



Office of Early Childhood Care and Education

2023 MARKET RATE SURVEY

June 26, 2024

Acknowledgements	2
Glossary	2
Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
Methodology	4
Survey Results	5
Narrow Cost Analysis	23
Appendix A: Survey Instrument	31
Appendix B: Survey Fielding Information	41
Appendix C: Responses by Parish, Region, and Zone	45

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt acknowledgment to the dedicated child care providers across the state of Louisiana. Their unwavering commitment and daily efforts to nurture and educate our youngest residents is unparalleled. We appreciate their commitment to serving children across Louisiana and are grateful for their participation in this market rate survey.

Glossary

CCAP: Child Care Assistance Program, which provides subsidized child care to low-income families who are working, looking for employment, in training, and/or in school

Family Child Care Provider: License-exempt providers who provide child care services for six or fewer unrelated children in a private residence

In-Home Child Care Provider: License-exempt providers who provide child care for children in the children's home

Military Child Care Center: Child care center that is located on a military base and serves only children from military families

School-based Center: Child care centers located on school campuses that provide only before-school and after-school care

Type I Center: Early learning centers owned or operated by a tax-exempt, faith-based organization that receive no state or federal funds directly or indirectly from any source

Type II Center: Early learning centers not accepting public funding, with the possible exception of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Type III Center: Early learning centers authorized to accept some form of public funding to serve in-need children (Child Care Assistance Program or CCAP, Head Start funds, or NSECD monies)

Executive Summary

The Louisiana Department of Education contracted with Emergent Method, a Louisiana-based management consulting firm, to conduct the 2023 Market Rate Survey of child care providers. This survey was conducted to identify both the typical rates charged by child providers across the state as well as to better understand the cost to those providers of providing quality child care.

In total, 1,126 child care professionals, or 62.7% of active providers statewide, participated in the survey, providing a significant number of responses from which to identify the baseline costs, prices, and operating practices.

Among notable findings are the following:

- Type III Centers were best represented among respondents (685 responses).
- Rates across the board have increased significantly since 2020. Unlike in 2020, due to the significant increases in CCAP rates, the average differential between charged rate and CCAP maximum is, at greatest, \$2.99. The maximum CCAP rates for three age groups (infant, toddler, and five year old and older) exceed the combined average daily rates.
- In general, Type I and Type II Centers have the highest average rates per age group, with the exception of toddlers, in which Type III Centers charge the highest rates.
- The average cost differential between urban/suburban and rural providers is shrinking, indicating that higher operating costs are being translated relatively consistently into charged rates, regardless of location within the state.
- Providers are most likely to charge different rates for summer care (13.9%) and holidays (9.8%), while fewer charge different rates for evening (4.9%) or weekends (1.8%).
- Weekend and holiday care are significantly more expensive than regular weekday rates, while summer care rates are only slightly higher than regular weekday rates.
- Over 40% of respondents anticipate increasing rates in the next 12 months by an average of \$20.56 per week, or \$1,069.12 per year.
- The average training investment made by providers has increased significantly since 2020 to \$3,930.92 (organizational budget) and \$378.80 (per person).
- Respondents continue to report that staffing and the ability to pay competitive wages continue to be the greatest challenges experienced when operating their businesses.

In addition to questions about rates, providers were asked to provide information on major cost drivers including personnel and facilities expenses. Providers were also asked to share insight into major challenges related to operating their centers.

Introduction

The Louisiana Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is administered by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Office of Early Childhood Care and Education. Through the program, low-income families receive a financial subsidy for child care costs while they work or attend school or training. In 2023, 20,831 children received child care through the program (through voucher seats and contracted seats).

CCAP is funded through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), a federal fund created to ensure that all families have equal access to child care services. As the Lead Agency of CCDF funds, the LDOE is required to conduct a market rate survey every three years to analyze the prices and fees charged by child care providers for services in the priced market; these results are then used to inform the Lead Agency's CCDF plan.

In 2023 the LDOE hired Emergent Method, a Louisiana-based consulting firm, to conduct its 2023 Market Rate Survey. This survey was utilized as an opportunity to better understand both the price consumers pay for child care and the cost to providers of providing quality child care, as well as to identify the biggest operational challenges providers face.

Survey results are broken out by region, provider type, and children's age. Louisiana's nine regions were used as the geographic areas for comparisons; the groups were built using the address providers listed for their sites. The following provider types were surveyed: Type I Centers, Type II Centers, Type III Centers, Family Child Care Providers, and In-Home Child Care Providers. To capture variances in prices, or costs by age group, some survey questions asked for data by the following age groups: infants, toddlers, age 3, age 4, and age 5 or older. Site quality levels were provided by the LDOE: sites participating in the quality improvement system are assigned a quality level of "Unsatisfactory," "Approaching Proficient," "Proficient," "High Proficient," or "Excellent."

Methodology

Survey Fielding

The 2023 Market Rate Survey was distributed to all active child care providers (Type I Centers, Type II Centers, Type III Centers, School-Based Child Care, Family Child Care Providers, and In-Home Child Care) by e-mail on October 13, 2023. The survey closed on November 20, 2023. During the fielding period, reminder e-mails were sent out regularly to providers who had not completed the survey at the time of each e-mail. In addition, postcards were mailed out to providers who had not completed the survey by October 25, 2023. Near the end of the fielding period, phone calls were made to providers who had not yet completed the survey, prompting them to complete it.

Data Cleaning

Prior to calculating the rates, the data were cleaned to remove any outlier values that appeared extremely high or low and to correct any data entry errors. As provider numbers were identified as incorrect or missing, they were updated to reflect the correct number by matching business names and/or street addresses. Several providers completed more than one survey, resulting in duplicate responses. These responses were reviewed, and the response that was most complete was kept.

Survey Results

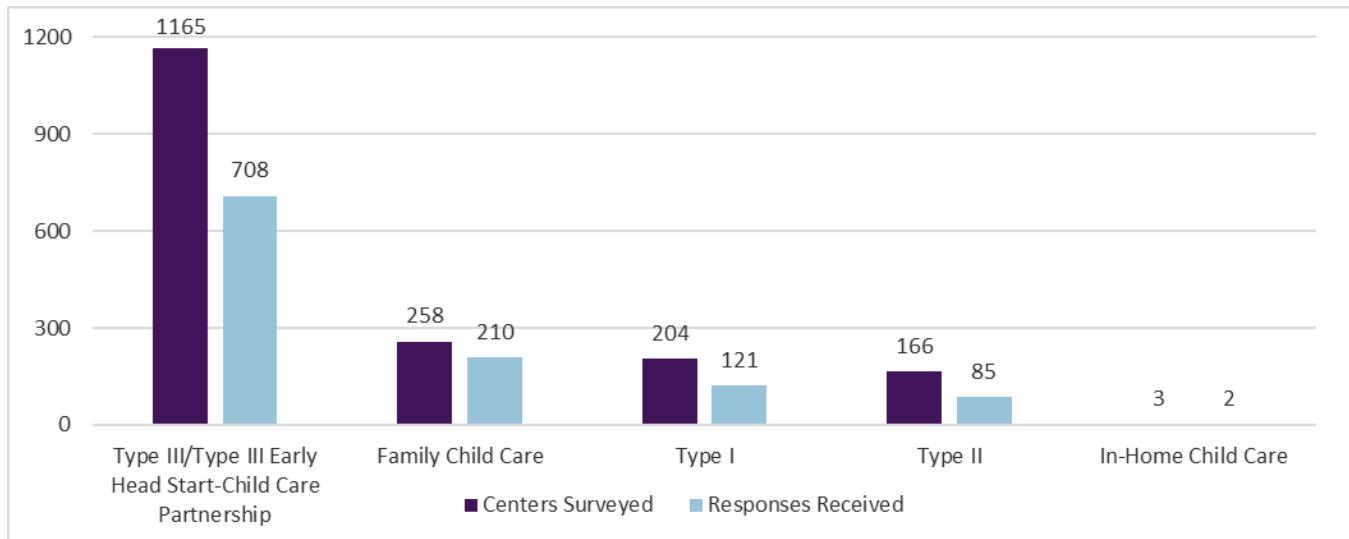
In total, 1,126 survey responses were received, representing a 62.7% response rate.

Survey Demographics

The universe of regulated child care providers was provided by the LDOE. The table below contains the breakdown of providers by category, along with the total number of responses received and the calculated response rate. Similar to the 2020 Market Rate survey, the highest total number of responses received came from Type III providers, and the highest response rate was seen for Family Child Care Providers. An increase in overall participation was seen this year with a total response rate of 62.7%, an increase of 5.3% above 2020 participation rates. For analysis of the survey questions, Type III Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership sites and Type III Center sites were combined into a single Type III category.

	Total Sample	Responses Received	Response Rate
Type I	204	121	59.3%
Type II	166	85	51.2%
Type III	1016	685	67.4%
Type III Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership Site	149	23	15.4%
Family Child Care	258	210	81.4%
In-Home Child Care	3	2	66.7%
TOTAL:	1,796	1,126	62.7%

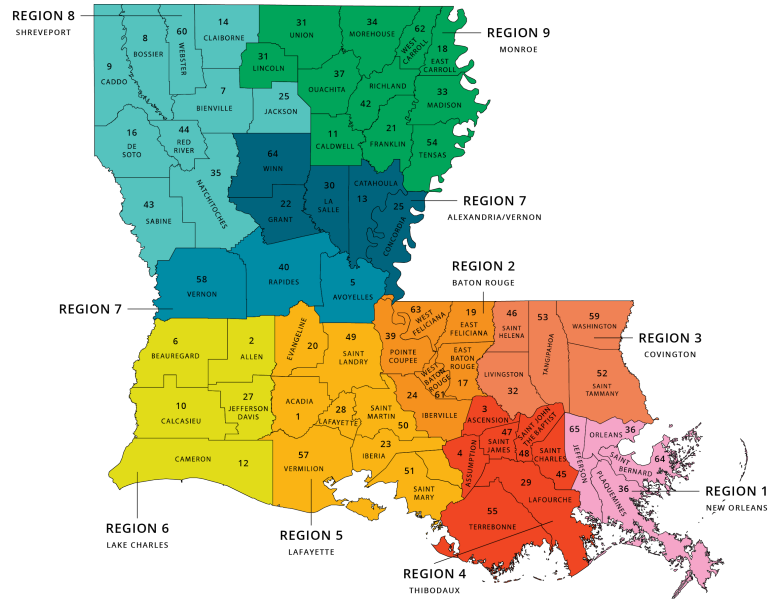
RESPONSE BY CHILD CARE CENTER TYPE



RESPONSE BY REGION AND GEOGRAPHIC DESIGNATION

To better understand geographic variations in available care and the cost of care across Louisiana, respondents were grouped by their region within the state. A complete list of response rates by parish and parishes by region are included in Appendix C.

Among respondents, New Orleans and Baton Rouge are best represented (193 and 192 responses, respectively), followed by Lafayette (161 responses), Shreveport (123 responses), Covington (121 responses), and Monroe (118 responses). 97 providers from Thibodaux participated in the survey, while Alexandria (63 responses) and Lake Charles (57 responses) are the least represented.

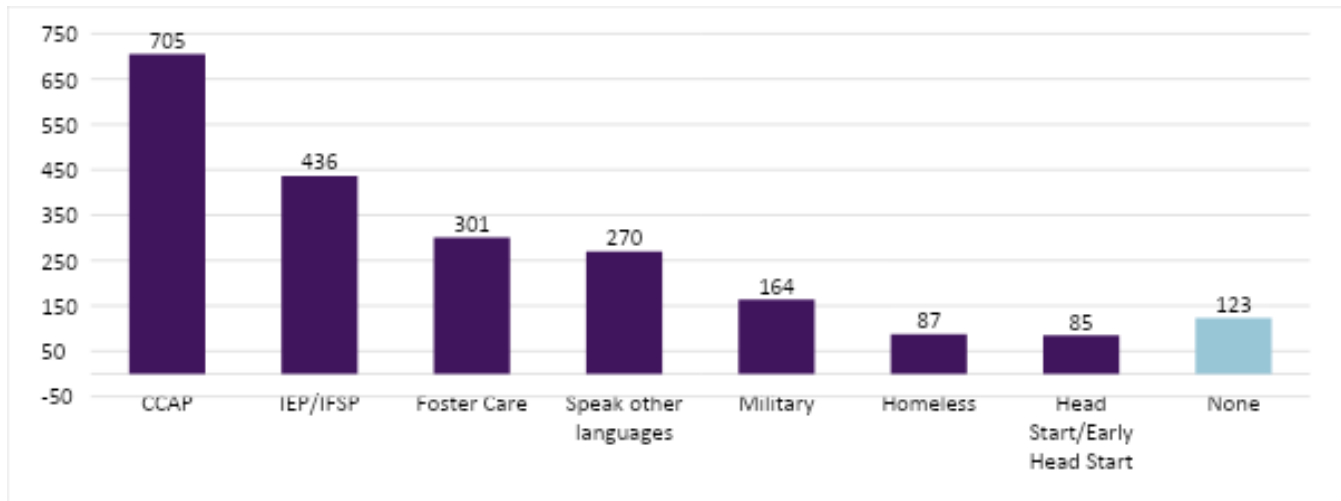


Region	Responses Received	Percent of Total Responses
Region 1: New Orleans	193	17.1%
Region 2: Baton Rouge	192	17.1%
Region 3: Covington	121	10.7%
Region 4: Thibodaux	97	8.6%
Region 5: Lafayette	161	14.3%
Region 6: Lake Charles	57	5.1%
Region 7: Alexandria	63	5.6%
Region 8: Shreveport	123	10.9%
Region 9: Monroe	118	10.5%
No region identified	1	0.1%

As an additional form of analysis, parishes were divided into one of two categories (rural or urban/suburban) using existing LDOE criteria for identifying rural school districts. The majority of responses, just as in the 2020 survey, were from parishes classified as suburban or urban (85.6%). A complete list of the response rates by urban/suburban and rural classifications, by parish, are included in Appendix C.

Classification	Responses Received	Percent of Total Responses
Rural	162	14.4%
Urban/Suburban	963	85.6%

PROVIDERS BY TYPES OF CHILDREN SERVED



When asked to indicate the type of children they serve, the majority of respondents (708 responses, 62.6%) indicated that they serve children who receive CCAP benefits, followed by 38.7% (436 responses) indicating they serve children with disabilities (those with IEPs or IFSPs). Just over one-quarter of respondents (301 responses, 26.7%) serve children in foster care, 24.0% (270 responses) serve children who speak a language other than English at home, and 14.6% (164 responses) indicate serving children from military families. Notably, 7.7% of respondents (87 responses) serve children who are homeless, a significant increase from 2020 when only 3.6% of providers (29 respondents) reported serving homeless children. Only 7.5% of respondents (85 responses) serve Head Start or Early Head Start children.

Enrollment and Attendance

Respondents were asked to provide information on current enrollment and daily attendance numbers. Overall daily attendance is at 94.0%, which is significantly higher than the 2020 daily attendance rate of 86.8%. Average daily attendance does vary by age group; 5 year olds have the lowest attendance rate at 89.1%. Notably, total daily attendance exceeds the total current enrollment for infants and 4 year olds, leading to attendance rates over 100%; this is attributed to misreporting on the part of respondents.

STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE (AS OF FALL 2023)

	Current Enrollment	Desired Enrollment	Current Waitlist	Current Vacancies	CCAP Enrollment	Daily Attendance
Infant	5,629	7,851	5,063	1,809	1,027	5,894
Toddler	17,036	19,264	6,679	3,277	3,546	15,489
Three-Year-Old	10,711	13,207	3,054	3,091	2,383	10,092
Four-Year-Old	6,676	9,347	1,435	2,599	1,231	6,803
Five-Year-Old and Older	7,299	8,593	1,465	1,724	2,375	6,506
TOTAL:	47,351	58,262	17,696	12,500	10,562	44,784

CURRENT SELF-REPORTED ENROLLMENT BY CENTER TYPE

		Current Enrollment	Desired Enrollment	Current Waitlist	Current Vacancies
Type I	Infant	817	916	1,267	139
	Toddler	3,309	3,385	2,183	222
	Three-Year-Old	1,968	2,120	572	255
	Four-Year-Old	1,301	1,416	286	171
	Five-Year-Old and Older	1,259	1,124	804	119
	TOTAL:	8,654	8,961	5,112	906
Type II	Infant	516	546	415	54
	Toddler	1,651	1,721	363	307
	Three-Year-Old	1,051	1,214	127	248
	Four-Year-Old	882	1,116	59	264
	Five-Year-Old and Older	1,111	1,285	67	185
	TOTAL:	5,211	5,882	1,031	1,058
Type III	Infant	4,128	5,942	3,243	1,460
	Toddler	11,751	13,728	4,012	2,613
	Three-Year-Old	7,549	9,523	2,299	2,468
	Four-Year-Old	4,425	6,597	1,057	2,089
	Five-Year-Old and Older	4,776	5,939	566	1,347
	TOTAL:	32,629	41,729	11,177	9,977
Family	Infant	168	447	138	156
	Toddler	325	430	121	135
	Three-Year-Old	143	350	56	120
	Four-Year-Old	68	218	33	75
	Five-Year-Old and Older	150	239	28	70
	TOTAL:	854	1,684	376	556
In-Home	Infant	0	0	0	0
	Toddler	0	0	0	0
	Three-Year-Old	0	0	0	0
	Four-Year-Old	0	0	0	0
	Five-Year-Old and Older	3	6	3	0
	TOTAL:	3	6	3	0

The self-reported enrollment and capacity numbers from each site type offer several trends. First, all types of centers would like to enroll a higher number of children than are currently enrolled. For younger children (infants, toddlers, and 3 year olds), the current waitlist size is larger than the current number of vacancies; the opposite is true for children over the age of 4. For Type III centers, waitlists represent between 11.8% (5 year olds and older) to 78.6% (infants) of total enrollment, depending on age. Given the smaller number of providers who offer infant care compared to those that serve older children, this waitlist differential is not surprising.

Rates

To begin, respondents were asked to provide their standard rates. Respondents were given the option of providing their rates charged as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly and were asked to provide the days per week they provided services. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly rates. Rates were calculated as follows:

- Hourly rates were converted to daily rates using the provided number of hours considered part-time or full-time. Where this value was not provided, 10 hours of care per day was assumed.
- Weekly rates were converted to daily rates using the provided number of days a program operates. Where this value was not provided, five days of care per week was assumed.
- Monthly rates were converted using the provided number of days a program was open (or five days per week where not provided) and an assumption of four weeks per month.

The daily maximum CCAP rates were raised significantly in 2022; this is reflected in the difference in the average full-time daily rates and the maximum CCAP rates. The difference ranges significantly, from a deficit of -\$2.99 (for 3 year olds), compared to a positive difference of \$27.42 for infant care, indicating that the current maximum rates are appropriately matched to the current market rates, ensuring that there is less overall need for CCAP-utilizing families to pay the difference out-of-pocket compared to three years ago, when the last market rate survey was conducted.

STATEWIDE STANDARD AVERAGE DAILY RATES COMPARED TO MAXIMUM CCAP RATES

	Combined Average Daily Rate	2023 Daily Maximum LA CCAP Rates*	Average Rate & Daily LA CCAP Rate Differential
Infant	\$40.58	\$68.00	\$27.42
Toddler	\$36.21	\$42.00	\$5.79
Three-Year-Old	\$34.49	\$31.50	-\$2.99
Four-Year-Old	\$33.28	\$31.50	-\$1.78
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$29.34	\$31.50	\$2.16

**2023 Daily Louisiana CCAP rates are based on a calculation of a true cost of care (last calculated in 2021); in contrast, the Daily Rate of early learning sites reflects what providers have found to be the maximum rate amount that families can bear of the actual cost of care.*

STATEWIDE STANDARD AVERAGE DAILY RATES, BY AGE AND CENTER TYPE

Rates also vary significantly by type of provider. Type I Centers, which receive no public funding, charge the highest average daily rates for 3-year-old (\$36.41) and 4-year-old care (\$34.78), while Type II Centers charged the highest average daily rates for toddler (\$38.55) and 5-year-old and older care (\$31.30). Type III Centers charge the highest daily rates for toddler care (\$41.46).

Just as in the 2020 market rate survey, Family providers report the lowest charged daily rates for the majority of ages, with the exception of 5-year-old care.

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Family	In-home
Infant	\$39.33	\$40.79	\$41.46	\$37.49	Insufficient data to calculate
Toddler	\$36.91	\$38.55	\$36.58	\$33.09	
Three-Year-Old	\$36.41	\$36.85	\$34.10	\$33.46	
Four-Year-Old	\$34.78	\$34.97	\$33.10	\$32.36	
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$26.83	\$31.30	\$29.06	\$30.32	\$60.00

STANDARD AVERAGE DAILY RATES, BY AGE AND REGION

In addition to variation among center types, there are also significant differences in the rates charged for care among regions. The New Orleans region has the overall highest average daily rates across age groups (\$39.23 across age groups), driven by its high toddler (\$41.47), 3-year-old (\$38.77), and 4-year-old rates (\$37.60), though Lake Charles is a close second, with the highest average across age groups (\$38.74) and the highest infant (\$46.55) and 5-year-old rates (\$35.87). The high rates in Lake Charles are likely the result of the scarcity of child care providers caused largely by numerous weather events experienced by the region that resulted in the closure of a significant number of child care providers over the last three years.

Lafayette (\$36.91), Covington (\$35.40), and Baton Rouge (\$34.72) are relatively comparable in terms of their average cost across age groups, while the comparatively more affordable child care rates in the state are found in Monroe (\$31.77), Thibodaux (\$31.72), Shreveport (\$30.76), and Alexandria (\$29.28).

Infant	Rate	
	Maximum CCAP Rate	\$68.00*
	Statewide	\$40.58
	New Orleans	\$44.37
	Baton Rouge	\$40.24
	Covington	\$42.90
	Thibodaux	\$36.05
	Lafayette	\$42.73
	Lake Charles	\$46.55
	Alexandria	\$33.14
	Shreveport	\$37.28
	Monroe	\$37.38

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Two-Year-Old	Rate	
	Maximum CCAP Rate	\$42.00*
	Statewide	\$36.21
	New Orleans	\$41.47
	Baton Rouge	\$36.66
	Covington	\$36.86
	Thibodaux	\$32.94
	Lafayette	\$37.28
	Lake Charles	\$38.66
	Alexandria	\$28.89
	Shreveport	\$32.61
	Monroe	\$33.17

**2023 Daily Louisiana CCAP rates are based on a calculation of a true cost of care (last calculated in 2021); in contrast, the Daily Rate of early learning sites reflects what providers have found to be the maximum rate amount that families can bear of the actual cost of care.*

Three-Year-Old	Rate	
	Maximum CCAP Rate	\$31.50
	Statewide	\$34.49
	New Orleans	\$38.77
	Baton Rouge	\$35.37
	Covington	\$35.10
	Thibodaux	\$31.00
	Lafayette	\$37.48
	Lake Charles	\$37.69
	Alexandria	\$28.79
	Shreveport	\$29.64
	Monroe	\$29.89

Four-Year-Old	Rate	
	Maximum CCAP Rate	\$31.50
	Statewide	\$33.28
	New Orleans	\$37.60
	Baton Rouge	\$34.16
	Covington	\$34.34
	Thibodaux	\$31.42
	Lafayette	\$34.86
	Lake Charles	\$34.96
	Alexandria	\$27.80
	Shreveport	\$28.78
	Monroe	\$29.34

Five-Year-Old	Rate	
	Maximum CCAP Rate	\$31.50*
	Statewide	\$29.34
	New Orleans	\$33.96
	Baton Rouge	\$27.15
	Covington	\$27.82
	Thibodaux	\$27.21
	Lafayette	\$32.20
	Lake Charles	\$35.86
	Alexandria	\$27.79
	Shreveport	\$25.51
	Monroe	\$29.08

**2023 Daily Louisiana CCAP rates are based on a calculation of a true cost of care (last calculated in 2021); in contrast, the Daily Rate of early learning sites reflects what providers have found to be the maximum rate amount that families can bear of the actual cost of care.*

STANDARD AVERAGE DAILY RATES BY GEOGRAPHIC DESIGNATION

Even within a single region, there can be significant variation in the market characteristics, based on proximity to an urban area, parish population density, and income characteristics; to account for this, urban/suburban versus rural designations were assigned by parish to examine differences by geographic designation.

Across all age categories, care is more expensive in urban/suburban parishes than in rural parishes. Rates decrease for both urban/suburban and rural providers as the age of the child increases. Additionally, while these rates have universally increased, even among rural parishes, compared to the 2020 rates the difference between rates is shrinking overall. In 2020, the differences, by age, between urban/suburban and rural parishes ranged from \$3.36 - \$5.62, while the current rate differentials range between \$0.20 (5 year olds) to \$1.83 (4 year olds).

STANDARD AVERAGE DAILY RATES BY CHILD’S AGE AND RURAL-URBAN/SUBURBAN CLASSIFICATION

	Rural	Urban/Suburban	Combined Average Daily Rate
Infant	\$39.78	\$41.70	\$40.58
Toddler	\$34.11	\$36.51	\$36.21
Three-Year-Old	\$32.95	\$34.69	\$34.49
Four-Year-Old	\$31.67	\$33.50	\$33.28
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$29.31	\$29.51	\$29.34

STANDARD AVERAGE DAILY RATES, BY AGE AND QUALITY LEVEL

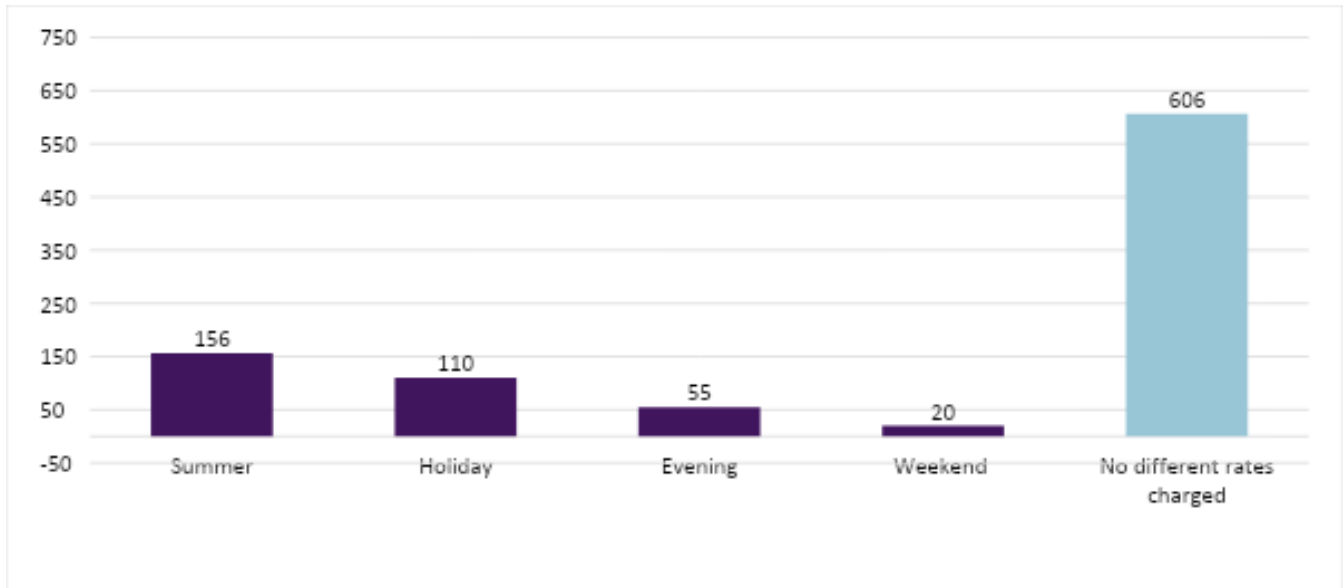
Quality levels, or Performance Profiles, are determined and assigned by the LDOE to all Type III Centers and to Family Child Care providers participating in the quality improvement system. Sites receive a numerical quality score that is associated with the following quality levels: “Unsatisfactory,” “Approaching Proficient,” “Proficient,” “High Proficient,” and “Excellent.” None of the providers that responded to the 2023 Market Rate Survey received an “Unsatisfactory” score. This quality level assessment is based on many factors, including Emotional and Behavioral Support, Classroom Organization, Instructional Support, and Responsive Caregiving.

For each age group, the charged rates increase steadily for each quality level. In alignment with the baseline rates, rates are highest for infant care and decrease as age increases. Rates for all ages are higher than the average, or baseline, for “High Proficient” and “Excellent” centers.

	Baseline	Approaching Proficient	Proficient	High Proficient	Excellent
Infant	\$41.46	\$37.25	\$41.41	\$41.59	\$51.23
Toddler	\$36.58	\$33.55	\$36.18	36.77	\$40.56
Three-Year-Old	\$34.10	\$32.04	\$33.38	\$34.32	\$36.29
Four-Year-Old	\$33.10	\$31.18	\$32.81	\$33.50	\$35.33
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$29.06	\$26.54	\$28.02	\$29.66	\$33.78

Alternate Child Care Rates

Providers were asked whether they charged different rates for evening, weekend, holiday, or summer care. Details for different rates are included below for each type of care. Respondents most frequently charge different rates for summer care (156 responses, 13.9%), followed by holidays (110 responses, 9.8%), evenings (55 responses, 4.9%), and weekends (20 responses, 1.8%). However, the majority of respondents do not charge different rates (606 responses, 53.8%).



Generally, the price of care decreases as the age of the child increases, though there are some exceptions. For example, weekend and evening care for 5 year olds is more expensive than weekend or evening care for 3 or 4 year olds. While higher weekend care rates serve as a barrier to families, the more significant barrier is the general lack of available weekend care options, given the small number of providers who offer any type of weekend care (20 total providers).

EVENING CHILD CARE RATES

Just as with the standard full-time rates, respondents were given the option of providing their evening rates charged as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly and were asked to provide the days per week they provided services. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly rates. Hourly, weekly, and monthly rates were converted to daily rates as follows:

- Hourly: hourly rates were converted to daily rates assuming 10 hours per day.
- Weekly: respondents were asked to share the number of days their site provides evening care. This value, where provided, was used to calculate the daily rate. Where the value was not provided, an assumption of five days per week was used.
- Monthly: assumes four weeks per month, utilizing the provided data for operating days per week where possible and an assumption of five days per week where not provided.

Average evening child care rates are generally lower than standard average daily rates, with the exception of five year olds and older, for which the evening rate is \$2.17 higher than the standard average daily rate.

	Evening Child Care Rate	Standard Average Daily Rate	Average Number of Days Evening Care is Provided
Infant	\$37.04	\$40.58	5.2
Toddler	\$35.57	\$36.21	5.1
Three-Year-Old	\$29.98	\$34.49	5.2
Four-Year-Old	\$29.79	\$33.28	5.2
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$31.51	\$29.34	5.2

WEEKEND CHILD CARE RATES

Respondents were similarly given the option of providing their weekend rates charged as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly and were asked to provide the days per week they provided services. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly rates. Hourly, weekly, and monthly rates were converted to daily rates as follows:

- Hourly: respondents were asked to indicate the number of hours considered part-time and full-time for weekend care. These values were used to calculate the daily rate. Where values were not provided, 10 hours per day was used to calculate the full-time rate.
- Weekly: respondents were asked to share the number of days their site provides weekend care. This value, where provided, was used to calculate the daily rate. Where the value was not provided, an assumption of five days per week was used.
- Monthly: assumes four weeks per month, utilizing the provided data for operating days per week where possible and when an assumption of two days per week is not provided.

Just as with evening rates, weekend rates generally decrease as the child’s age increases, with one exception: care for 5 year olds is priced higher than care for 3 and 4 year olds. Comparatively, the daily price for weekend care is between \$24.05 (3 year olds) and \$31.99 (5 year olds and older), higher than standard average care.

	Weekend Child Care Rate	Standard Average Daily Rate	Average Number of Days Evening Care is Provided
Infant	\$67.12	\$40.58	1.7
Toddler	\$62.62	\$36.21	1.7
Three-Year-Old	\$58.54	\$34.49	1.7
Four-Year-Old	\$58.54	\$33.28	1.7
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$61.33	\$29.34	1.7

HOLIDAY CHILD CARE RATES

Respondents were given the option of providing their holiday rates charged hourly or daily. All but one respondent indicated that their holiday rates are billed daily, and the hourly rate was converted to a daily rate, assuming a 10-hour day. Daily holiday care rates decrease as the child’s age increases. Though they are lower than the weekend rates, rates for each age group are still higher than standard daily rates, ranging from \$11.22 over (5 year old and older) to as much as \$17.13 over (toddler).

	Holiday Child Care Rates	Standard Average Daily Rate
Infant	\$57.29	\$40.58
Toddler	\$53.34	\$36.21
Three-Year-Old	\$49.87	\$34.49
Four-Year-Old	\$48.18	\$33.28
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$40.56	\$29.34

SUMMER CARE RATES

Finally, respondents were given the option of providing their summer rates charged as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly and were asked to provide the days per week they provided services. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly rates. Hourly, weekly, and monthly rates were converted to daily rates as follows:

- Hourly: respondents were asked to indicate the number of hours considered part-time and full-time for weekend care. These values were used to calculate the daily rate. Where values were not provided, 10 hours per day was used to calculate the full-time rate.
- Weekly: respondents were asked to share the number of days their site provides evening care. This value, where provided, was used to calculate the daily rate. Where the value was not provided, an assumption of five days per week was used.
- Monthly: assumes four weeks per month, utilizing the provided data for operating days per week where possible and an assumption of five days per week where not provided.

As expected, daily rates for summer care are generally higher than standard rates, with the exception of infant care, which is just \$0.18 less. The summer rates for other age groups are between \$4.88 (3 year olds) and \$8.03 (5 year olds) higher. However, this is far less of a difference than weekend or holiday care.

There is significantly more variability in the provided summer rates than in standard average rates or any of the alternative child care rates. The charged cost of toddler care is higher than the charged cost of infant care, and the charged cost of 4 year old care is also higher than the charged cost for 3 year old care.

STATEWIDE AVERAGE DAILY SUMMER RATES, BY CHILD'S AGE

	Summer Child Care Rates	Standard Average Daily Rate
Infant	\$40.40	\$40.58
Toddler	\$41.67	\$36.21
Three-Year-Old	\$39.37	\$34.49
Four-Year-Old	\$40.40	\$33.28
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$37.37	\$29.34

Percentiles

While averages can be useful in gaining a broad snapshot of cost, percentiles provide a more granular understanding of rates charged relative to peer providers.

STATEWIDE QUANTILES FOR DAILY RATES BY CHILD’S AGE

The following table provides the statewide quartiles for **standard daily rates** of all.

	Infant	Toddler	Three-Year-Old	Four-Year-Old	Five-Year-Old and Older
25 th	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$20.00
50 th	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$32.00	\$31.50	\$29.00
60 th	\$40.00	\$37.00	\$34.00	\$33.00	\$30.00
75 th	\$46.00	\$42.00	\$37.00	\$36.00	\$35.00
2023 Maximum LA CCAP Rates	\$68.00	\$42.00	\$31.50	\$31.50	\$31.50

TYPE I STATEWIDE PERCENTILES FOR DAILY RATES BY CHILD’S AGE

	Infant	Toddler	Three-Year-Old	Four-Year-Old	Five-Year-Old and Older
25 th	\$30.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$27.08	\$14.75
50 th	\$34.75	\$33.00	\$32.00	\$31.00	\$25.50
60 th	\$36.00	\$35.00	\$34.15	\$32.90	\$27.60
75 th	\$38.15	\$38.56	\$38.00	\$37.13	\$29.75
80 th	\$40.60	\$40.48	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$32.20
85 th	\$45.45	\$42.74	\$42.65	\$41.14	\$37.80
90 th	\$58.28	\$51.83	\$51.75	\$42.88	\$40.30
95 th	\$92.34	\$63.67	\$66.85	\$54.34	\$41.34

TYPE II STATEWIDE PERCENTILES FOR DAILY RATES BY CHILD’S AGE

	Infant	Toddler	Three-Year-Old	Four-Year-Old	Five-Year-Old and Older
25 th	\$32.00	\$31.00	\$28.50	\$27.00	\$18.50
50 th	\$38.50	\$35.00	\$32.88	\$32.50	\$25.00
60 th	\$41.00	\$38.00	\$35.00	\$33.80	\$27.00
75 th	\$47.81	\$42.00	\$40.00	\$39.00	\$31.25
80 th	\$48.15	\$45.25	\$42.27	\$40.00	\$33.00
85 th	\$49.94	\$47.75	\$45.15	\$42.08	\$38.88
90 th	\$58.00	\$49.50	\$47.79	\$44.05	\$52.88
95 th	\$68.49	\$65.00	\$65.25	\$47.46	\$84.00

TYPE III STATEWIDE PERCENTILES FOR DAILY RATES BY CHILD’S AGE

	Infant	Toddler	Three-Year-Old	Four-Year-Old	Five-Year-Old and Older
25 th	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$28.45	\$20.00
50 th	\$37.00	\$35.00	\$32.10	\$32.00	\$30.00
60 th	\$40.00	\$37.00	\$34.00	\$33.00	\$31.50
75 th	\$46.00	\$42.00	\$37.00	\$36.00	\$35.00
80 th	\$53.00	\$42.00	\$39.00	\$37.10	\$35.00
85 th	\$64.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$37.00
90 th	\$68.00	\$49.10	\$44.23	\$42.00	\$40.00
95 th	\$72.94	\$56.00	\$50.00	\$48.00	\$45.00

FAMILY CHILD CARE STATEWIDE PERCENTILES FOR DAILY RATES BY CHILD’S AGE

	Infant	Toddler	Three-Year-Old	Four-Year-Old	Five-Year-Old and Older
25 th	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$22.00
50 th	\$32.00	\$31.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
60 th	\$35.20	\$35.00	\$32.00	\$30.73	\$30.00
75 th	\$50.00	\$41.84	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
80 th	\$56.20	\$42.00	\$37.00	\$36.34	\$35.00
85 th	\$61.00	\$45.00	\$41.26	\$40.00	\$39.50
90 th	\$61.16	\$45.00	\$47.00	\$43.00	\$41.67
95 th	\$69.80	\$57.30	\$76.25	\$70.50	\$55.00

Percentiles for In-Home Child Care could not be provided due to an insufficient number of responses.

Many of the same divides found between rural and urban/suburban areas through an examination of average rates are also seen when examining the 50th percentiles by age. In most categories, care is more expensive in urban and suburban parishes than in rural parishes, with the exception of 5-year-old and older care, which is equal.

TYPE III 50TH PERCENTILES BY RURAL VERSUS URBAN/SUBURBAN

The complete listing of the zones by region is provided in Appendix C.

		Rural 50 th Percentile	Urban/Suburban 50 th Percentile	Statewide 50 th Percentile
Type III	Infant	\$35.00	\$37.00	\$37.00
	Toddler	\$33.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
	Three-Year-Old	\$31.50	\$33.00	\$32.10
	Four-Year-Old	\$31.17	\$32.00	\$32.00
	Five-Year-Old	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00

FAMILY PROVIDERS 50TH PERCENTILES BY RURAL VERSUS URBAN/SUBURBAN

		Rural 50 th Percentile	Urban/Suburban 50 th Percentile	Statewide 50 th Percentile
Family	Infant	\$25.00	\$33.00	\$32.00
	Toddler	\$25.00	\$32.50	\$31.00
	Three-Year-Old	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
	Four-Year-Old	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$29.00
	Five-Year-Old	\$25.00	\$29.00	\$29.00

Fees Charged by Type

In addition to rates charged, respondents were asked to provide a comprehensive list of additional fees charged. Registration fees, charged by just under 70% of respondents, are the most common fee type, followed by supply fees (charged by 26.4%) and field trip fees (12.6%). Sixty-three respondents (5.6%) charged some type of additional fee not captured here, averaging \$108.69; these fees ranged from curriculum/book fees to graduation fees.

	Number of Respondents	Average Fee Amount
Registration (Per year)	771 (68.5%)	\$120.47
Supply (Per year)	297 (26.4%)	\$113.32
Field Trip (Average per trip)	142 (12.6%)	\$91.12
Food/Meals (Monthly)	63 (5.6%)	\$101.41
Technology (Per year)	32 (2.8%)	\$235.91
Transportation (Per month)	48 (4.3%)	\$135.38
Other (Per year)	63 (5.6%)	\$108.49

UNCOLLECTED FEES

Respondents were asked to share an estimate of fees that go uncollected in a typical year. Providers were able to share this estimate in either a dollar amount or a percentage. The average dollar value of uncollected fees is \$5,826.81, and the average percentage is 18.68% of total fees.

Rate Changes

Respondents were asked if they anticipated increasing their rates in the next 12 months and, if so, by how much. A total of 469 respondents (41.7%) anticipate increasing their charged rates in the next 12 months. While this is a smaller proportion of respondents than were identified in 2020, the anticipated amount of the rate increases – \$20.56 per week—is higher than the anticipated increases identified in 2020 – \$13.27 per week.

Anticipated rate changes varied by provider type. Family Child Care Providers cited the highest expected rate increase of \$23.91 per week, followed by Type I Centers with an expected increase of \$23.91. The lowest expected increase, \$15.00, was reported by an In-Home Child Care Providers. However, only one In-Home Child Care Provider plans to increase rates, so this value should not be considered representative.

	Number of Respondents	Average Weekly Increase
Type I	53	\$23.66
Type II	47	\$19.03
Type III	302	\$19.56
Family	66	\$23.91
In-home	1	\$15.00

Staff Investments and Costs

Providers were asked to share their current staffing levels of lead and assistant teachers by age group. In addition, providers were asked to share current vacancies and their desired staffing level for each age group.

The highest proportionate number of vacancies compared to current staff is overwhelming for assistant teachers in 5-year-old (77.0%) and 4-year-old classes (45.7%), though overall, the vacancy rate for assistant teachers for all classrooms

(between 30.7 - 77.0%) is much higher than that of lead teachers (14.1 - 25.9%).

Age Group	Current Staff		Current Vacancies		Desired Staffing Levels	
	Lead Teachers	Assistant Teachers	Lead Teachers	Assistant Teachers	Lead Teachers	Assistant Teachers
Infant	1,212	750	237	230	1,271	871
Toddler	2,141	1,151	302	355	1,990	1,333
Three-Year-Old	1,151	611	199	218	1,088	777
Four-Year-Old	722	399	142	182	724	546
Five-Year-Old	495	259	128	200	495	390

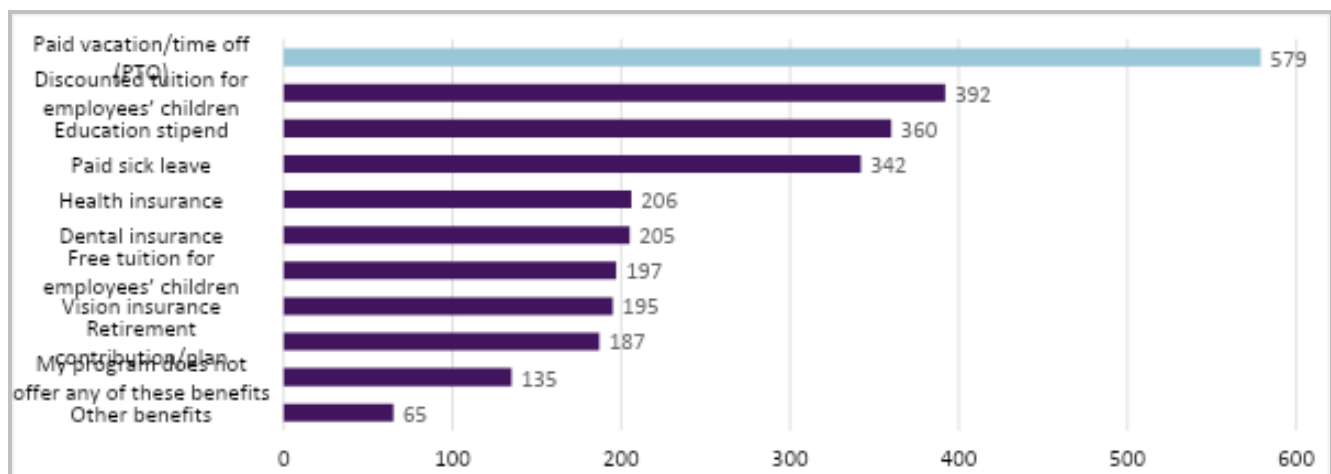
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Over half of respondents have some level of minimum educational requirement for directors and lead teachers. The most common minimum qualification for directors is a Child Development Associate credential, and for lead teachers the most common minimum qualification is a high school diploma or equivalent.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Another significant investment in human capital comes in the form of employee benefits. The most frequently reported employee benefit is paid vacation/time-off, a benefit provided by 51.4% of respondents. This is followed by discounted tuition for employee’s children (34.8%) and education stipends (32.0%).

Some providers offer additional benefits to their employees. Those benefits include bonuses (16 responses), paid holidays (13 responses), additional types of insurance (6 responses), covering training costs (4 responses), providing paid meals (4 responses), paid birthdays off (3 responses), and gym memberships (2 responses).



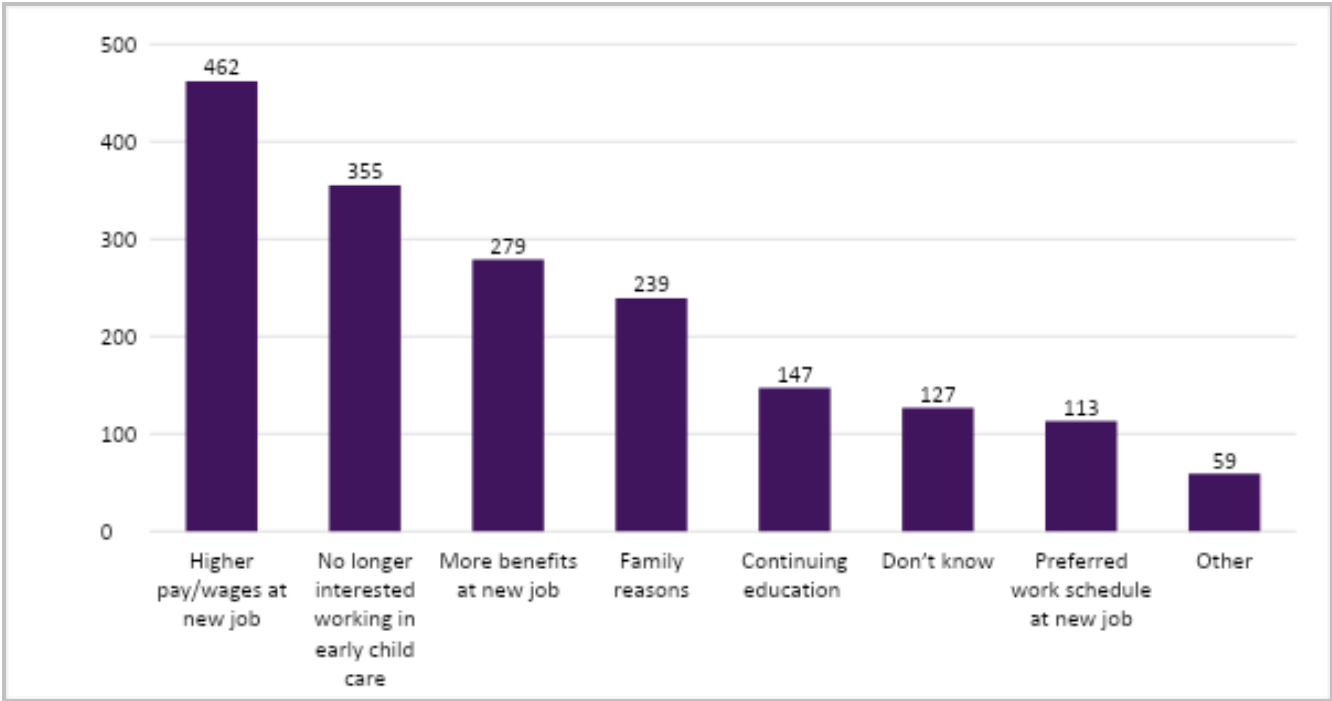
TRAINING COSTS

Almost half of respondents (45.2%) have either an annual organization-wide or employee-specific training budget. On average, the annual organization-wide investment in staff training is \$3,930.92, more than \$1,500 higher than the average

annual investment in 2020. The per person average of \$378.80 is also significantly higher than the average in 2020 (\$173.42).

REASONS FOR LEAVING

Respondents were asked to share why employees left their organization in 2023. The most common reason, reported by 41.0% of respondents (462), was that the employees were able to obtain higher pay at a new job, followed by employees no longer being interested in working in early child care (355 responses, 31.5%).



Key Cost Drivers

STAFFING COSTS

To better understand not only the price charged for child care but also the cost to providers of offering care, the survey also included questions about staffing, salaries, and associated human resources investments.

Respondents were asked to provide information about the number of positions they have staffed in their sites, as well as the average wages. They could provide wages either in hourly rates or in average salaries. Overall, centers employ the highest number of lead teachers, followed by assistant teachers and part-time teachers. Centers tend to employ only one director, assistant director, and administrative assistant. Directors are the top-paid employees, followed by assistant directors and administrative assistants.

The average number of individuals per staff position is relatively consistent between 2020 and 2023, though there has been an increase in the utilization of part-time teachers (1.9 in 2020 to 3.1 in 2023) and a slight increase in the average number of full-time lead teachers (0.2 increase) and full-time assistant teachers (0.3 increase).

Position	Average Number of Individuals in Position	Average Hourly Wage	Average Annual Salary
Director	1.1	\$17.59	\$45,719.87
Assistant Director (Director Designee)	1.1	\$15.02	\$42,576.90
Administrative Assistant	1.1	\$13.98	\$38,209.36
Lead Teacher (Full-time)	5.3	\$12.75	\$29,680.32
Assistant Teacher (Full-time)	3.7	\$11.17	\$22,221.71
Teacher (Part-time)	3.1	\$11.11	\$13,995.00
All Other Staff (Full-time)	2.0	\$11.73	\$26,555.73
All Other Staff (Part-time)	2.3	\$11.22	\$21,528.45

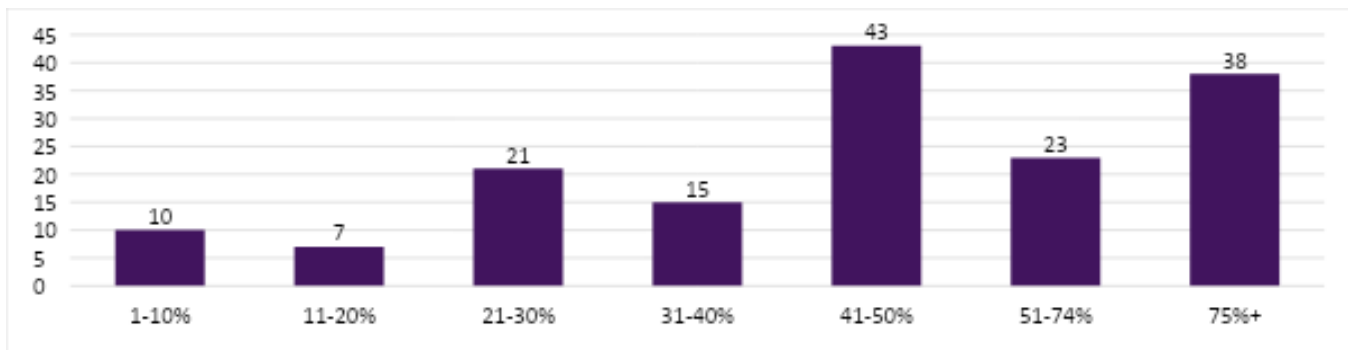
SPACE AND COST

All respondents were asked to share their monthly rent or mortgage payment, as well as the square footage of their facility. The average monthly rent/mortgage varies significantly by provider type, with Type I Centers having the highest payment (\$4,183.96) and Family Child Care Providers having the lowest (\$1,168.52). The average payment for Type II Centers is only \$112.89 lower than Type I Centers, but the average payment for Type III Centers is over \$800 lower at \$3,306.87.

	Average Rent/Mortgage Cost	Average Facility Sq. Ft.	Average Cost/Sq. Ft.
Type I	\$4,183.96	5,902.4	\$0.88
Type II	\$4,071.07	4,569.7	\$0.93
Type III	\$3,360.87	3,546.1	\$1.31
Family	\$1,168.52	NA	NA
In-home	NA	NA	NA

HOME USAGE

Family Child Care Providers were asked to report the percentage of their home that is used – whether partially or exclusively – for child care. More than one-quarter (27.4%) of Family Child Care providers use 41-50% of their home for child care, followed by providers that use more than 75% of their home (24.2%).



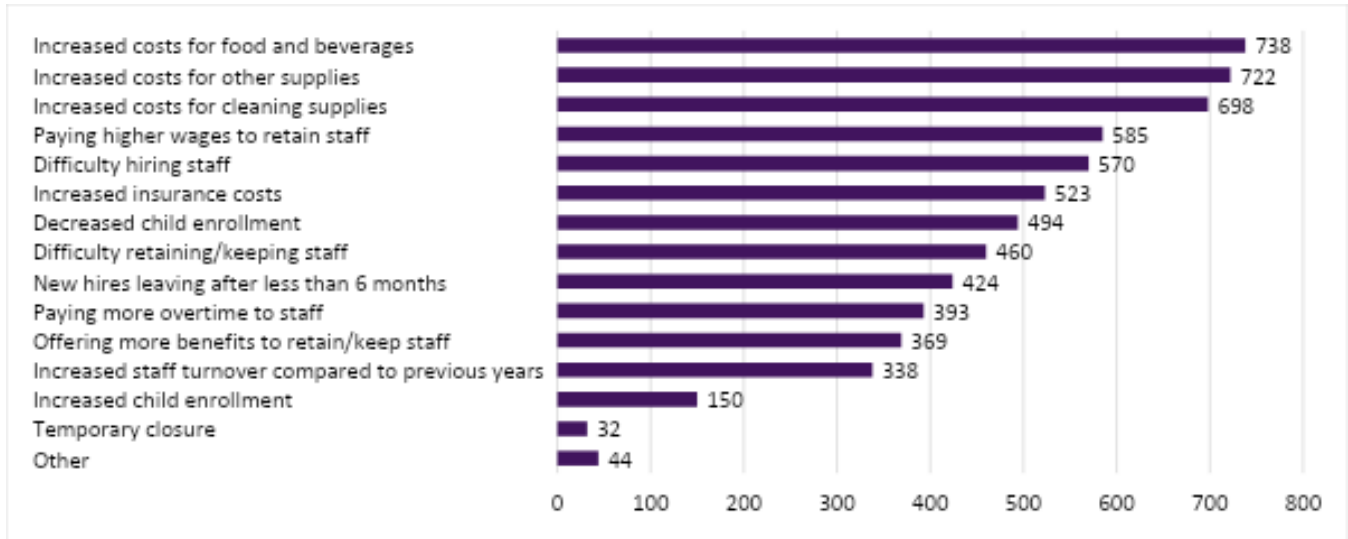
Experienced Challenges

Providers were asked to rank a variety of common obstacles they might face in operating a child care business, in order of difficulty, with 1 being most difficult and 13 being least difficult. Finding and hiring staff had the lowest average score, indicating that it is generally the most difficult obstacle child care sites face. This is followed by the ability to pay staff competitive wages (5.2 average score), financial operations (5.5 average score), and accountability (5.9 average score). The least difficult obstacles, in general, are “other” (11.9 average score), inconsistent attendance of CCAP children (8.5 average score), inconsistent co-payments from CCAP households (8.3 average score), and customer/family retention (7.7 average score). The most common challenges identified as “other” include issues with CCAP, such as delays, inconsistent payments, families being removed, families sitting on the waitlist, receiving payments from parents, increasing costs, and the behavior of children.

Obstacle	Average Ranking
Finding and hiring staff	4.8
Ability to pay staff competitive wages	5.2
Financial operations	5.5
Accountability (i.e CLASS)	5.9
Finding and retaining staff with needed qualifications	6.2
Child Assessment (i.e. TS GOLD)	6.6
Customer/family recruitment	6.8
Staff turnover rate	7.1
Compliance with Licensing and other health and safety requirements	7.5
Customer/family retention	7.7
Inconsistent co-payments from CCAP households	8.3
Inconsistent attendance of CCAP children	8.5
Other	11.9

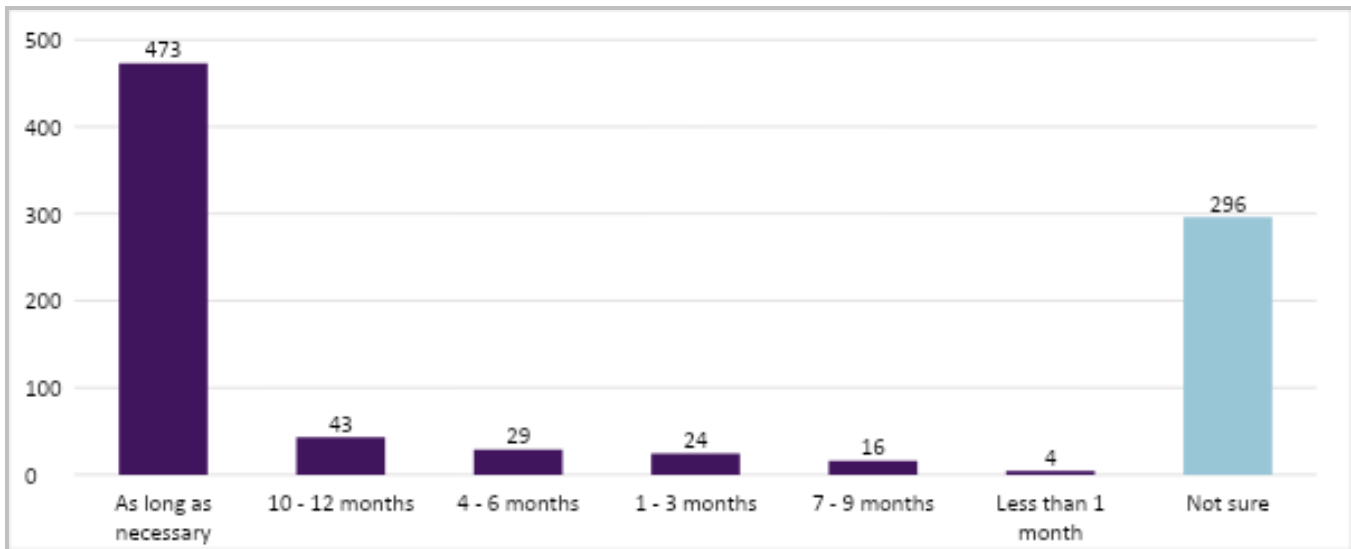
EXPERIENCES IN 2023

Providers were asked to identify challenges they experienced while operating in the past year. The most common challenges pertained to rising costs and difficulties retaining and hiring staff. More than half of respondents identified rising costs for food and beverage (65.5%), rising costs for other supplies (64.1%), rising costs for cleaning supplies (62.0%), paying higher wages to retain staff (52.0%), and difficulties hiring staff (50.6%) as challenges. Other common challenges include increased insurance costs (46.4%), decreased enrollment (43.9%), and new hires leaving within six months (37.7%).



ABILITY TO CONTINUE OPERATING

Respondents were asked how much longer they believe than can continue to operate given their current finances and enrollment rates. A total of 473 respondents (42%) stated that they could continue operating for as long as necessary. In total, 116 providers believe they will only be able to continue operating for one year or less. Of these 116, 28 believe they could only operate for another one to three months.



Narrow Cost Analysis

There are three widely used approaches to narrow cost modeling: cost models, limited cost surveys, and cost models informed by limited cost surveys. This analysis utilized a blended approach – a cost model informed by a limited cost survey. While providers were surveyed on child care costs, they were only asked about a limited selection of costs. In this case, providers were asked to share actual data on key cost drivers, including personnel expenses and facilities costs. The information gathered in the cost portion of the 2023 Market Rate Survey was used to inform the cost model inputs and assumptions. This approach was selected to balance the desire for accurate data and informed assumptions as well as the difficulties faced when gathering specific budgetary information from providers during the 2020 Market Rate Survey. Since these cost questions were asked as part of the Market Rate Survey and a significant number of responses were received, the sample is representative of child care providers across Louisiana.

The cost questions included in the Market Rate Survey were aligned with the inputs required for the Provider Cost of Quality Calculator (PCQC). While there are many different cost calculators available for use, the PCQC was selected for its ability to easily analyze the cost of multiple quality levels, the separate versions available for center- versus home-based care, and the research-backed assumptions and default values provided by the state. This tool, used by many other states in their narrow cost analyses, allows for annual cost and revenue modeling at the facility level and demonstrates any gaps present between revenue and the cost of providing care.

COST MODEL DESIGN

Two separate cost models were run: one to simulate a Type III Center and one for a Family Child Care Provider. Five age groups were used in both models: Infant (6 weeks – 12 months), Toddler (13 – 36 months), 3 year olds, 4 year olds, and 5 year olds and older. Within the Type III Center model, cost of care was analyzed at four of the LDOE’s quality levels – “Approaching Proficient,” “Proficient,” “High Proficient,” and “Excellent.”

Cost of Child Care

CENTER-BASED CARE – TYPE III CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Age Group	Baseline	Approaching Proficient	Proficient	High Proficient	Excellent
Infant	\$12,674	\$8,828	\$11,312	\$13,986	\$14,654
Toddler	\$8,147	\$6,011	\$7,201	\$8,663	\$10,447
Three-Year-Old	\$7,659	\$5,678	\$6,775	\$8,647	\$9,535
Four-Year-Old	\$7,944	\$6,247	\$7,080	\$8,388	\$9,451
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$6,301	\$5,437	\$5,547	\$6,221	\$8,721

HOME-BASED CARE – FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Quality Level	Cost Per Child Average
Baseline	\$5,575

For Type III Centers, the cost of care generally decreases as the child’s age rises. This variation is consistent with the average child-to-staff ratios, which are lowest for infants and highest for 5 year olds and older. It is also consistent with the maximum group sizes set by the state. Both the smaller class sizes and higher number of teachers needed per student for younger children lead to the higher costs of care.

Cost of care increases by quality level for all age groups. A significant driver of this is personnel costs, which tend to account for the majority of expenses. Salaries and hourly wages increase by quality level for most positions: higher quality sites tend to desire more qualifications and have higher curricula standards leading to higher salaries, wages, and training costs.

Daily Cost of Child Care

TYPE III CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Age Group	Daily Cost of Care
Infant	\$48.75
Toddler	\$31.33
Three-Year-Old	\$29.46
Four-Year-Old	\$30.55
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$24.23

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Age Group	Daily Cost of Care
Infant	\$21.44
Toddler	\$21.44
Three-Year-Old	\$21.44
Four-Year-Old	\$21.44
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$21.44

Net Revenue/Loss

TYPE III CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The average Type III Center modeled in this narrow cost analysis is projected to operate in deficit. Accounting for all expenses – both personnel and non-personnel – and revenue streams, the modeled center has a net revenue of –\$726,325 or –39% of total revenue.

In this scenario, personnel costs far exceed non-personnel costs. Salaries and other staff costs total \$1,674,625 while non-personnel costs total \$939,746, just under half of personnel costs. The majority of revenue, 97%, comes directly from tuition payments. The remaining 3% comes from additional fees charged for care – registration and supply fees.

QUALITY LEVELS

Similar to the baseline model, personnel costs are the largest expense, and tuition payments are the most significant course of revenue for all quality levels. In addition, centers of all quality levels are still projected to operate in deficits.

The average “Approaching Proficient” center modeled in this analysis is projected to have expenses of \$2,030,754 and revenues of \$1,746,026, leading to -\$284,728 in net revenue or -16% of total revenue. The “Proficient” center is projected to have expenses of \$2,314,650 and revenues of \$1,855,322, leading to -\$459,328 in net revenue, or -25% of total revenue. “High Proficient” centers are projected to have expenses of \$2,760,133 and revenues of \$1,907,081, leading to -\$853,053 in net revenue or -45% of total revenue. The average “Excellent” center modeled in this analysis is projected to have expenses of \$3,328,066 and revenues of \$2,111,481, which leads to -\$1,216,586 in net revenue or -58% of total revenue.

Based on increased salaries and training costs, expenses increase with quality level and tuition rates increase with quality levels, leading to higher revenues. Based on these modeled scenarios, personnel and training cost increases are outpacing the tuition rate increases, leading to higher net losses for higher quality levels. While modeled net losses increase with quality levels, these models do not account for all incentives available at the state level for higher quality care and education, including the LDOE Child Care Curriculum Initiative, which reimburses some curriculum costs, and the School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTCs), which provide higher tax credit rewards to higher quality centers serving at-risk children. In addition, other revenue factors including enrollment efficiency, uncollected revenue rates, and additional fees were not varied in quality models and could increase with quality to help offset higher costs of care.

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The average Family Child Care Provider modeled in this narrow cost analysis is expected to operate in a deficit. After accounting for all expenses and all revenue sources, the modeled center has a net revenue of -\$14,295. In this instance, net revenue is -40% of total revenue.

The ratio of personnel to non-personnel costs is very different for Family Child Care Providers. This is not surprising, as Family Child Care Providers typically employ very few additional staff members. In the modeled site, personnel costs represent 70.5% of total expenses, and non-personnel costs represent 29.5% of total expenses.

GRANTS AND BONUSES

While not included in these models, it is worth noting that child care providers received significant federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Providers received two grants and one bonus in 2023 that helped offset annual losses. The average ARPA Grant Round Three payment received by Type III Centers was \$61,752, the average Round Four payment was \$28,325, and the average Bonus Payment was \$22,580. While these payments would not entirely offset the losses projected in this model, they do ease the financial burden on providers. For Family Child Care Providers, the average ARPA Grant Round Three payment was \$13,357, the average Round Four payment was \$1,983, and the average Bonus Payment was \$22,580. In this case, just one ARPA payment could offset all losses.

Inputs and Assumptions

Where possible, actual data from providers were used as inputs for the PCQC calculator. In all other instances, the state-specific PCQC default values were used.

CLASSROOM INFORMATION

Many inputs for classroom information – including the number of classrooms, child-to-staff ratios, and enrollment efficiency – came directly from survey results. Respondents provided their number of classrooms, enrollment, and teachers by age group. Enrollment efficiency was calculated using current site enrollment and current site vacancies. For center care, maximum group sizes were pulled from the relevant state regulations.

PERSONNEL COSTS

For personnel cost inputs, salaries for all positions were provided by survey respondents. Actual averages for Type III Centers and Family Child Care Providers were used in place of the PCQC recommendations. The average salaries for directors and teachers were lower than all levels of recommended salaries for Type III Centers, which were calculated based on annual wages reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). For Family Child Care Providers, the average hourly salary of all non-director employees was used as the assistant wage, and it was assumed that they worked 10-hour days, five days per week.

PCQC default values for Louisiana were used to populate the mandatory benefits. No voluntary benefits were included for Family Child Care Providers. This assumption was based on survey results, and optional benefits were provided only by up to 15 providers, depending on the benefit. One voluntary benefit, paid time off, was used for Type III Centers. Paid vacation/PTO was offered by more than 50% of Type III Centers, so it was included as a benefit offered by the average provider utilizing the PCQC default of 40 hours per year.

Annual per staff training budgets were also provided in the survey, and these average values were used as the annual training fees per staff in both scenarios.

NON-PERSONNEL COSTS

Average square feet per classroom was based on survey results. The survey average was higher than the PCQC assumption (\$15.20 versus \$12.00), but it is worth noting that only a small subset of the results (422 responses) was used in this calculation, as respondents had to have provided both total number of classrooms and square footage of the site.

REVENUE

The average daily full-time rates were used for the weekly tuition values, assuming five days of care per week. It was assumed that no sites charged the difference between subsidy and tuition. Providers shared total and CCAP enrollment in the Market Rate Survey, and these data were used to determine the percentage of children who are enrolled in CCAP.

Providers were asked to share any fees they charged in addition to tuition. These fees – registration, supplies, field trips, and food/meals – were included as additional sources of revenue. For the Family Child Care scenario only, registration and supply fees were included to best represent the average provider. Where necessary, monthly fees were converted to annual values to align with the PCQC inputs.

In the Market Rate Survey, providers were asked to share the estimated percentage of parent fees owed that go uncollected. The average of provider responses was used for the PCQC. The values from survey results, 19% for Type III Centers and 25% for Family Child Care Providers, are considerably higher than the default value of 3%.

QUALITY LEVEL DIFFERENTIALS

To account for the costs of providing different levels of care, a subset of the cost inputs was varied. While maximum group sizes are standard for all Type III Centers, the child-to-staff ratios were updated for each quality level based on provider information from the survey. Additionally, all salaries were varied for quality levels; these values were also from the Market Rate Survey. The weekly tuition rates charged by age group were also varied by quality level.

Given the high standards centers must meet to be assigned a “High Proficient” or “Excellent” quality level, additional assumptions were made regarding curriculum costs and teacher training. Annual teaching staff training hours and percentage of additional teaching staff time were both increased incrementally for “High Proficient” and “Excellent” centers. In addition, curriculum, child assessment, and training costs were increased for “Excellent” centers.

CCAP Payments

TYPE III EARLY LEARNING CENTER

	Cost of Quality Child Care	Maximum CCAP Reimbursement	Percent of Cost covered by Maximum CCAP Rate
Infant	\$12,674	\$16,320	100%+
Toddler	\$8,147	\$10,080	100%+
Three-Year-Old	\$7,659	\$7,560	98.7%
Four-Year-Old	\$7,944	\$7,560	95.2%
Five-Year-Old & Older	\$6,301	\$7,560	100%+

Based on the narrow cost modeling, CCAP subsidies will cover between 95.2-129% of the average cost of providing child care. For infants, toddlers, and 5 year olds and older, CCAP covers more than 100% of the average cost of providing child care. Despite the high level of coverage from CCAP, the average center is still operating in a deficit. There are many factors that could be influencing this: a significant one that is included in this model is the high level of uncollected revenue from private-paying parents. The proportion of CCAP enrollment compared to tuition paying enrollment is very small, further intensifying the issue of uncollected tuition payments.

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER

	Cost of Quality Child Care	Maximum CCAP Reimbursement	Percent of Cost covered by Maximum CCAP Rate
Infant	\$5,575	\$14,640	100%+
Toddler	\$5,575	\$10,080	100%+
Three-Year-Old	\$5,575	\$6,960	100%+
Four-Year-Old	\$5,575	\$6,960	100%+
Five-Year-Old & Older	\$5,575	\$6,960	100%+

Based on narrow cost modeling, CCAP subsidies cover more than 100% of the average cost of providing care for all age groups. Similar to Type III Centers, the average provider is operating in a deficit despite the high level of coverage from CCAP. Family Child Care Providers have an even higher percent of uncollected revenue – 25%, leading to lower than expected revenues.

Subsidy Rates

The current maximum subsidy rates, as of February 14, 2022, are set at the state level and vary by child age and provider type.

CURRENT MAXIMUM CCAP RATES

	Type III	School-based	Family	In-home	Military
Infant	\$68.00	\$24.00	\$61.00	\$26.65	\$35.65
Toddler	\$42.00	\$24.00	\$42.00	\$25.25	\$31.05
Three-Year-Old	\$31.30	\$24.00	\$29.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Four-Year-Old	\$31.30	\$24.00	\$29.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Five-Year-Old and Older	\$31.30	\$24.00	\$29.00	\$25.00	\$30.00

Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Please note that this survey should be completed by the **director** or **assistant director** (of an early learning center) the **leader** of a CCAP-certified school-based program, or by the **individual providing child care** in an in-home or family child care setting.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). This survey is being conducted to collect information on the cost of child care in Louisiana. Your responses are confidential and will be used to help inform the child care subsidy rate set by the LDOE for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Public reporting of results will only include information combined from all providers (e.g., “50% of Type I providers serve 3 year olds”).

If you have any additional feedback, questions, or concerns about the survey, please contact Robyn Stiles at robyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com. Thank you, again, for your thoughts and participation in this important effort.

1. Please provide your license or provider certification number, as applicable: _____

2. Please provide your facility name and address. Note: The information you provide in this survey is confidential and will not be tied back to your specific site when provided to LDOE; LDOE will only receive a summary of all sites' data.
 - Facility Name:
 - Street Address:
 - City:
 - Zip Code:

3. What type of child care provider are you? Select only one.
 - Type I Early Learning Site
 - Type II Early Learning Site
 - Type III Early Learning Site
 - Type III Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Site
 - Military Child Care Center (located on a military base and serves only military children)
 - School-based Center (provides only before and after school care for school-age children)
 - Family Child Care (License-exempt providers who provide child care services for six or fewer children in a private residence)
 - In-home Child Care (License-exempt providers who provide child care for children in the children's home)

In the table below, please provide the days and times your program is typically open. If you are not open on a specific day, please leave that row blank.

	Open Time		Close Time	
	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.
Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.
Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> p.m.

Note for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Sites: Do not include children participating in your Head Start program in any of your answers below.

- In the table below, please provide the number of classrooms your site has for each age group, the number of children your site currently serves, the number of children your site prefers to serve, the number of children currently on your site’s waitlist, your site’s current number of seat vacancies, and the average number of children who attend your program on a daily basis.

Age Group	Classroom Quantity Number of classrooms available per age group	Current Enrollment Number of children currently enrolled	CCAP Enrollment Number of children currently enrolled who are funded by CCAP	Desired Enrollment Maximum number of children you prefer to serve	Current Waitlist Number of children currently on your program’s waitlist	Current Vacancies Number of current full- or part-time openings	Average Daily Attendance Average number of children who attend your program
Infant <i>(6 weeks - 12 months)</i>							
Toddler <i>(13 - 36 months)</i>							
3 Year Old							
4 Year Old							
5 Year Old and Older <i>(school-age children)</i>							

5. Do you currently serve any children who meet the following characteristics? Select all that apply.

- Funded by Head Start or Early Head Start
- Funded by CCAP
- In foster care
- Homeless (children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence)
- Children with disabilities (i.e., children with an IEP or IFSP)
- Children who speak a language other than English at home
- Military family
- None of the above

6. How many teachers do you currently have for each age group? What are your current vacancies, and what would be your ideal teacher staffing level per age group?

Age Group	Current Staff		Current Vacancies		Overall Ideal Number of Employees	
	Number of Current Full-time Lead Teachers	Number of Current Assistant Teachers <i>(working in conjunction with a lead teacher or in place of lead teacher for a portion of the day)</i>	Number of Current Vacancies for Full-time Lead teachers	Number of Current Vacancies for Assistant Teachers <i>(working in conjunction with a lead teacher or in place of lead teacher for a portion of the day)</i>	Ideal Number of Full-time Lead Teachers	Ideal Number of Assistant Teachers <i>(working in conjunction with a lead teacher or in place of lead teacher for a portion of the day)</i>
Infant <i>(6 weeks - 12 months)</i>						
Toddler <i>(13 - 36 months)</i>						
3 Year Old						
4 Year Old						
5 Year Old and Older <i>(school-age children)</i>						

Child Care Rates

Important Instructions – Please Read: The next few questions ask about the maximum rate your program charges to provide care for children of different ages.

As a reminder, your responses are confidential and will be used to help inform the child care subsidy rate set by the LDOE for the CCAP.

Do provide your usual, published rates for part-time and full-time care. Do not include sliding scale rates, discounted rates, or extra fees for special services. If you have more than one full-time rate, please use the one that applies to the most children.

7. In the table below, please provide the most typical rate you charge for part-time and full-time child care. For each age group, please indicate the number of days per week your program operates, indicate the number of hours per day to be considered part-time and/or full-time, select the method of billing (hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly) from the dropdown menu, and provide the associated maximum part-time and/or full-time rates:

Standard Child Care Rates	Number of Days Per Week Your Site Is Open	Number of Hours Per Day Considered Part-time	Part-time Billing Method (Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly)	Maximum Part-time Rate	Number of Hours Per Day Considered Full-time	Full-time Billing Method (Hourly, Daily, Monthly)	Maximum Full-time Weekly Rate
Infant <i>(6 weeks - 12 months)</i>				\$			\$
Toddler <i>(13 - 36 months)</i>				\$			\$
3 Year Old				\$			\$
4 Year Old				\$			\$
5 Year Old and Older <i>(school-age children)</i>				\$			\$

Do you charge different rates for evening, weekend, holiday, or summer care? Select all that apply.

- Evening care
- Weekend care
- Holiday care
- Summer care
- I do not charge different rates for evening, weekend, holiday, or summer care

In the table below, please provide the most typical rate you charge for **evening** child care. For each age group, please indicate the number of days your program offers evening care, select the method of billing (hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly) from the dropdown menu, and provide the associated maximum charged rates.

Standard Child Care Rates	Number of Days Your Program Offers Evening Care	Billing Method (Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly)	Maximum Charged Rate
Infant <i>(6 weeks - 12 months)</i>			\$
Toddler <i>(13 - 36 months)</i>			\$
3 Year Old			\$
4 Year Old			\$
5 Year Old and Older <i>(school- age children)</i>			\$

In the table below, please provide the most typical rate you charge for part-time and full-time **weekend** child care. For each age group, please indicate the number of weekend days your program operates, indicate the number of hours per day to be considered part-time and/or full-time, select the method of billing (hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly) from the dropdown menu, and provide the associated maximum part-time and/or full-time rates.

Standard Child Care Rates	Number of Weekend Days Your Program Operates	Number of Hours Per Day Considered Part-time	Part-time Billing Method (Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly)	Maximum Part-time Rate	Number of Hours Per Day Considered Full-time	Full-time Billing Method (Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly)	Maximum Full-time Rate
Infant <i>(6 weeks - 12 months)</i>				\$			\$
Toddler <i>(13 - 36 months)</i>				\$			\$
3 Year Old				\$			\$
4 Year Old				\$			\$
5 Year Old and Older <i>(school-age children)</i>				\$			\$

In the table below, please provide the most typical rate you charge for **holiday** child care. For each age group, please select the method of billing (hourly or daily) from the dropdown menu, and provide the associated maximum charged rates.

Standard Child Care Rates	Billing Method (Hourly, Daily)	Maximum Charged Rate
Infant <i>(6 weeks - 12 months)</i>		\$
Toddler <i>(13 - 36 months)</i>		\$
3 Year Old		\$
4 Year Old		\$
5 Year Old and Older <i>(school- age children)</i>		\$

In the table below, please provide the most typical rate you charge for part-time and full-time **summer** child care. For each age group, please indicate the number of days per week your program operates **in the summer**, indicate the number of hours per day to be considered part-time and/or full-time, select the method of billing (hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly) from the dropdown menu, and provide the associated maximum part-time and/or full-time rates.

Standard Child Care Rates	Number of Days Per Week You Operate in the Summer	Number of Hours Per Day Considered Part-time	Part-time Billing Method (Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly)	Maximum Part-time Rate	Number of Hours Per Day Considered Full-time	Full-time Billing Method (Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly)	Maximum Full-time Rate
Infant (6 weeks - 12 months)				\$			\$
Toddler (13 - 36 months)				\$			\$
3 Year Old				\$			\$
4 Year Old				\$			\$
5 Year Old and Older (school-age children)				\$			\$

8. In a typical year, what total dollar amount and/or percentage of parent fees owed to you for provided services do you estimate goes uncollected? Select only one.

- Dollar Amount: \$ _____
- Percentage of Total Fees: _____%

9. If you plan to increase your rates in the next 12 months, please indicate how much your rates will increase per week (e.g., "I anticipate my weekly rates increasing by \$20").

- I anticipate my **weekly rates** increasing by \$ _____
- I do not anticipate my weekly rates increasing in the next 12 months

10. In addition to your regular rate, which of the following fees do you charge? (Provide the relevant fee amount. If you do not charge a specific fee, please enter "0".)

	Fee Amount (per child)
Registration (per year)	\$
Supply (per year)	\$
Field Trip (average per trip)	\$
Technology (per year)	\$
Transportation (per month)	\$
Food/Meals (per month)	\$
Other (per year): _____	\$

11. Since January 2023, has your business/program experienced any of the following? Select all that apply.

- Decreased child enrollment
- Increased child enrollment
- Hired additional staff
- Difficulty hiring staff
- Difficulty retaining/keeping staff
- New hires leaving after less than 6 months
- Increased staff turnover compared to previous years
- Paying more overtime to staff because of challenges hiring/keeping employees
- Paying higher wages to retain staff
- Offering more benefits to retain/keep staff
- Increased insurance costs
- Increased costs for cleaning supplies
- Increased costs for food and beverages
- Increased costs for other supplies
- Temporary closure
- Not applicable / none of the above
- Other: _____

Key Child Care Cost Drivers

The next questions are being asked in order to collect information that will provide the LDOE with a better understanding of the true cost of providing child care in Louisiana. All information will remain confidential and will be used only to inform the child care subsidy rate for the CCAP.

12. In the table below, please provide the information requested for staff in your program. If you do not employ a specific staff position, please enter "0" in the "Number of Individuals in the Position" column. If you employ only one employee in that capacity, please enter their salary into the "Highest Annual Salary or Hourly Wage" column.

Staff Position	Number of Individuals in the Position	Wage Type	Lowest Annual Salary or Hourly Wage	Highest Annual Salary or Hourly Wage	Minimum Qualification
Director			\$	\$	
Assistant Director (including Director Designee)			\$	\$	
Administrative Assistant			\$	\$	
Lead Teacher (Full-time)			\$	\$	
Assistant Teacher (Full-time)			\$	\$	
Teacher (Part-time)			\$	\$	
All Other Staff (Full-time)			\$	\$	
All Other Staff (Part-time)			\$	\$	

13. If your program pays for staff training and/or development, please provide your annual budget for ALL staff training. Select only one.

- Annual training budget of \$ _____
- Per person training budget of \$ _____
- My program does not pay for staff training and/or development

14. Do you currently offer your full-time employees any of the following benefits? Select all that apply.

- Paid sick leave
- Paid vacation/time off (PTO)
- Health insurance
- Dental insurance
- Vision insurance
- Retirement contribution/plan
- Education stipend (i.e., tuition payments, incentive for training participation, incentive for meeting quality benchmarks)
- Free tuition for employees' children

- Discounted tuition for employees' children
- Other benefits: _____
- My program does not offer any of these benefits

15. If any employees left your business/program in 2023, what reasons, if any, did they give for leaving?
Select all that apply.

- Higher pay/wages at new job
- More benefits at new job (for example, health insurance, paid time off)
- Preferred work schedule at new job
- Continuing education (for example, getting college degree)
- No longer interested in working in early care and education/child care
- Family reasons (for example, sick relative, spouse job relocation)
- Don't know
- Other (please specify):
- Not applicable

16. What is your monthly rent or mortgage (including property tax)? If none, please enter "0." \$ _____

17. **Child care centers only:** What is the approximate square footage of your facility? _____

18. **Family Child Care sites only:** What percentage of your home is used for providing child care?

- 1-10%
- 11-20%
- 21-30%
- 31-40%
- 41-50%
- 51-74%
- 75%+

19. Rank the following obstacles your child care organization faces in order of difficulty, with 1 being most difficult and 13 being least difficult.

- Accountability (i.e., CLASS)
- Child Assessment (i.e., TS GOLD)
- Compliance with Licensing and other health and safety requirements
- Customer/family recruitment
- Customer/family retention
- Financial operations (i.e., billing, budgets, payroll)
- Inconsistent attendance of CCAP children
- Inconsistent co-payments from CCAP households
- Finding and hiring staff
- Finding and retaining staff with needed qualifications
- Ability to pay staff competitive wages
- Staff turnover rate
- Other: _____

20. Based on the current finances and enrollment rates of your business/program, how much longer do you think you can afford to operate your business/program?

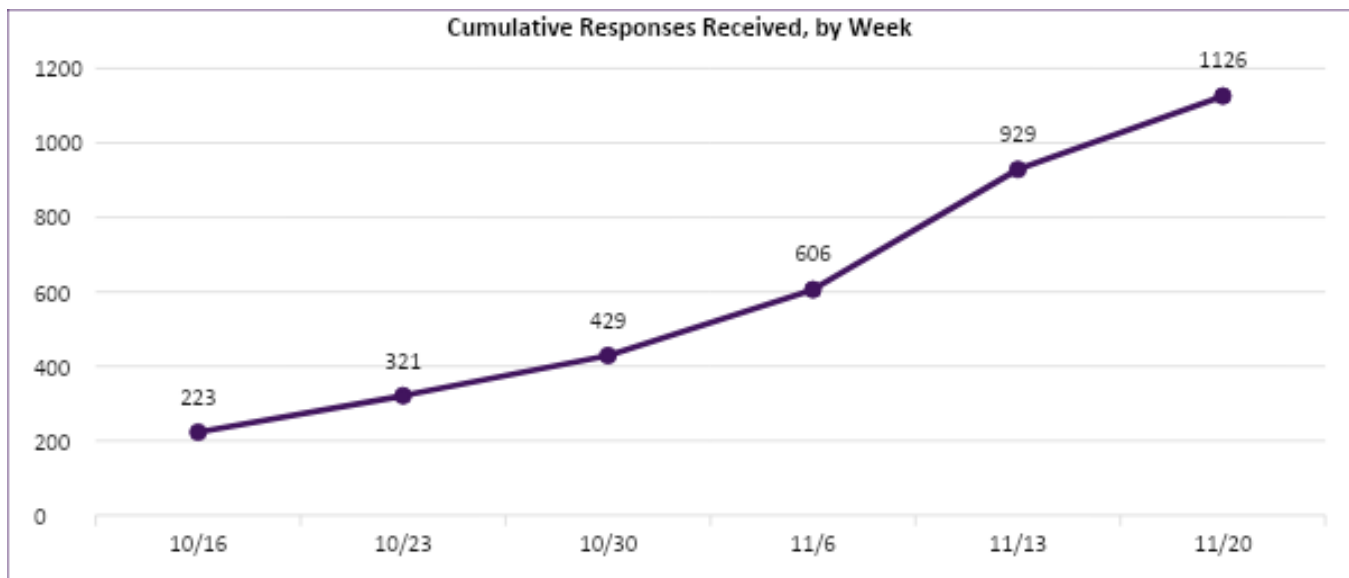
- Less than 1 month
- 1 - 3 months
- 4 - 6 months
- 7 - 9 months
- 10 - 12 months
- As long as necessary
- Not sure

Appendix B: Survey Fielding Information

Fielding Timeline

The link to the online survey was distributed to all active child care providers on Tuesday, October 17 by e-mail. Starting the following week, all providers who had not yet completed the survey were sent a reminder e-mail with the survey link. On October 30, about two weeks after the survey launch, all providers who had not yet completed the survey were sent a postcard reminding them to complete the survey. During the month of November, calls were placed to providers who had not yet completed the survey to encourage them to complete the survey. A summary of the outreach methods is provided in the table below.

Date	Action
Tuesday, October 17	Survey is live
Tuesday, October 24	Reminder e-mail sent
Monday, October 30	Postcards sent
Tuesday, November 1	Reminder e-mail sent
Wednesday, November 8	Reminder e-mail sent
Wednesday, November 8 - Friday, November 10	Reminder phone calls made
Tuesday, November 14	Reminder e-mail sent
Tuesday, November 14 - Friday, November 17	Reminder phone calls made
Friday, November 17	Final reminder sent
Monday, November 20	Survey closes



Initial E-mail

Dear Child Care Providers:

The Louisiana Department of Education is surveying providers to gather information for the 2023 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey.

The purpose of the survey is to collect 2023 information on the cost of child care and various institutional characteristics such as classroom size and hours, as well as to understand the provider costs associated with offering high-quality child care, as part of our Child Care and Development Fund State Plan development. This survey is being sent to Type I, Type II, and Type III centers as well as to CCAP-certified family child care, in-home, and school providers by Emergent Method, a Baton Rouge-based consulting firm that has been hired to help us in these efforts.

It is critical the Department receive feedback from all provider types and from as many providers as possible.

The information you provide will help us compile a comprehensive profile of early care and education in Louisiana, the cost of child care, and the availability of services in specific regions. It is also used to help set the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) subsidy rates.

The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. Please complete the survey as soon as possible for the child care and/or early education services you provide. The survey will close Friday, November 17.

To complete the survey online, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/ldoemrs2023>

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 by region, (e.g., “50% of Type I providers serve 3 year olds”). Additionally, you may refuse to answer any questions or end the survey at any time.

If you have any question about the survey, please contact Robyn Stiles at (225) 372-5102 or by e-mail at robyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey.

Postcard

Reminder: If you have not already done so, please complete the **2023 LDOE Market Rate Survey.**

The information gathered from this survey is used to understand the cost of child care in Louisiana and set the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) subsidy rates.

Please fill out the survey online at <http://bit.ly/ldoemrs2023> before **Friday, November 17.**



NOTE: THIS SURVEY IS CONFIDENTIAL, AND PUBLIC REPORTING OF RESULTS WILL ONLY INCLUDE INFORMATION COMBINED FROM ALL PROVIDERS. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS IMPORTANT SURVEY!

Louisiana Department of Education
1201 N. 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



Reminder E-mails

Dear Child Care Providers:

Recently you received communications announcing the Louisiana Department of Education's 2023 Market Rate Survey, which is being conducted to collect current data about the cost of child care in Louisiana. These data are critical to better understand provider costs associated with offering quality early child care and education in Louisiana.

If you have not already done so, please complete the survey as soon as possible for the child care and/or early education services you provide.

The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. The information collected from this survey is also used to help set the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) subsidy rates. The survey will close Friday, November 17.

To complete the survey online, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/ldeomrs2023>

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 by region, (e.g., "50% of Type I providers serve 3 year olds"). Additionally, you may refuse to answer any questions or end the survey at any time.

If you have any question about the survey, please contact Robyn Stiles at (225) 372-5102 or by email at robyn.stiles@emergentmethod.com.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey.

Appendix C: Responses by Parish, Region, and Zone

Responses by Parish

Parish	Number of Responses	Percent
Acadia	26	2.3
Allen	2	0.2
Ascension	32	2.8
Assumption	1	0.1
Avoyelles	9	0.8
Beauregard	5	0.4
Bienville	1	0.8
Bossier	22	2.0
Caddo	66	5.9
Calcasieu	47	4.2
Caldwell	1	0.1
Cameron	1	0.1
Catahoula	5	0.4
Claiborne	2	0.2
Concordia	8	0.7
DeSoto	5	0.4
East Baton Rouge	152	13.5
East Carroll	7	0.6
East Feliciana	2	0.2
Evangeline	4	0.4
Franklin	13	1.2
Grant	2	0.2
Iberia	13	1.2
Iberville	20	1.8
Jefferson	80	7.1
Jefferson Davis	2	0.2
Lafayette	71	6.3
Lafourche	12	1.1
Lincoln	24	2.1
Livingston	25	2.2
Madison	4	0.4
Morehouse	7	0.6
Natchitoches	15	1.3
Orleans	97	8.6
Ouachita	50	4.4
Plaquemines	5	0.4
Pointe Coupee	8	0.7

Parish	Number of Responses	Percent
Rapides	29	2.6
Richland	5	0.4
Sabine	1	0.1
St. Bernard	11	1.0
St. Charles	14	1.2
St. Helena	4	0.4
St. James	7	0.6
St. John the Baptist	13	1.2
St. Landry	16	1.4
St. Martin	14	1.2
St. Mary	4	0.4
St. Tammany	41	3.6
Tangipahoa	40	3.6
Terrebonne	17	1.5
Union	7	0.6
Vermilion	13	1.2
Vernon	5	0.4
Washington	12	1.1
Webster	11	1.0
West Baton Rouge	6	0.5
West Feliciana	4	0.4
Winn	4	0.4
No parish provided	1	.01
TOTAL:	1,126	100.00

Responses by Region

Using the LDOE regional map as a guide, parishes were divided into general regions of the state, clustered around metropolitan areas.

Region	Parishes	Number of Responses	Percentage
1 – New Orleans	Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard	193	17.1
2 – Baton Rouge	East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Point Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana	192	17.1
3 – Covington	Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington	121	10.7
4 – Thibodaux	Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Terrebonne	97	8.6
5 – Lafayette	Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermillion	161	14.3
6 – Lake Charles	Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis	57	5.1
7 – Alexandria	Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, Winn	63	5.6
8 – Shreveport	Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Caddo, DeSoto, Jackson, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster	123	10.9
9 – Monroe	Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll	118	10.5
N/A	No parish identified	1	0.1

Responses by Rural and Urban Classification

LDOE uses a school district's inclusion in the federal Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) as the basis for classifying that system, district, and/or area as rural, if included, or urban/suburban, if not included. The classifications, by parish, are included in the table below.

Type	Parishes	Number of Responses	Percentage
Rural (31)	Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, Madison, Morehouse, Pointe Coupee, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Mary, Tensas, Union, Vermillion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Carroll, Winn	162	14.4
Suburban or Urban (33)	Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, LaSalle, Lincoln, Livingston, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Rapides, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana	963	85.6