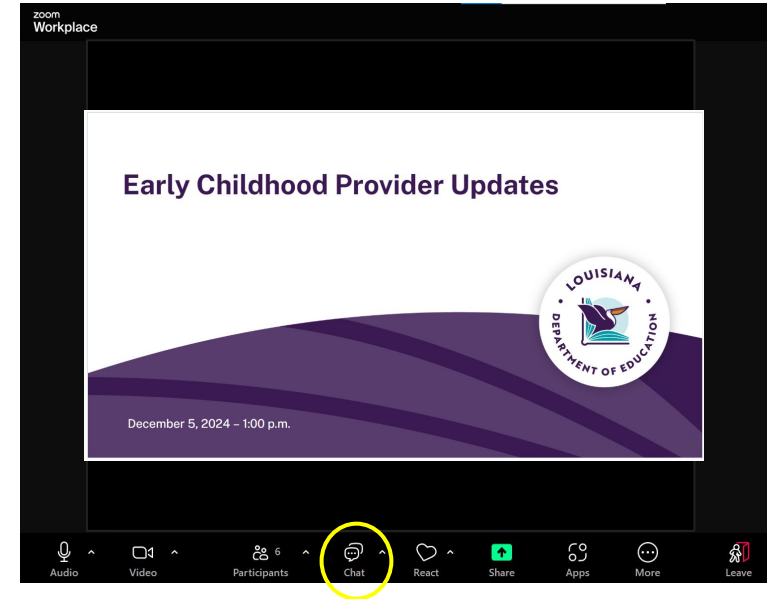


Questions During the Webinar

- Utilize the “Chat” feature during the webinar to share with the Department questions you may have.
- Please direct questions in the chat to “ASK QUESTIONS.”
- **Include your e-mail address with your question**, so that we may follow up with you directly for some individual questions.



August 6, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.



Early Childhood Provider Updates



August 6, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Welcome



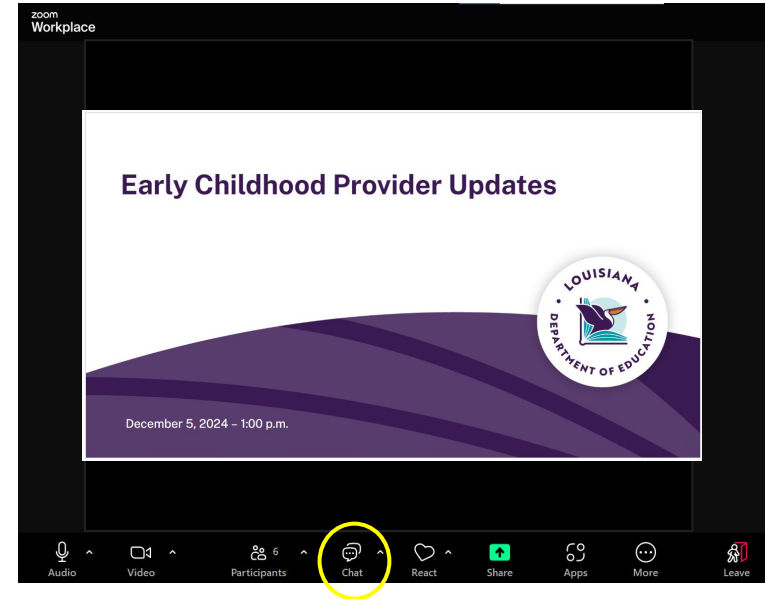
Agenda

- Welcome
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Reminders & Updates
- Licensing Reminders & Updates
- Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Reminders & Updates
- Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates
- CACFP Updates
- Announcements & Upcoming Events



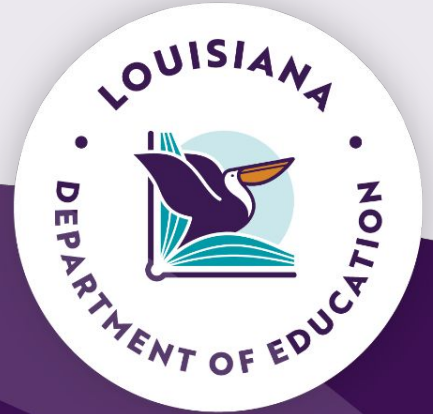
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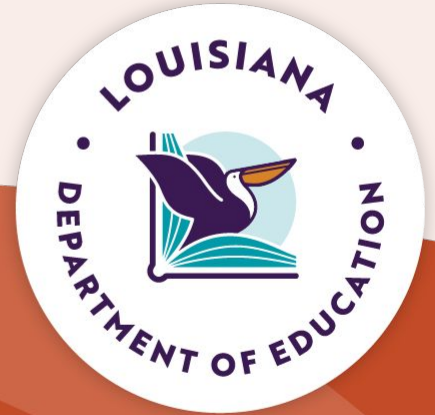


Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Reminders & Updates



General CCAP Reminders & Updates: For Voucher and B-3 Seats



New Provider Agreement

CCAP Provider Certification will soon release a New Provider Agreement for all certified providers to review and sign. Changes in the new agreement will ensure providers remain in compliance with CCAP requirements at the federal and state levels and with *Bulletin 139-Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*, which governs the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):

- Providers will receive an e-mail from EdLink directing them to thoroughly read and sign the new agreement.
- Due to the updated information, the Provider Agreement will be a separate document to review apart from the annual certification renewal.
- Failure to review and sign the Provider Agreement timely may result in CCAP ineligibility as a certified provider.



Weekly Payment Schedule

Effective July 6, 2026, B-3 and voucher payments began following **one** weekly payment schedule on the **same day each week** (Tuesday) to provide consistency and predictability for providers.

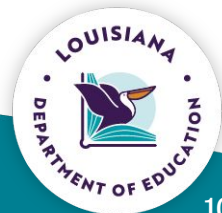
- Providers will continue to receive separate remittance advices for B-3 and voucher payments until further notice.
- This approach supports a smooth transition while maintaining clear payment documentation and transparency.



Client Case Processing Reminders

Providers are encouraged to remind clients to timely submit their redetermination application.

- A renewal notice is mailed to the client (11RC) & provider (11RC-P) 45 days in advance.
- Upon receiving the notice, clients should complete a renewal application before the end of the certification period listed on the notice.
- All supporting verifications should be submitted with the renewal application (i.e., check stubs, birth certificates, current shot record for all children, etc.).
- If additional verifications are requested by the analyst, it is important that the documents are submitted by or before the due date on the notice.
 - Not submitting by the due date can result in the client's case closing.
 - A client whose case closes may reapply, and if determined eligible, be placed on the Waitlist.



Redetermination Requirements

Due to recent legislative changes ([Act 351 \(2025\)](#)), the following documents should be submitted by clients during the redetermination review, to continue to be eligible to receive child care assistance:

- Current Identification Card for the head of household (e.g., state identification card, passport, driver's license)
- Copy of Birth Certificates for all household members



CCAP Redetermination Extension

In response to extended processing times, the LDOE has extended families' redetermination periods as needed:

- Families who were to be redetermined for eligibility in June and submitted their applications by the 6/30/26 deadline will have their certification period extended until 8/31/26 or until a determination has been made.
- Families who were to be redetermined for eligibility in July and have submitted their applications by the 7/31/26 deadline will have their certification period extended until 8/31/26 or until a determination has been made.
 - A SAI will be issued for these families; however, please note that due to system limitations, the SAI issuance will be delayed until 11RCs for September redeterminations have been sent out.



Underutilization Monitoring

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is preparing to process the July Underutilization Report. Families whose children have not been signed in and out using **KinderConnect** will receive an underutilization notice by mail.

- Providers not submitting weekly attendance can cause family names to appear on the LDOE CCAP Underutilized Report and place the families in jeopardy of losing their CCAP certification, which includes both voucher and B-3 Seats.
- Families appearing on the CCAP Underutilized Report due to the provider not submitting weekly attendance may be referred to the Early Childhood Program Integrity and Compliance (ECPIC) unit for review of their case.
 - Cases referred to ECPIC relative to Underutilization will be reviewed and/or reopened on a case by case basis.
 - After review, ECPIC will provide an update to the families regarding their case.



Provider Certification – Daily Operation Changes

When providers plan a change in their daily operations, providers must notify CCAP Provider Certification in advance of the change. Notifying Provider Certification prior to the change will allow timely closure of the center/home, prevent additional payments to the provider that have to be recouped, and allow families time to locate and continue child care services with a provider of their choice.

Per *Bulletin 139*, §305, providers should provide written notice to Provider Certification and input updates in the designated LDOE portal (EdLink), of receipt or notice of, or upon becoming aware of, any of the following:

- a. change in contact information, within 10 calendar days
- b. temporary closure of more than five calendar days
- c. permanent closure of 30 or more calendar days of a site, within seven calendar days of the closure
- d. change of location, prior to the change and
- e. family child care providers and in-home providers shall provide updates on changes in residential household compositions, prior to the change

Changes can be submitted to ProviderCertification@la.gov.



Provider Changes

When a provider changes locations, temporarily closes, or closes permanently or when a new owner acquires a center, certified families must be notified by the LDOE to ensure that child care services continue for the family.

- The parent will be mailed or e-mailed an “Emergency Report of Changes” form with a unique code to choose a new provider.
 - In the case of a provider change in location or temporary change, families are informed that they may choose to receive care from the same provider at the new location or they may choose a new provider.
 - For temporary provider closures, parents may complete a new “Report of Changes” form to return to their original provider when the site re-opens.
- Parents are informed about resources such as the LDOE School and Center Finder site as well as the local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency in their region, for assistance in locating a new provider.



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines a person experiencing “homelessness” as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
 - CCAP supports homeless assistance by ensuring homeless families can timely enroll their child(ren) in the certified site of their choice while the parent works, attends school, or seeks employment.
- The Local Education Agency (LEA), or school system, determines homeless status for families and informs the Child Care Assistance Program of status determinations.
 - The LEA makes several attempts to contact the applicant. After several unsuccessful attempts, the application will be closed. The applicant may reapply.
 - A homeless applicant’s contact information must remain current so that both CCAP and the LEA can make contact and communicate with the applicant to complete the application process. Changes in contact information (e.g., phone number, e-mail address, transitional housing number, or physical addresses) must be reported immediately to CCAP via a [Report of Changes form](#).
 - Homeless families are initially certified for 12 months.



Homeless Assistance for Families

- Verifications requested of a homeless applicant must be received within the first 90 days of submitting an application or by the deadline stated on a CCAP Notice to the applicant.
 - Homeless families demonstrate seeking employment by registering for a HiRE account with Louisiana Works or by participating in a Transitional Living Program.
 - If verifications are received before the due date, the 12 month certification will continue.
 - If verifications are not received by the due date, the certification will end by the 90th day, with notices sent to the parent and child care provider.
- At redetermination of the family's case, if the family still qualifies for CCAP benefits in the homeless category and has not exceeded 85% of the State Median Income (SMI) threshold, the family may be recertified for another year.



CCAP Monthly Call for Providers

The Monthly Call for Providers reviews current trends and updates while supporting all provider types in their daily operations while they serve families with CCAP Voucher and/or B-3 Seats.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, August 20 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CCAP Monthly Call for Providers](#)
- **Phone Number:** 1 470 381 2552
- **Meeting ID:** 939 7378 5023
- **Passcode:** 082226

Child Care Assistance Program Reminders & Updates

For questions, contact LDECCAP@la.gov.



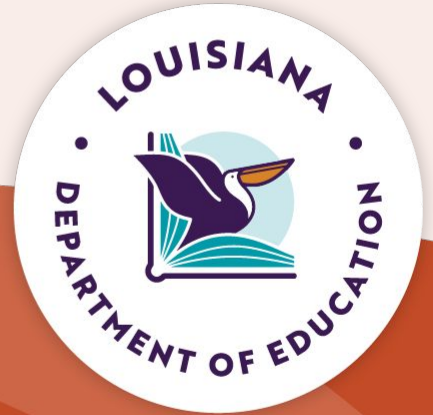
CCAP New Provider Training

Providers can access the next CCAP New Provider Training using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, August 27 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CCAP New Provider Training](#)
- **Phone Number:** 1 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID:** 973 3264 6864



CCAP B-3 Seats Reminders & Updates



Updates to Rates

As of the July 6, 2026, payment run, CCAP B-3 payments are based on the applicable state maximum CCAP reimbursement rate and the child's actual age at the time payment is issued.

Only children with active records in FamilyCentral (KinderSystems) are eligible to receive CCAP B-3 payments.

- If you are not receiving payment for a child you believe is eligible for the CCAP B-3 program, please contact ldoeb3@la.gov and provide specific details regarding the child's case for review.



Child Care Copayments

As of the July 6, 2026, payment run, the LDOE began deducting family fees (i.e., copayments) from CCAP B-3 payments.

Family fees/Copayments are

- based on the [sliding fee scale](#)
- determined by participants' household size and the household monthly gross income
- applied to the daily child care rate
- the responsibility of the participant (parent/guardian) to pay to the provider
 - The parent/guardian is responsible for any payment not covered by LDOE to the provider.



Summer Care Payments Ending for Children Aging Up

Effective August 17, 2026, children previously in the B-3 Seats program and now age four years old and up will be transitioned to part-time payments.

- If you have a child in your care who is still attending full time, please contact the [Provider Help Desk](#).



Bonus Payments and Back Payments

- Effective 8/5/26, Bonus Payments for B-3 Seats have been issued for the April-June 2026 period to providers, based on their star rating.
- Back payments for B-3 Seats will be issued 8/13/26 and will continue to be issued, as applicable, as the LDOE continues to finalize review the remainder of the B-3 Seats applications.
 - The LDOE has applied additional staff resources to address remaining issues expeditiously.



CCAP B-3 Eligibility Determination Updates

Providers were contacted on June 3 and June 5, 2026 (via e-mail and telephone) to assist specific families in submitting documentation verifying completion of CCAP B-3 applications (that would have been submitted between the months of May and October 2025).

Children without a verified authorized application and active schedule were removed from the B-3 payment file effective July 6, 2026, if either of the following occurred:

- Submitted documentation resulted in an ineligible determination for the family
- Required documentation was not submitted by the deadline
 - Note: Rejection notices are not being sent to these families, as families never created cases (in KinderTrack).

The LDOE is currently completing eligibility review for additional families that submitted documentation by the deadline. Temporary payment delays may occur while reviews are completed. Child care providers serving eligible families will receive retroactive payments, including for eligible siblings, back to the date of interruption.

CCAP B-3 Seats Determinations & Changes

For families with a child being served in a CCAP B-3 Seats program slot:

- If there is a new sibling that needs to be added to care since the family submitted their re-determination application, please have that family member submit a completed and signed [change report](#).
- Change Reports can be submitted via e-mail to ldeccap@la.gov, by fax to 225-376-6060, or by mail to CCAP Eligibility, P.O. Box 260037, Baton Rouge, LA 70826.



CCAP B-3 Attendance Drop Reporting

Providers should submit all attendance drops through the Provider Help Desk ticket system.

1. Providers submit a ticket via the [Provider Help Desk](#).
2. The Provider Help Desk reviews and processes the request.
3. The Provider Help Desk makes necessary updates.
4. Providers receive a confirmation from the Provider Help Desk once a ticket is resolved.



CCAP B-3 Attendance Drop Reporting

When submitting a child attendance drop ticket to the [Provider Help Desk](#), the following details must be included:

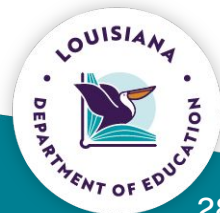
- Choose the Help Desk ticket dropdown “No Longer Attending”
- A clear description of the issue or concern
- Parent and child(ren)’s names
- Case ID number
- Relevant date(s) or timeline of the issue

Please do not submit duplicate tickets of the same issue.

PLEASE NOTE: If providers experience any technical issues with the Provider Help Desk Ticket System, please call the Provider Help Desk at 225-614-5917 or 225-250-7635.

Child Care Assistance Program Reminders & Updates

Please contact LDOEB3@la.gov for support.



CCAP B-3 General Reminders

It is **critical** that providers are monitoring their e-mail for rejection and certification notices, sent from noreplyccap@la.gov, including monitoring the Spam folder in their e-mail box.

Provider notices may include the following:

- Information on payments for children
- Information on eligibility rejections of family applications
- Information on case certification periods for certified children needing care
- Family Case ID
- Date of Action

Child Care Assistance Program Reminders & Updates

Please contact LDOEB3@la.gov for support.



Licensing

Reminders & Updates



Act 893 Lead Risk Assessment

During the 2026 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed [Act 893](#), which establishes lead risk assessment requirements for certain newly licensed early learning centers. Effective **August 1, 2026**, the owner, operator, or governing authority of any proposed licensed early learning center that is subject to federal child care licensing requirements and is **first placed into operation on or after that date** must comply with the following requirements:

- Obtain a lead risk assessment conducted by a qualified risk assessor to evaluate the facility and surrounding grounds for the presence of lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated soil.
- Attach the completed lead risk assessment report to the original application for licensure.
- If the risk assessment identifies lead hazards, operations shall not begin until appropriate lead hazard control measures have been implemented and the department has verified that the hazards have been properly addressed.
- Additional lead testing may be required if the owner or operator starts major renovations or remodeling.

Licensing Reminders & Updates

Contact your [Licensing Consultant](#) with questions.



Summer Sun and Playground Safety Tips

As summer approaches, here are a few tips to keep children safe during the warmer months:

- Staff members should ensure children are protected from the sun and hot surfaces between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Staff members are strongly encouraged to closely monitor children while on the playground to ensure shoes are being worn.
- Limit sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when there is a heat index at or above 90°F.



Summer Sun and Playground Safety Tips

- Use play areas that have shade
- Check temperatures of and around playground equipment, including:
 - metal swings and slides
 - rubber and plastic material
 - concrete and pea gravel surfaces
- Encourage families to dress children in cool clothing
- Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outdoors
- Hold regularly-scheduled water breaks
- Ensure children wear shoes for outdoor play



Emergency Preparedness

As a reminder, providers are required to develop, practice, train on, and follow a written multi-hazard emergency and evacuation plan to protect children in the event of emergencies.

The plan, at a minimum, has to address the following types of emergency situations:

- Any potential disaster related to the area in which the center is located
- Procedures for sheltering-in-place
- Lockdown
- Evacuation to a predetermined site for potential threats to the safety, health, and well-being of children in care
- Communication and reunification with families

To support providers in preparation for possible emergency situations and in compliance with federal regulations, the LDOE will be sending out an e-mail soon regarding updates to the Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Resources on the LDOE website.

Licensing Reminders & Updates

Contact your [Licensing Consultant](#) with questions.



Motor Vehicle Checks

As temperatures rise outside, it is imperative that vehicles are adequately inspected for children before staff exit the vehicle. A staff person must physically walk through the vehicle and inspect the following:

- all seat surfaces
- under all seats
- all enclosed spaces and recesses of the vehicle interior

For field trips, each vehicle must have a face-to-name count conducted in addition to the visual passenger check at the following times:

- prior to leaving the center for the destination
- upon arrival at and prior to departure from each destination
- upon return to the center

A staff member must record the time of the visual passenger check and sign the log indicating that no child was left in the vehicle.

Staff Records and Personnel Files

Bulletin 137 now requires that the following information be maintained in the LDOE electronic system, EdLink:

- All current staff names
 - *Note: When employees leave, please update employees to “inactive” status in EdLink.*
- Hire date
- First day onsite working with children
- Initial and annual mandatory reporter training documentation

Child Neglect and Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training

[Article 603.1](#) of Louisiana law requires all child care staff to complete the online Mandated Reporter Training course provided by the Department of Children and Family Services between June 1 and August 31 annually:

- This means that after initial completion of training at time of hire for any staff hired between September 1 and May 31 of each year, those staff members shall again complete the online child abuse and neglect Mandated Reporter Training provided by DCFS between June 1 and August 31 of the calendar year.



Child Neglect and Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training

Bulletin 137 §1727 notes that documentation of the completed Child Neglect and Abuse Mandatory Reporter training course must be submitted by providers, for all staff, in the LDOE electronic system, EdLink, no later than September 30 of each calendar year:

- Please note: Act 409 (2025) requires the LDOE to publish on its website the completion rates of all child care staff at each early learning site who have and have not complied with this training requirement within the specified timeframe.
- Documentation of the completed training must also be available for on-site inspection, whether as hard copies or electronic form.

Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCCBC)

Reminders & Updates



CCCBC System Update: Multi-Factor Authentication Feature

To further strengthen CCCBC System security and protect user accounts, the LDOE has implemented Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for the CCCBC System:

- MFA provides an additional layer of security beyond a username and password by requiring a second verification step during login.
- This method significantly reduces the risk of unauthorized access, even if a password is compromised.



CCCBC System Update:

Multi-Factor Authentication Feature

Users may choose one of the following authentication methods:

E-mail Verification

- A 6-digit verification code is sent to the registered e-mail address
- Enter the code within **10 minutes** to complete the login process

Authenticator App

Compatible apps include the following:

- Microsoft Authenticator
- Google Authenticator
- Authy
- 2FAS
- Aegis

Setup for the Authenticator App requires scanning a QR code. Once configured, the app generates a unique 6-digit verification code for each login.



CCCBC System Update: Multi-Factor Authentication Feature

When logging into the CCCBC System for the first time after MFA has been implemented, the following steps must be completed:

1. Enter the username and password as usual
2. Select the preferred MFA method:
 - E-mail verification or
 - Authenticator app
3. Complete the setup process

Once setup is complete, the account will be secured for future access.

After MFA has been configured:

1. Enter the username and password
2. Enter the 6-digit verification code generated by the selected authentication method

This additional verification step helps ensure secure access into the [CCCBC System](#).



CCCBC System Update:

Multi-Factor Authentication Feature

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is now mandatory for all users. Access to the CCCBC System will be restricted until the MFA setup and verification process is successfully completed.

Please adhere to the following security protocols regarding verification codes:

- Codes are time-sensitive and valid for single use only.
- Verification codes must remain confidential and should not be shared under any circumstances.

Troubleshooting Procedures:

- E-mail Verification: If the verification e-mail is not received, please check Spam or Junk folders. If the issue persists, request a new code after a brief moment.
- Authenticator Application: Ensure the mobile device's date and time settings are configured for automatic updates. If necessary, try the next generated verification code.

Users may modify or reset MFA preferences at any time by accessing the "Account Details" section within the CCCBC System.



Teaching and Learning

Reminders & Updates



Early Childhood Curriculum Update

The LDOE Instructional Materials Review (IMR) team is conducting ongoing new curriculum reviews:

- A new Tier I Curriculum List for ECE is being published on the [IMR webpage](#) “Early Childhood Instructional Materials” dropdown and is being populated on an ongoing basis as further reviews are completed.
- Currently, 5 curricula have completed the IMR process and have been approved as Tier I:
 - AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation-Every Child Ready, Pre-K 3-4 (2024)
 - Great Minds PBC -Eureka Math Squared, Level PK -ECE, Ages 4-5
 - Frog Street Press, LLC -Frog Street Preschool Louisiana, Threes
 - Frog Street Press, LLC -Frog Street Pre-K Louisiana, ECE Ages 4-5
 - Frog Street Press, LLC-Frog Street Infant: Joyful Beginnings, Louisiana

Please note: newly-approved Frog Street curriculum now has “Louisiana” in the title. All previous versions will be archived.

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates
Please contact caitlyn.robinson@la.gov with questions.



Early Childhood Curriculum Update

Currently, 4 additional curricula are in the review stage of the IMR process.

Those curricula currently in review include the following:

- Teacher Created Materials, Inc. Explore & Learn
- No Tears Learning, Inc. Learning Without Tears-Get Set for School Pre-K Program (2021), Ages 4-5
- CELEBRATE Successful Early Learning-FOUNDATIONS, Ages 3-4 (2022)
- Teaching Strategies–The Creative Curriculum

Early Childhood Curriculum Purchasing

The LDOE has Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funding available through December 30, 2026, to provide FREE Tier I early childhood curricula and professional learning for eligible child care providers.

How to Access Funding:

- Child Care Providers and Family Child Care in Academic Approval should contact their Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R).
- Work with your CCR&R to:
 - Select an approved Tier I curriculum that best meets your program's needs
 - Complete any required purchase request or funding documentation
 - Register staff for associated curriculum training and professional learning
 - Please contact your CCR&R to confirm local deadlines.
- All curriculum must be received by the site with all paperwork submitted to the CCR&R by December 30, 2026 (or earlier if local funding is fully committed).

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

Please contact caitlyn.robinson@la.gov with questions.



Fall 2026 CLASS® Observation Period

Community Network Lead Agencies will begin working with sites to schedule local Fall 2026 CLASS® observations for the 2026-2027 academic year.

- Representatives from local Community Network Lead Agencies will be reaching out to schedule observations for each site.

Third-party observations will begin in September and will be scheduled and conducted by the University of Louisiana, Lafayette (ULL).

- Third-party observations are designed to provide an additional level of review to ensure reliability.
- At least two weeks before the scheduled observations, ULL will send an e-mail providing the site with the timeframe in which the observations will occur.

Early Childhood Observation System

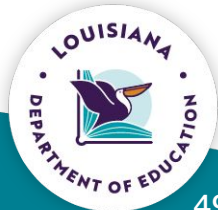
The prior [EC CLASS® Portal](#) has been retired, and users have limited access to the system. Beginning this month all Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs), Program Partners, and observers will begin using the new Early Childhood Observation System (ECOS).

ECOS is integrated within the [Louisiana Educator Portal \(LEP\)](#). All users are required to have a [MyLA ID](#) and an active [EdLink Security](#) User Profile to access ECOS.

Teachers must have an active Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP) Profile before they can be added to classrooms in ECOS. Providers must request the appropriate user role through EdLink security.

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

For support, email alicia.franklin@la.gov or sonia.fields-gutierrez@la.gov



Early Childhood Observation System

All directors should follow these steps in EdLink Security to access ECOS:

1. Click the *Permission Request* tab on the registration screen
2. Permission Request Type: “General User Access”
3. Organization Selection: “Early Childhood”
4. Application Selection: “Louisiana Education Portal”
5. Location Filter: “Local (Site)”
6. Location Selection: “Site Name”
7. Role Selection: “ECOS”
8. Permission Selection: “Admin”
9. Click *Submit*

*For additional support, refer to page 19 of the [EdLink New Account Set-up and Existing User Access Guide for Providers \(2025\)](#).

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

For support, email alicia.franklin@la.gov or sonia.fields-gutierrez@la.gov



School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)s are now Workforce Child Care Tax Credits (WCCTCs)

Please note the following changes that became effective January 1, 2026:

- School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)s have been renamed in statute: they are now called Workforce Child Care Tax Credits (WCCTCs).
- The change was enacted through [Act 454](#) of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.
- Act 454 retains the existing tax-credit structure but makes additional changes to business-supported child care provisions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders and Updates

Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with questions.



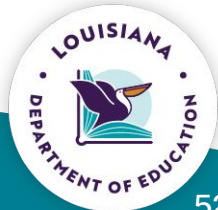
Workforce Child Care Tax Credits (WCCTCs)

Early childhood educators must have a valid Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) by December 31, 2026, to qualify for certain levels of tax credits.

- Administrators and staff members with an expiring ECAC must submit a renewal application at least four to six weeks before expiration, via the [Louisiana Educator Portal](#) (LEP).
- Incomplete applications or applications submitted after November 1 may not be processed by the LDOE Certification Team before the deadline and thus may not qualify for re-leveling and a potential increase in tax credits for tax year 2026.

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

Submit certification questions at <https://teachercerthelp.doe.louisiana.gov/hc/en-us>.



Workforce Child Care Tax Credits (WCCTCs)

For re-leveling on the Louisiana Pathways Career Ladder, new credentials and certifications should be submitted via e-mail to cowanj@nsula.edu or via mail to Louisiana Pathways before December 31, 2026, at the address below:

Louisiana Pathways
Attention: Career Development
1800 Warrington Place
Shreveport, LA 71101-4425

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

For questions contact cowanj@nsula.edu.



CACFP Updates

USDA Milk Rule Update–Flexibility for CACFP, effective June 8, 2026



Expanded Milk Options for Children Ages 2 and Older

What is the change? For children two years of age and older, you may now offer:

- Whole milk
- 2% (Reduced-fat) milk
- 1% (Low-fat) milk



Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov or call (225) 342-3707



Specific Requirements by Age Group

Specific Milk Requirements Under the Final Rule:

- Children 1 year old: Must be unflavored whole milk.
- Children 2 through 5 years old: May be unflavored whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, or fat-free milk.
- Children 6 years and older & adult participants: May be unflavored or flavored, whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, or fat-free milk.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov



Implementation & Key Takeaways

- KidKare will be updated automatically to handle the new USDA fluid milk rule that takes effect June 8, 2026.
- No action is required on your end to remain compliant; the changes will apply automatically based on the date of service.
- No Retroactive Impact: Prior claims will continue to be evaluated under the rule in effect on the meal date.
- Workflows for Substitute milk and special-diet requests are unchanged.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov or call (225) 342-3707



Announcements & Upcoming Events



Celebrating Louisiana's Outstanding Early Childhood Educators

The Louisiana Department of Education proudly congratulates the 2027 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year Overall Honoree!

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

- Brings more than a decade of experience serving young children and families
- Is passionate about nurturing the whole child and supporting every aspect of development
- Builds strong partnerships with families to foster lifelong learning and success



Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with any questions.



Celebrating Louisiana's Outstanding Early Childhood Educators

The Louisiana Department of Education proudly congratulates the 2027 Early Childhood Leader of the Year Overall Winner!

Early Childhood Leader of the Year Sarah Corley • Rapides Parish

- Creates high-quality learning environments that support positive outcomes for young children
- Empowers children, families, and educators through strong leadership and collaboration
- Champions intentional play as the foundation for lifelong learning and development



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Know an Outstanding Early Childhood Educator and Leader?

Nominations for the **2028 Early Childhood Teacher & Leader of the Year Program** open **September 1**.

- Now is the time to begin identifying educators and leaders who inspire children, families, and communities through exceptional dedication and service.
- The LDOE looks forward to recognizing and celebrating these outstanding professionals.

Watch for the nomination link and additional details in upcoming LDOE emails and communications.



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Provider Shout Out!

During the Early Childhood Provider Update webinar each month, the Early Childhood team would like to celebrate providers and highlight the great work that is happening across Louisiana in early childhood sites.

If you would like to receive a visit from the Early Childhood team, please fill out the [Provider Shout Out Google Form](#) and include the following information:

- Director and site name and address
- Best month(s) to visit your site (please select 3)
- Reason you would like the team to visit your site



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Provider Shout Out: The Garden of Knowledge

Thank you to The Garden of Knowledge in Bogalusa for hosting LDOE Early Childhood leadership on a recent visit! Highlights of the visit included the following:

- Observing STEM experiments in the Pre-K3 classroom
- Touring the garden cultivated with the children's assistance and hearing about the children's eagerness to take vegetables home to enjoy
- Visiting with the infant teacher: Ms. Kristi has cared for an estimated 225 infants over the past 24 years. She said that she has been doing this so long that now she runs into some of her first babies around town, as adults, grocery shopping, getting gas at the gas station, or dropping their own child off at the preschool.



KinderSystems Webinar

Learn about CenterTrack, a Child Care Management System (CCMS) free to Louisiana child care providers! Interested participants can access the webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Wednesday, August 19 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CenterTrack Webinar](#)
- **Webinar ID:** 160 165 2409

Please note that attendees need to register for the webinar prior to attending.



Family Child Care (FCC) Office Hours

Family Child Care providers with current Academic Approval are encouraged to participate in LDOE monthly Office Hours.

- Office Hours provide a dedicated opportunity to ask questions, receive updates, connect with available supports, and stay informed about important information related to Academic Approval.

In addition, all Family Child Care providers are welcome to join Office Hours to learn about funding opportunities, available resources, and other updates that support Family Child Care programs.

FCC providers can access this webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93029152858>
- **Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 930 2915 2858

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Please contact brandee.david@la.gov with any questions.



Monthly Young Children with Disabilities Community of Practice

The LDOE early childhood strategy team conducts a monthly Community of Practice on various topics related to young children with disabilities. The next YCWD Community of Practice webinar topic will be “**Developmental Screening, Referral, and Support for Young Children with Disabilities.**”

Attendees can access the webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Tuesday, August 25 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99301224453>
- **Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 993 0122 4453
- **Passcode:** 497464

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Please contact emily.coussou@la.gov with questions.



Monthly Provider Update Webinar

Providers are encouraged to attend the monthly webinars for important early childhood updates and reminders for all provider types.

Providers can access the next provider webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, September 3 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872>
- **Phone Number:** 1 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID:** 935 9774 5872
- **Passcode:** 641464

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Provider Webinar Slides

This month's webinar slides will be available early next week in the [Quality Providers Library](#) on the [LDOE website](#).



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Contact Information



Child Care Licensing

- Call 225-342-9905
- E-mail ldelicensing@la.gov or e-mail licensing consultants directly

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- Call 225-250-7635 or 225-614-5917
- E-mail ldeccap@la.gov or enter a [ticket](#) at the Provider Help Desk

Child Care Provider Certification

- E-mail providercertification@la.gov

Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBCs)

- Call 225-342-2716 or 225-342-5311 or e-mail ldcccbbcprocessing@la.gov

General Early Childhood Support

- E-mail earlychildhood@la.gov

