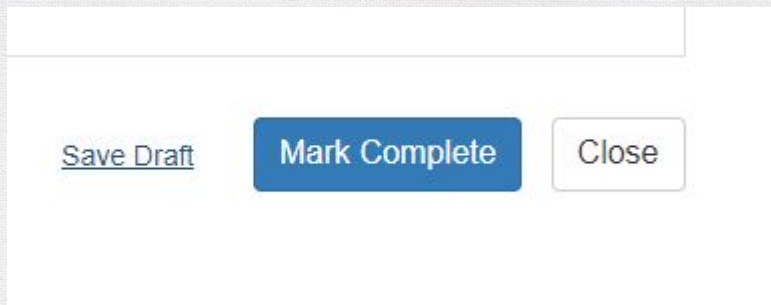


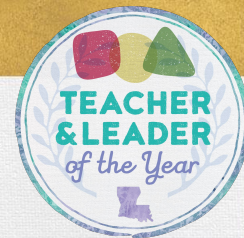
The Online Application

The online application can be started and saved over time, and you are able to go back to your application for edits until you finally “submit.”

To find the “save draft” button, you scroll to the very bottom of the page.

When you’re finished and ready to submit, you will click “Mark Complete”





The Online Application

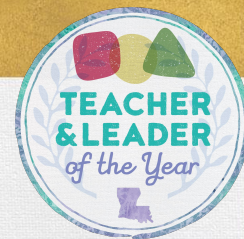
Be sure to select the award for which you are applying at the top of the page, as questions will differ depending on your selection, or lack thereof.

Louisiana Department of Education: A Call For Excellent Educators

For which award do you wish to apply? *

- Teacher of the Year
- Leader of the Year

If you do not select the award for which you are applying, or you select incorrectly, you risk jeopardizing your application.



The Online Application

The remainder of the application mirrors the guidance document that describes the requirements for both Teacher of the Year and Leader of the Year.

Louisiana Department of Education: A Call For Excellent Educators

For which award do you wish to apply? *

- Teacher of the Year
- Leader of the Year

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and leaders are critical to the success of children. Annually, the Department honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Leader of the Year programs. These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those educators who are achieving excellence in their profession by fostering a nurturing environment in their classroom, where children are learning and developing in a way that prepares them for kindergarten and beyond.

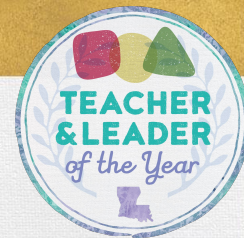
The Louisiana Teacher and Leader of the Year awards programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge those educators who are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

Criteria- An exemplary candidate for Teacher and Leader of the Year is one who:

- Demonstrates **excellence and expertise** in the field, **guiding students** of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve success.
- **Collaborates** with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture that is respectful, inclusive, and positively impacts student growth and learning.
- Intentionally **connects** the classroom/school and key stakeholders **to build strong community partnerships** resulting in success for all.
- Demonstrates **leadership and innovation** in and outside of the school building walls and **helps students/education stakeholders be successful**.
- Is **inspiring, compelling, professional** and expresses themselves in an **engaging and articulate** way. The candidate is both **timeless and relevant** and has the ability to **connect with and represent** the state.

A complete state-level application includes:

- Basic information
- Résumé (limit: 2 pages)
- Responses to one written reflection question and one video prompt
- 2021-2022 student learning targets
- 2020-2021 student learning targets, with results (or another form of recent student success data)
- Up to three letters of recommendation
- Candidate consent form
- Student consent forms (needed for each student included in the application, such as in video/photos/etc.)
- Additional uploads (Uploads may be in any format, such as a chart, news article, video, photos, etc.)



The Online Application

The application will require you to either type in information, or upload documents, videos, pictures, or PDFs.

For example, you can see the Video Response section provides two options for how to submit your video. You can type in the text box the URL, or click “select file” and upload your video file.

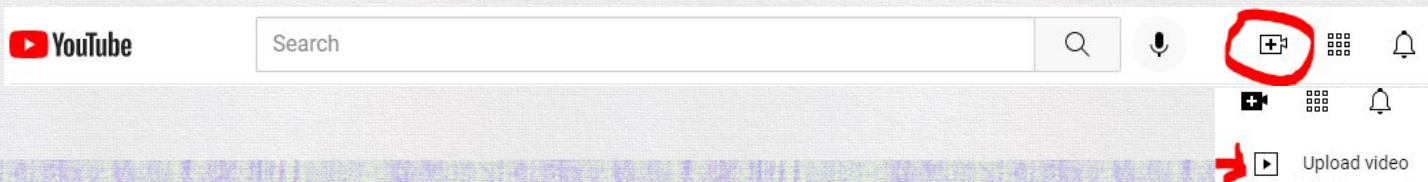
Add your YouTube video URL in the textbox below. Note: Your YouTube video link visibility must be “Public” so the application reviewers may view your video. Before adding your link, please send it to a friend and have them check it to make sure it is viewable.

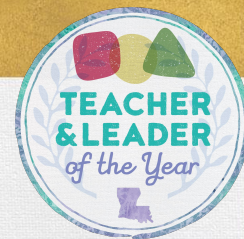
Add your YouTube video URL Here: (video should be no more than 10 minutes) *

Video Response- Optional file upload: (Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, video, photo, etc., to accompany your video response. Please label document accordingly, such as, “TOY_Mary_Smith_Video Response Upload”)

Use this feature if you wish to upload a document, such as a chart or graph, to accompany your essay response.

+ Select a file ?





The Online Application

All applicants must submit consent forms for anyone captured in videos or images submitted.

To submit your consent forms for families/children, it is a best practice to submit all consent forms in one document. You can use a scanner to save them all together in one PDF, or use software on your computer called Adobe. If you need assistance, reach out to devon.camarota@la.gov.

XII. Consent Forms

Candidate Consent Form Candidates must acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to the terms included in the state provided consent form.

Link to Candidate Consent Form: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/awards/candidate-consent-form.docx?sfvrsn=9bd9911f_4

(If possible), please upload your signed (state) Candidate Consent Form here.

This upload should be a document (no photo or video, for example)- i.e., the doc may be a pdf, doc, docx

+ Select a file ⓘ

Please type your name below to confirm your signature on the state's Candidate Consent Form. This will serve as your electronic signature.

Candidate Consent Form Signature: *

Student Consent Forms Student consent forms are needed for each student included in your state-level application, such as in photos, videos, etc.

Link to Student Consent Forms: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/awards/student-consent-form.docx?sfvrsn=98d9911f_4

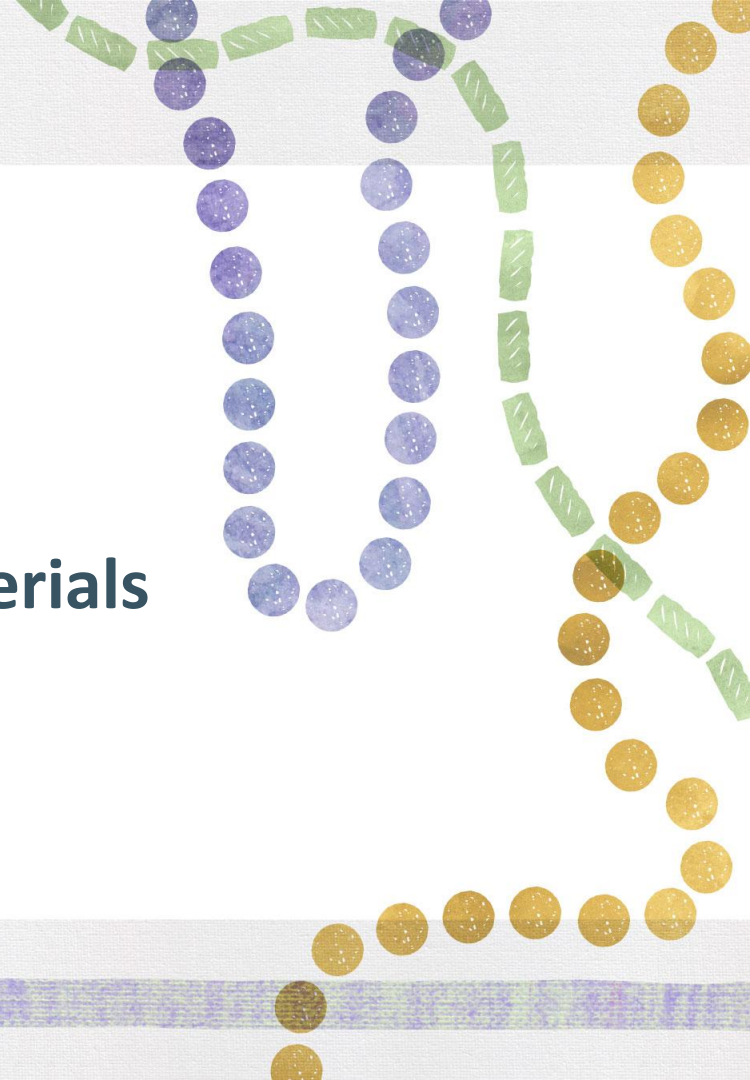
Are students included in your state-level application, such as in photos and/or in your teaching video, etc.? Select yes or no below.

(If possible), please upload your signed (state) Candidate Consent Form here.

This upload should be a document (no photo or video, for example)- i.e., the doc may be a pdf, doc, docx

+ Select a file ⓘ

**2021-2022 Early Childhood
Teacher of the Year Application Materials**



Teacher of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

Application Documents	
<i>All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application on Wizehive.</i>	
Video: Required All TOY Applicants must submit a teaching video.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A ten minute (maximum) video of the Teacher's instruction in the classroom should be submitted through Wizehive.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Technical assistance for this can be offered through CCR&R, Lead Agency, or the LDOE. Contact devon.camarota@la.gov if you need assistance.</i>
Teaching Materials Part 1 All TOY Applicants must submit <i>at least one of these options.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Written lesson plan corresponding to the teaching video submitted● Written feedback and scores from a recent coaching/CLASS[®] observation and session (from 2021 or 2022 calendar year)

Teacher of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

Application Documents

All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application on Wizehive.

<p>Teaching Materials Part 2 All TOY Applicants must submit <i>at least one of these options</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Additional teaching video of a different day/lesson/skill● Video tour of classroom (<i>guidance in appendix</i>)● Video interviews of at least one child or family (<i>questions and guidance in appendix</i>)● Family letter of recommendation (<i>letter should answer interview questions in appendix</i>)
<p>Work History All TOY Applicants must submit both of these work history documents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete the work history questions in Wizehive OR submit a resumé in a word document or PDF● Submit a letter of recommendation from a current or past employer(s) or coworker(s) or the parent of a child in care, briefly describing the Teacher's work experience and responsibilities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Up to three letters of recommendation are acceptable.

Teacher of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

Application Documents

All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application on Wizehive.

Teaching Data

All TOY Applicants will be evaluated on the materials listed here.

- Last 3 years of CLASS[®] scores, as available (the LDOE will gather on behalf of the applicant)
 - *Ex: if a teacher has only been working for one year, their scores from one year will be evaluated.*
 - *Teachers with Negative Climate scores of 2 or higher on more than two observations will not be considered for Teacher of the Year.*
- Whether Teacher has interrater reliability in Teaching Strategies Gold[®]
 - *If applicable, submit a copy of your certificate.*

Teacher of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

Application Documents

All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application on Wizehive.

Leadership

All TOY Applicants must complete *at least one of these options* to answer the essay questions.

- Written responses to the three essay questions (see questions below)
- Video-recorded speaking responses to three “essay” questions
- Schedule an interview with LDOE staff to answer three “essay” questions via Zoom
 - Contact devon.camarota@la.gov to schedule a recorded interview between Nov. 1 and Nov. 15. Interviews will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

Teacher of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

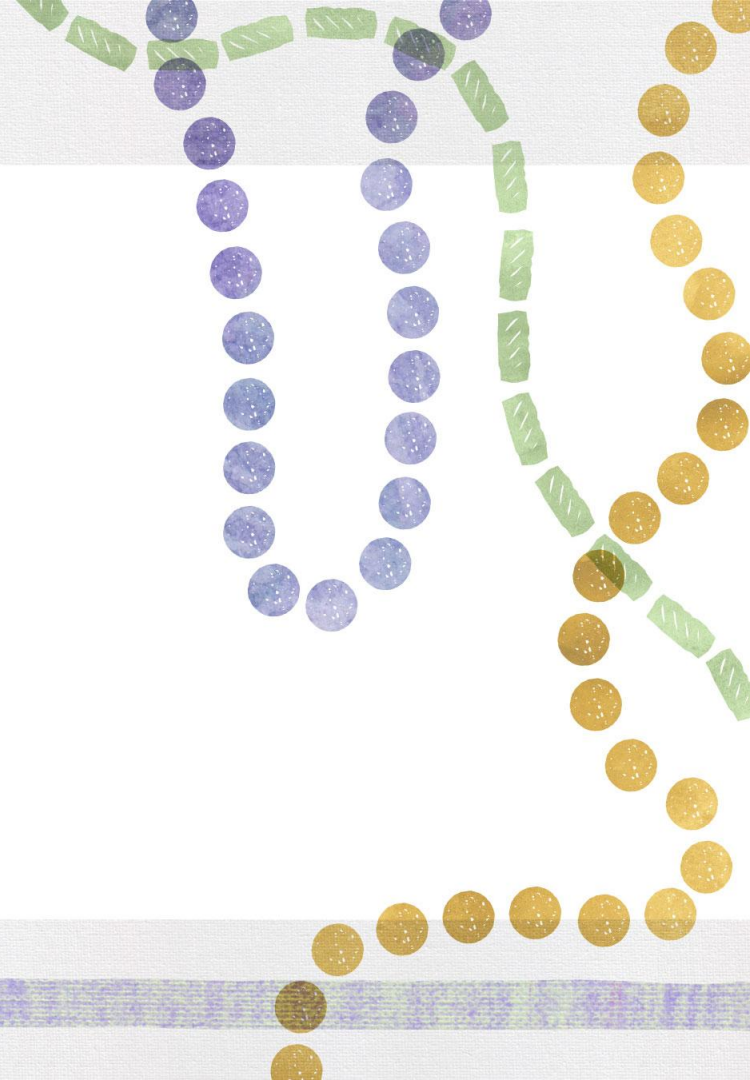
Essay Questions

Essay/Interview Questions

Choose 3 of the 4 questions below to answer:

1. Why do you work in Early Childhood Education? Why is this work important to you?
2. Imagine you are meeting parents with their first toddler, unsure about starting child care. What would you say to them?
3. What makes you an excellent early childhood educator?
4. Across the nation, there is a lot of energy around the importance of early childhood education. Therefore, many leaders are advocating for increased funding for early childhood. What do policy makers need to know about the work that you do as they make decisions about policy and funding?

**2021-2022 Early Childhood
Leader of the Year Application**



Leader of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

Application Documents

All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application on Wizehive.

Video: Required
All LOY Applicants must submit a video.

All LOY must submit a ten minute (maximum) video of leading professional development, conducting a staff meeting, or teaching a lesson

- *Professional development session examples are anything where the Leader guides teachers in a specific teaching skill or domain that directly impacts child development and learning goals*
 - *Ex: Practicing strategies to improve Positive Climate in classroom*
- *Staff meeting examples are anything where the Leader guides teachers and staff in operational or logistical changes that impact the function of the center*
 - *Ex: Reviewing staff roles and duties at pick-up and drop off and practicing routines for smooth and safe transition of children from classroom to parent*
- *Technical assistance for this can be offered through CCR&R, Lead Agency, or the LDOE. Contact devon.camarota@la.gov if you need assistance.*

Leader of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

Application Documents

All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application on Wizehive.

<p>Submission Materials Part 1 All LOY Applicants must submit <i>at least one of these options.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A teacher's lesson plan with the Leader's feedback● The scores from at least three teachers, employed by the Leader's center, from a recent coaching/CLASS[®] observation and session (from 2021 or 2022 calendar year)● Plan and materials for a professional development session led by the Leader (<i>guidance in appendix</i>)● Plan and materials from a staff meeting led by the Leader (<i>guidance in appendix</i>)
<p>Submission Materials Part 2 All LOY Applicants must submit <i>at least one of these options.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Additional teaching video of a different day/lesson/skill from any teacher in the center, with Leader's support in the room● Video tour of center, professional development session, or staff meeting (<i>guidance in appendix</i>)● Video interviews of at least one child or family (<i>questions in appendix</i>)● Family letter of recommendation (<i>letter should answer interview questions in appendix</i>)

Leader of the Year Application Materials

Some application materials are required for all applicant, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.

Application Documents

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<p>Work History All LOY Applicants must submit both of these work history documents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete the work history questions in Wizehive OR submit a resume in a word document or PDF● Submit a letter of recommendation from a current and/or past employer(s) or employee(s), briefly describing work experience and responsibilities or describing leadership qualities and strengths<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Up to three letters of recommendation are acceptable.
<p>Teaching Data All LOY Applicants will be evaluated on the materials listed here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Up to 3 years of CLASS[®] scores for the site, as available (the LDOE will gather this data on behalf of the applicant)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>If the Leader has been at the site for less than 3 years, that will be taken into consideration</i>● Whether Leader has interrater reliability in Teaching Strategies Gold[®]<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>If applicable, submit a copy of your certificate.</i>

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Application Documents

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Leadership

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- Written responses to three essay questions (see questions below)
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- Schedule an interview with LDOE staff to answer three “essay” questions via zoom
 - Contact devon.camarota@la.gov to schedule a recorded interview between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15. Interviews will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

Leader of the Year Application Materials

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Application Documents

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Essay/Interview Questions:

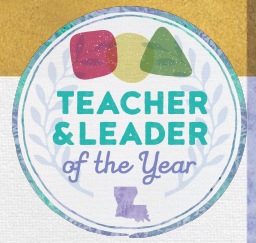
Choose 3 of the 4 questions below to answer.

1. How do you communicate with your staff on the importance of what they do? How do you motivate them and provide a positive work environment?
2. Imagine you're meeting parents with their first toddler, unsure about starting child care. What would you say to them?
3. What makes you an excellent early childhood leader?
4. In national discussions around early childhood, there is a lot of energy around its importance, and increased funding for early childhood. What do policy makers need to know about the work that you do as they make decisions about policy and funding?



Application Support and Resources





Applications

Technical Assistance

The LDOE will support all applicants as much as possible, and encourages lead agencies and CCR&Rs to provide technical assistance to teachers in their region.

The LDOE will provide technical support such as:

- email correspondence for 1-1 questions
- instructions on creating, uploading, and submitting application materials
- Zoom sessions by request for guidance or questions
- optional office hours through October, November, and December

Lead agencies and CCR&Rs should prepare to:

- support with teaching videos and other material preparation as needed

Applications

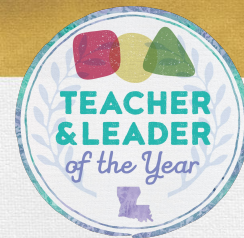
Candidate and Student Consent Forms

Privacy is of the utmost importance for our children, families, and teachers. It is critical to ensure that you have permission from the families and staff before incorporating them in your application.

- Candidates for both TOY and LOY must sign and submit the Department's Candidate Consent Forms in the state-level online application portal.
- Children featured in the application, whether in video, film, audio, photography, recording, etc., must have their guardian sign and return the Department's Child and Family Consent Form.
- If possible, the candidate (teacher or leader) should scan all Child and Family Consent Forms into one PDF and submit that one document in the state-level online application portal. An alternative will be available for those who do not have access to a scanner.

Click the link to view the [Candidate Consent Form](#)

Click the link to view the [Student Consent Form](#)



Resources

Application Guidance:

[Early Childhood Leader of the Year - Application Guidance](#)

[Early Childhood Teacher of the Year - Application Guidance](#)

Application Appendices:

[Early Childhood Leader of the Year - Appendix](#)

[Early Childhood Teacher of the Year - Appendix](#)



Dates and Deadlines



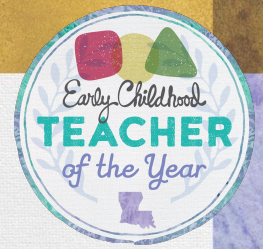


Upcoming Dates

- December 1 - Online application goes live
- January 12 - Application deadline
- January 13 - LDOE review of applications begins
- Mid February - Applicants will be notified of next steps

Questions? Reach out to devon.camarota@la.gov





2021-2022 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

Informational sessions will include overviews of timelines, review of submission material examples and criteria, and question and answer sessions.

October 20 Webinar - Teacher of the Year Informational Session (Optional)

- Meeting Time: 2 - 3 p.m.
- Meeting Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92199128988>
- Meeting ID: 921 9912 8988
- Meeting Passcode: none

October 21 Webinar - Teacher of the Year Informational Session (Optional)

- Meeting Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
- Meeting Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95284370934>
- Meeting ID: 952 8437 0934
- Meeting Passcode: none

If you are interested in applying or are encouraging someone to apply but you have questions, please contact devon.camarota@la.gov.