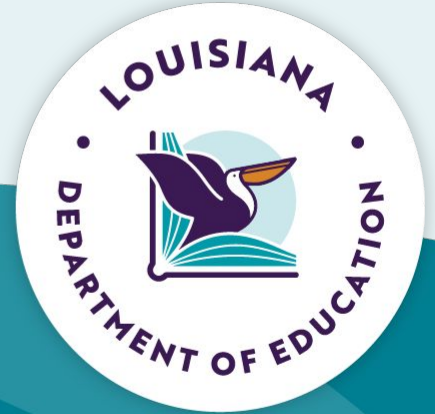


Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

Application Support

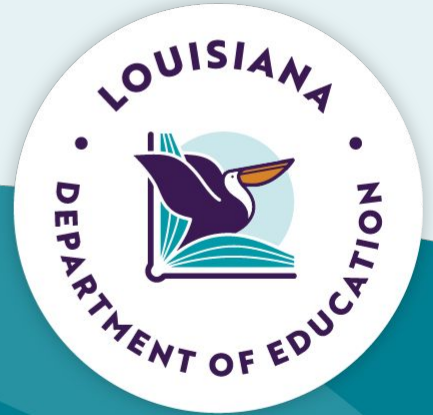


Agenda

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



Vision of Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year



Vision of Teacher and Leader of the Year

*Louisiana was 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.



Eligibility



Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

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.



Timeline



Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Timeline Continued

Phase	Timeline	Description/Activity
Application Due	11:59 p.m. on January 14, 2027	• All candidates are invited to complete their application with the assistance of their local Community Network Lead Agency, Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, or other colleagues. • All nominees and those who were not nominated are invited to apply for the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year award program via the Google Form Application.
Finalists Announces	March/April 2027	• The Department names the Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists.

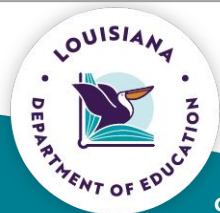
Please contact name@la.gov

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

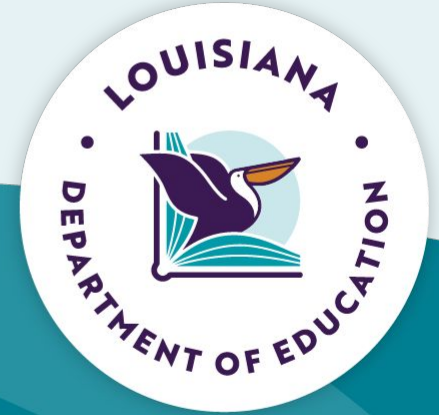


Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Timeline Continued

Phase	Timeline	Description/Activity
Finalists Interviewed	Spring 2027	
Teacher Leader Summit	May 31-June 3, 2027	TBD
Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala	July 2027	• The 2028 Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists will be recognized and celebrated at the 21st Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala that will be held in New Orleans. • On this evening overall winners will be named.



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 brandee.david@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[®] observation and session (from 2025 or 2026 calendar year)

If a video submission error is received *please add your YouTube link onto a word document and upload the word document.*



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

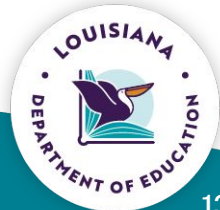
Application Documents

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 three 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?
3. Describe a professional challenge you have faced within the last three years. What steps did you take to address the challenge, what did you learn from the experience, and how has it influenced your work today?



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 brandee.david@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 2025-2026 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 three 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?
3. Describe a professional challenge you have faced within the last three years. What steps did you take to address the challenge, what did you learn from the experience, and how has it influenced your work today?



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.

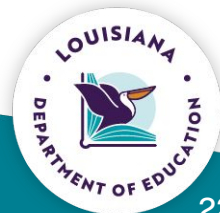


Applications- Candidate and Student Consent Forms

- 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:

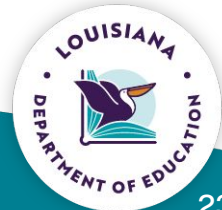
[Early Childhood Leader of the Year - Appendix](#)

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

Additional Resources:

[Awards Page](#)

[Explore and Learn-2026 Early Childhood Leader of the Year Site Visit Video](#)



Questions?



Early Childhood Leader of the Year
Sarah Corley • Rapides Parish



Early Childhood Teacher of the Year
Jillian Graves • St. James Parish

