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

October 20 and 21

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# Agenda

- I. Timeline
- II. Vision of Teacher and Leader of the Year
- III. Application Support & Resources
- IV. Upcoming Dates



**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



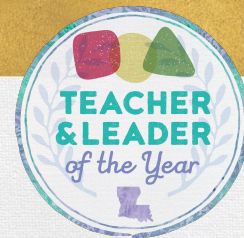
Schools are invaluable to communities



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 the entire field of Early Childhood through the ECE Teacher and Leader of the Year in 2021-2022, and **the** first to do so through the Department of Education.*

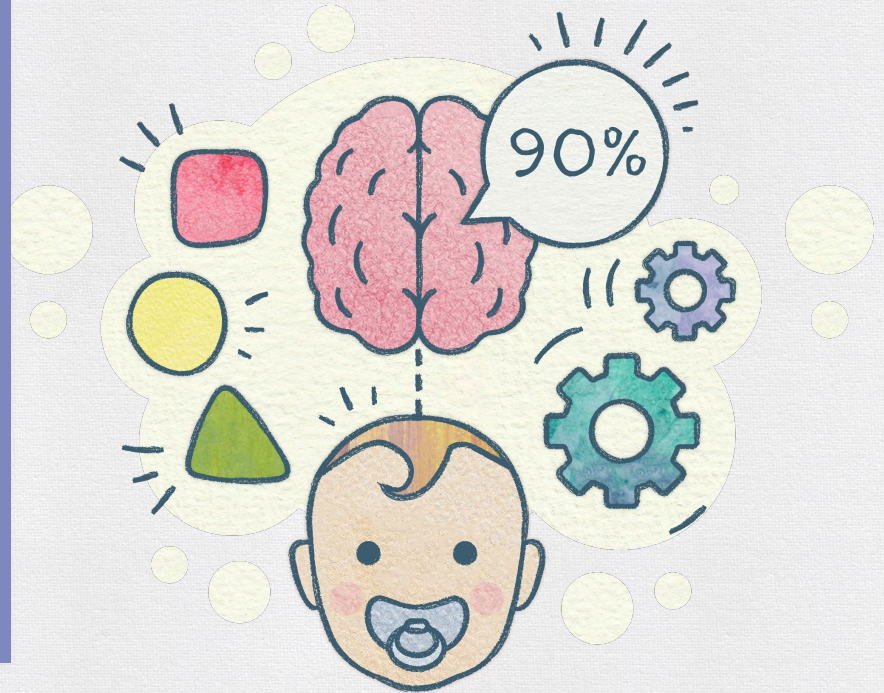
In the Early Childhood field, Louisiana strives to achieve the following:

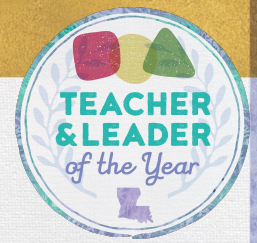
- **Strengthens the child care system** to meet the needs of all families and support the stabilization of the child care sector.
- **Expands supply of and access to high-quality early childhood** options for families and to identify opportunities to sustain that expansion long-term.
- **Prepares and 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!



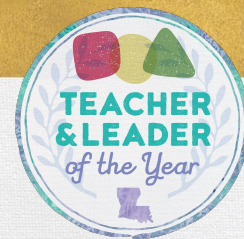


# Teacher and Leader of the Year

*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

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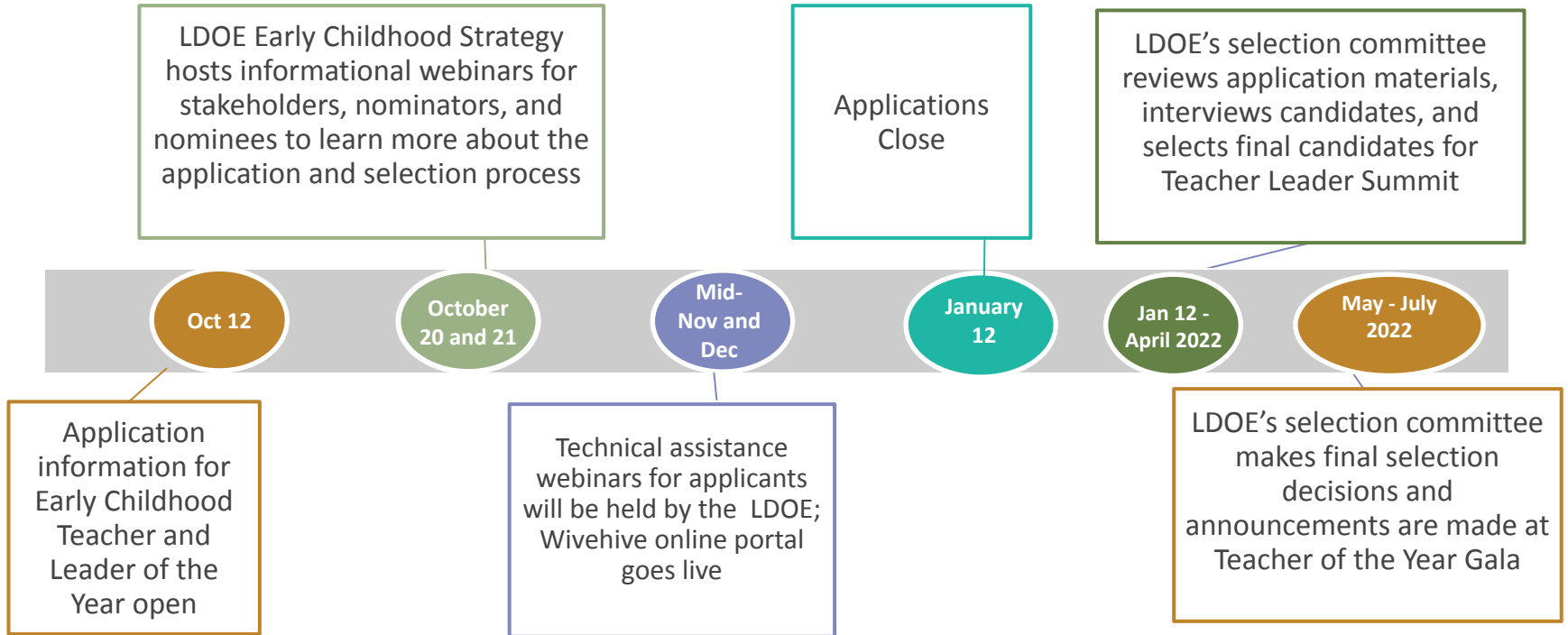
Eligible applicants are teachers and leaders serving children in Type III centers, Early Head Start or Head Start Center, or Family Child Care Centers (FCC) participating in the FCC Pilot.

The winners will be honored for contributions such as:

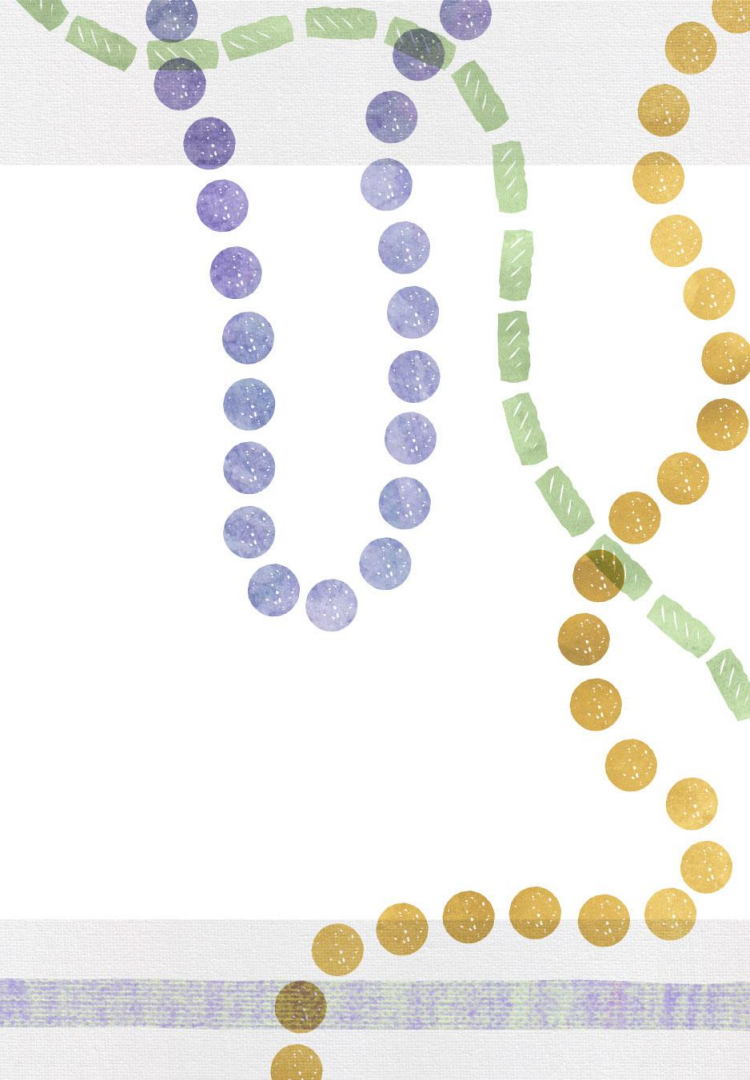
- Demonstrating excellence in the field, guiding children of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
- Demonstrating leadership and innovation in classrooms and in the community, helping children be successful.
- Creating a culture of growth and development and positivity through collaboration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



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



# 2021-2022 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year Application



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

# Teacher of the Year Application Materials

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## Application Documents

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

# Teacher of the Year Application Materials

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## 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>
  - *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](mailto: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 applicants, and some are selected from a list of choices that will demonstrate the applicant's strengths.*

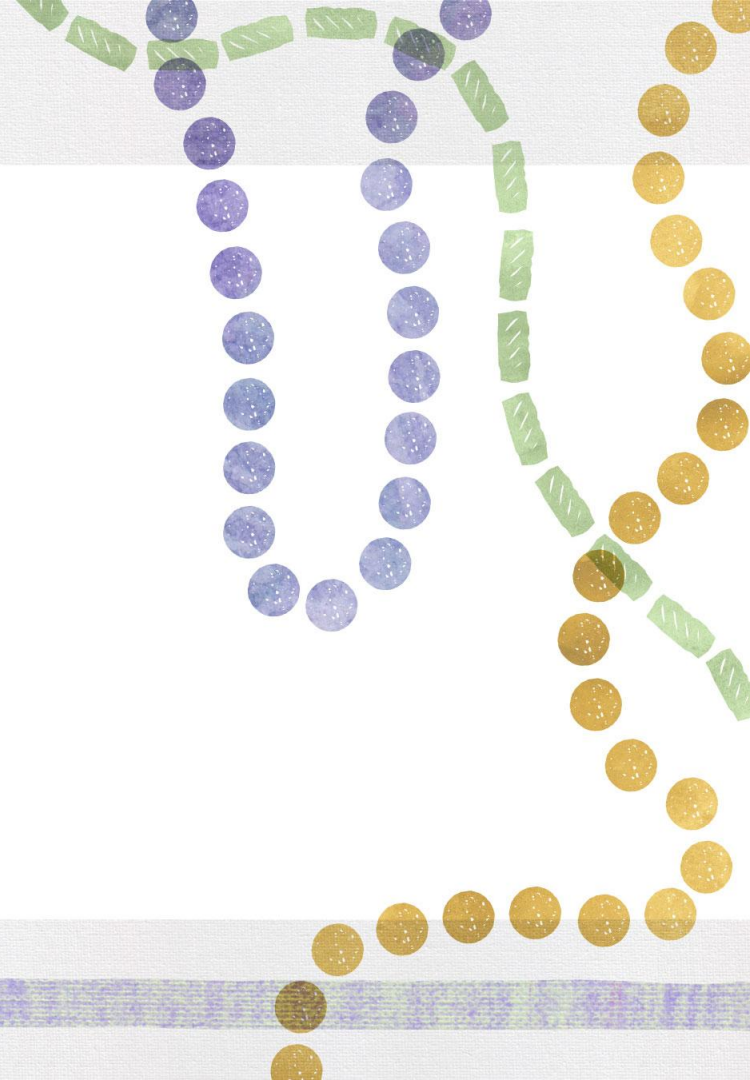
## Essay Questions

### 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](mailto: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.*

### Submission

#### Materials Part 1

All LOY Applicants must submit at least **one of these options**.

- 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<sup>®</sup> observation and session (from 2021 or 2022 calendar year)
- Plan and materials for a professional development session led by the Leader (*guidance in appendix*)
- Plan and materials from a staff meeting led by the Leader (*guidance in appendix*)

### Submission

#### Materials Part 2

All LOY Applicants must submit at least **one of these options**.

- 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 (*guidance in appendix*)
- Video interviews of at least one child or family (*questions in appendix*)
- Family letter of recommendation (*letter should answer interview questions in appendix*)

# Leader of the Year Application Materials

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## Application Documents

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

### Work History

All LOY Applicants must submit **both** of these work history documents.

- 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
  - Up to three letters of recommendation are acceptable.

### Teaching Data

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

- Up to 3 years of CLASS<sup>®</sup> scores for the site, as available (the LDOE will gather this data on behalf of the applicant)
  - *If the Leader has been at the site for less than 3 years, that will be taken into consideration*
- Whether Leader has interrater reliability in Teaching Strategies Gold<sup>®</sup>
  - *If applicable, submit a copy of your certificate.*

# Leader of the Year Application Materials

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## Application Documents

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### Leadership

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

- 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
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# 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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### Essay/Interview Questions:

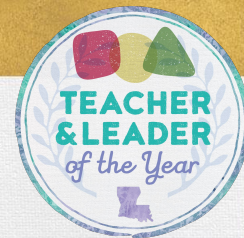
Choose 3 of the 4 questions below to answer.

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

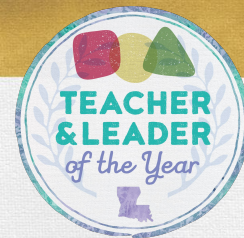
*Privacy is of the utmost importance for our children, families, and teachers. It is critical to ensure that you have permission from the families and staff before incorporating them in your application.*

- 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](#)



**Upcoming**



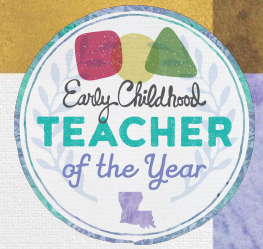


## Upcoming Dates

- October 12 - Application materials are live
- October 20 and 21 - Optional Office Hours
- Mid-November-December - Wizehive application goes live
- January 12 - Applications close
- January 13 - LDOE review of applications begins

Questions? Reach out to [devon.camarota@la.gov](mailto: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](mailto:devon.camarota@la.gov).