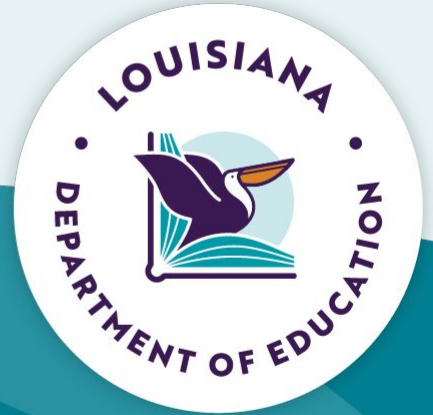
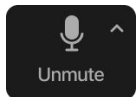


# Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

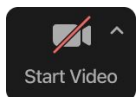
Application Support



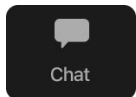
# Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact [LDOEcommunications@la.gov](mailto:LDOEcommunications@la.gov).



# Agenda

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



# Vision of Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year



# 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 the fifth cohort of this program, 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 Teacher and Leader of the Year Updates

*Louisiana Department of Education will honor an Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year for the 2025-2026 school year. Louisiana was the first state honoring the entire Early Childhood Field in this way.*

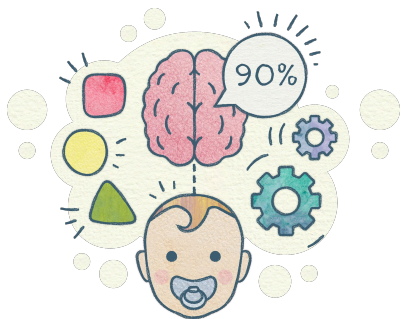
The Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Process will:

- 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
- 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.



# 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!



# Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

*Louisiana Department of Education will honor an Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year for the 2025-2026 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 Sites (FCC) participating in Academic Approval.

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.





# Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Timeline Continued

PHASE	TIMELINE	DESCRIPTION
Nominations Portal Open	September 1- October 17, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">nominations portal</a> is open from September 1- October 17, 2025.</li> <li>Upon portal close, the nomination information is shared with Community Network Lead Agencies and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.</li> <li>Upon portal close, all nominees will be contacted by the Louisiana Department of Education and will be invited to apply for the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year award program.</li> </ul>
Application Release	October 1, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department releases Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year application materials for the 2026 school year. Visit the <a href="#">Resources Library and Award's page</a>.</li> </ul>
Application support/Office Hours	December 18, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist candidates with the application process, informational/help desk calls will be conducted. On these calls, information will be shared about the applications/timeline/process, as well as answering any other questions candidates may have.</li> </ul> <p>See call details here:</p> <p>Webinar Date and Time: December 18, 2025 at 10 a.m.  Webinar Phone Number: 346-248-7799  Webinar Link: <a href="https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159?omn=92008292670">https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159?omn=92008292670</a>  Meeting ID#: 441 892 1159</p> <p>Webinar Date and Time: December 18, 2025 at 4 p.m.  Webinar Phone Number: 346-248-7799  Webinar Link: <a href="https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159?omn=92008292670">https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159?omn=92008292670</a>  Meeting ID#: 441 892 1159</p>

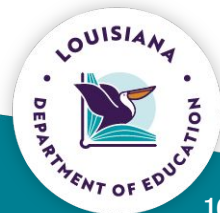
Please contact [name@la.gov](mailto:name@la.gov)

<sup>1</sup>Author's Last name, First Initial. (Year). Book title [format of book]. Publisher. URL

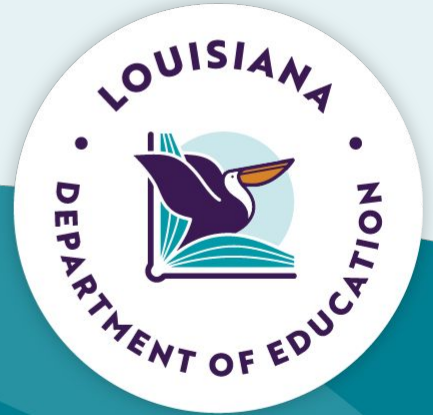


# Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Timeline Continued

Application Due	January 14, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All candidates are invited to complete their <a href="#">application</a> with the assistance of their local Community Network Lead Agency, Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, or other colleagues.</li> <li>All nominees and those who were not nominated are invited to apply for the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year award program.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By January 14, 2026 at 11:59 p.m., candidates are to submit their <a href="#">application</a> for Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year online via the Google Form Application.</li> </ul>
Finalists Announced	March/April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department names the Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists.</li> </ul>
Finalist Interviews	Spring 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State selection committees (composed of LDOE Executive Team Members) conduct virtual interviews with the Finalists.</li> </ul>
Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2026 Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists will be recognized and celebrated at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala that will be held in New Orleans.</li> <li>On this evening overall winners will be named.</li> <li>This exciting event is co-sponsored by <a href="#">Dream Teachers</a>.</li> </ul>



# Early Childhood Teacher of the Year Application



# Teacher of the Year Application Materials

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Forms. **Application Documents***

## **Video: Required**

All TOY Applicants must submit a teaching video.

- A ten minute (maximum) video of the Teacher's instruction in the classroom should be submitted through Google Forms.
  - *Technical assistance for this can be offered through CCR&R, Lead Agency, or the LDOE. Contact [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov) if you need assistance.*

## **Teaching Materials Part 1**

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

- Written lesson plan corresponding to the teaching video submitted
- Written feedback and scores from a recent coaching/CLASS<sup>®</sup> observation and session (from 2024 or 2025 calendar year)



# Teacher of the Year Application Materials

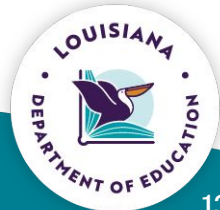
## Application Documents

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Forms.*

### Work History/Experience

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

- Complete the work history questions in Google and submit a resumé in a word document or PDF



# Teacher of the Year Application Materials

## Application Documents

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Forms.*

### Teaching Data

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

- This section of the application should demonstrate your contributions and gains in the field, guiding children of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence. An Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year serves economically-disadvantaged children who are in publicly funded programs, children who have disabilities, and/or children who are experiencing homelessness (i.e., Teachers in a CCAP-certified Type III Center or Head Start, Early Head Start Center, or Family Child Care (FCC).



# Teacher of the Year Application Materials

## Application Documents

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Form.*

### Leadership

All TOY Applicants must complete *both* essay questions.

- Written responses to the two essay questions (see questions below)

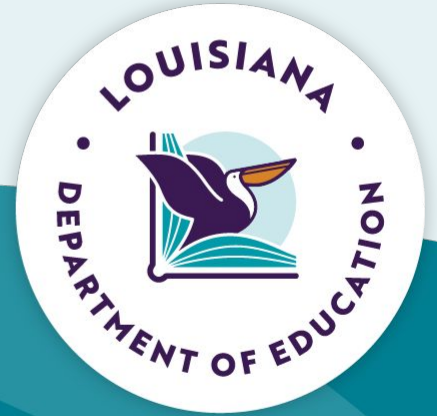
### Essay Questions

Answer both questions below to answer:

1. Why do you work in Early Childhood Education? Why is this work important to you?
2. What makes you an excellent early childhood educator?



# Early Childhood Leader of the Year Application





# Leader of the Year Application Materials

## Application Documents

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Forms.*

### **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 [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov) if you need assistance.*



# Leader of the Year Application Materials

## Application Documents

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Forms.*

### Submission Materials Part 1

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

- The scores from the Leaders sites Performance Profile (from 2024-2025 calendar year)
- Video of 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*)



# Leader of the Year Application Materials

## Application Documents

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Forms.*

### Work History

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

- Complete the work history questions in Google Forms



# Leader of the Year Application Materials

## Application Documents

*All application documents should be prepared prior to starting the online application in Google Forms.*

### Leadership

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

- Written responses to two essay questions (see questions below)

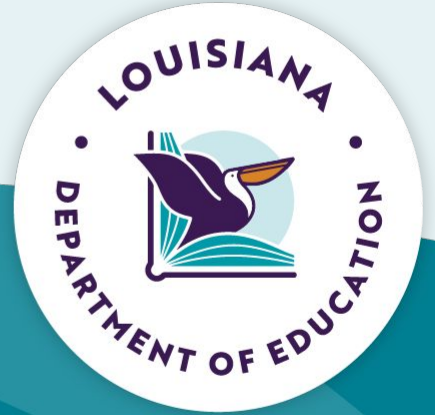
### Essay Questions

Answer both questions below to answer:

1. Why do you work in Early Childhood Education? Why is this work important to you?
2. What makes you an excellent early childhood educator?



# Application Support and Resources



# Applications

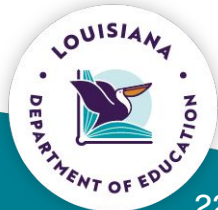
## Technical Assistance

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

Lead agencies and CCR&Rs should prepare to:

- support with teaching videos and other material preparation as needed



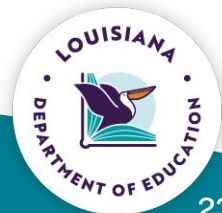
# Applications

## Candidate and Student Consent Forms

- 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:**

[Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Application](#)

## **Application Guidance:**

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

## **Application Appendices:**

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

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

