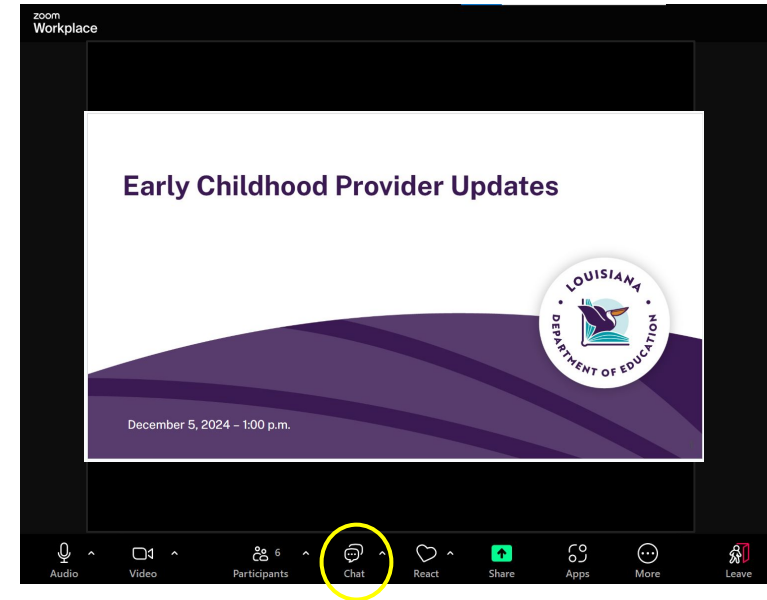


# Questions During the Webinar

- 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.



February 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.



# Early Childhood Provider Updates



February 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

# Welcome



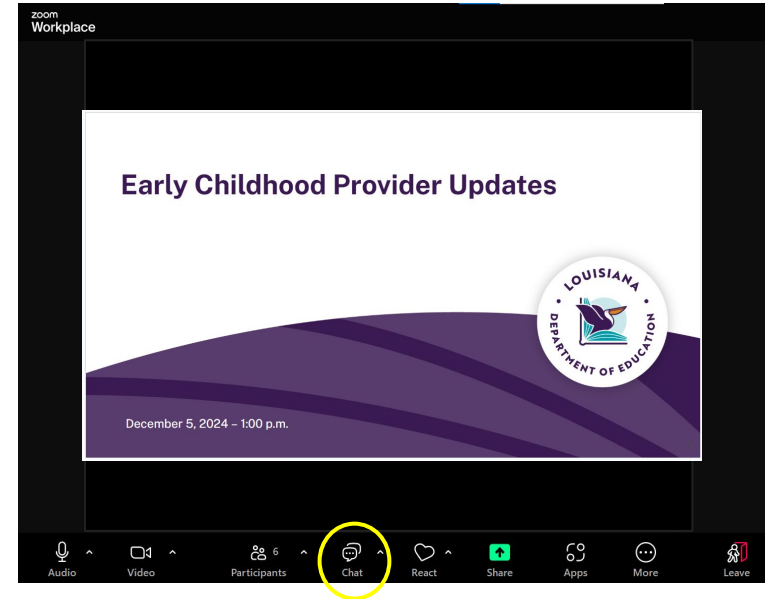
# Agenda

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



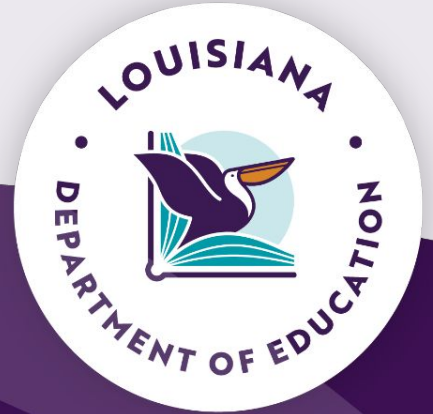
# Questions During the Webinar

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# Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Reminders & Updates



# General CCAP Reminders & Updates



# Attendance Tracking - Provider Role

CCAP-certified Family Child Care and Type III providers are required to monitor attendance each week. This includes all of the following:

- Ensuring that the site's Child Care Management System (CCMS) is linked to KinderConnect, to submit weekly attendance.
- Maintaining a secure, working internet connection so family attendance is visible in the attendance portal.
- Physically checking the attendance portal for successful check in/outs of clients when child child care services are provided.
- ***Immediately*** notifying clients who are not checking in/out properly and providing guidance as needed.
- Immediately reporting children not visible in the attendance portal or no longer attending through the [CCAP Provider Ticket System](#).





# Attendance Tracking - Provider Role

CCAP-certified Family Child Care and Type III providers are required to monitor attendance each week at their site. This includes all of the following:

- Comparing weekly CCAP bank deposits with remittance advices to ensure accuracy.
- Reporting payment discrepancies, within no more than 30 days from nonpayment, as noted in the annual Provider Agreement, through the [CCAP Provider Ticket System](#).
- Accessing the [Louisiana EdLink Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\) Infosite](#) for attendance resources, tools, and trainings for families and providers.
- **Immediately** contacting KinderSystems for KinderSign (tablet) or KinderSmart (phone) attendance issues.

KinderSystems can be accessed by phone, at 1-888-829-9258, or by e-mail at [supportLA@kindersystems.com](mailto:supportLA@kindersystems.com).



# CCAP Family Eligibility Notice

CCAP-certified families receive an Eligibility Notice (CCAP 13) when approved to begin using child care services. The Notice includes the requirements that parents must adhere to in order to maintain their CCAP case. The Notice states:

- Acceptable attendance tracking occurs when parents check their child(ren) in/out of care each time services are rendered.
- If parents encounter an issue while trying to check their child(ren) in/out of care, CCAP and/or KinderSystems should be notified immediately to rectify the issue.
  - If that occurs, parents should also communicate with the provider that there is an issue with checking their child(ren) in/out of care.
  - Parents should share with the provider any messages that may populate in the attendance portal relative to the check in/out issue.
  - The provider should place a ticket in the [CCAP Provider Ticket System](#) for assistance.



# CCAP Family Eligibility Notice

- The Eligibility Notice for CCAP-Certified voucher families states that parents are required to pay the difference in child care costs if the amount the agency pays is less than the provider's actual charge. The payment is the family's copayment to the provider.
  - Providers should not charge families in the B-3 Seats program a co-payment beyond the co-payment that may be required by the LDOE and listed on the Eligibility Notice.
- Providers are encouraged to use the CCAP [Payment Resource Tool for Full-Time Care](#) or the [Payment Resource Tool for Part-Time Care](#) to help parents understand how the weekly LDOE-required copayment is calculated.
- Parents should ensure applicable copayments are paid weekly to the provider of their choice to maintain CCAP assistance with child care.



# KinderConnect Message Center

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will use the KinderConnect Message Center to communicate program updates with providers. The updates may include mass alerts and notices or individual provider messages.

To enter the KinderConnect Message Center, providers should:

- Access the Home page of KinderConnect that defaults to the News.
- Next, press the **Messages** icon to review messages.
- A **New Message** tab is available for response to individual messages only, not mass alerts sent to all providers.
- Providers should begin checking the Message Center regularly for CCAP communications.

Providers may access the KinderConnect Quick Reference Card for [Messages](#) for additional assistance. For additional help, contact KinderSystems at 1-888-829-9258 or e-mail [supportLA@kindersystems.com](mailto:supportLA@kindersystems.com).



# KinderConnect Message Center

KinderConnect Operator Reports Attendance Provider Child Sponsor English

KinderConnect Louisiana UAT Site

Announcements Messages

Inbox Sent

Test Admin Wed 12/3  
Notice of Certification Med  
Dear Provider: This message is to notify you and serve as a ...

+ New Message

## Notice of Certification

**Test Admin** Wed 12/3

Dear Provider:

This message is to notify you and serve as a record for certifications or rejections for the CCAP B-3 Seats program for 2025-2026.

Below are the newly-recertified CCAP B-3 Seats children at your site, dates of certification, and associated state-required co-payments for them (if applicable):

-Voucher, 01-639639639, T. Pat, 6/1/2025, Cert From 12/3/2025-12/31/2026

As a reminder, providers must capture daily attendance, including for CCAP B-3 Seats, for re-certified children, now also in KinderConnect. If you have any questions, please e-mail [CCAPPHD@la.gov](mailto:CCAPPHD@la.gov) and include the child's first initial and the first three letters of the child's last name with the child's age.

Thank you for your dedication to the children and families you serve.

Louisiana Department of Education-Child Care Assistance Program

Reply

Child Care Assistance Program Reminders & Updates

For questions, contact [LDECCAP@la.gov](mailto:LDECCAP@la.gov)



# REMINDER: CCAP Family Central Portal

The Department will soon launch the new [Family Central](#) application portal for families in 2026. The new application portal will allow families to apply for child care assistance more efficiently.

Families can use Family Central to:

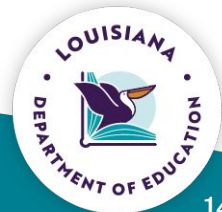
- Apply for child care assistance
- Renew existing child care assistance (i.e., Redetermination)
- Update household information and upload requested verifications
- Update provider information
- Communicate with their case worker through Family Messages

[EdLinkInfo.com](#) includes a [Family Central Overview Video](#) and step-by-step guides and information on using Family Central.



Child Care Assistance Program Reminders & Updates

For questions, contact [LDECCAP@la.gov](mailto:LDECCAP@la.gov)



# Improper Payments New Process

The Early Childhood Program Integrity and Compliance (ECPIC) team has the responsibility of auditing Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) and other payments to ensure integrity in the issuance of the funds:

- The Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA), the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and internal auditors can view and sanction errors on cases as far back as 7 years.
  - Providers are encouraged to keep records for this time span.
- When discrepancies are identified by the LDOE or another auditor, the errors must be corrected. This may result in the issuance of additional funds or the recoupment of funds.
  - In such circumstances, providers receive a notice that explains the discrepancy.

Please note that there is a new process for recoupment of overpayments: Recovery of funds from active providers will be deducted from regular CCAP weekly payments.

Child Care Assistance Program Reminders and Updates

For questions, contact [LDECCAP@la.gov](mailto:LDECCAP@la.gov).



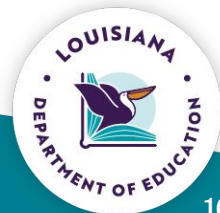
# CCAP Monthly Call for Providers

Providers can access the February CCAP Monthly Call using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, February 19, 2026, 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](mailto:LDECCAP@la.gov).





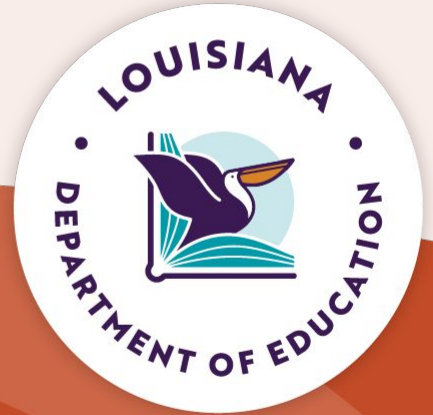
# CCAP New Provider Training

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

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CCAP New Provider Training](#)
- **Phone Number:** 1 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID:** 927 7154 6056









# CCAP B-3 Seats Reminders & Updates





# CCAP B-3 General Reminders- Parent Guidance

It is **critical** that families are monitoring [Family Central](#) to monitor messages related to their cases. Many messages are time-sensitive, and missed messages and lack of responses can result in case rejections. Please remind families to monitor for messages.

## FamilyCentral – Family Messages

- A** Click on the **Menu** icon. 
- B** Select **Message Center**. 
- C** You may view your messages on the **Messages** screen. A list of all messages will be displayed to the left of the screen. Click on a message to open the conversation. 
- D** To reply, type your message in the **Type a message** field. 
- E** To attach a file click on the paperclip icon.   
Click on the **Select File** link to search and upload the desired document or drag and drop the document into the box. Note: The types of documents supported are: jpg, pdf, png, xml, doc, docx, heic, and heif.  


- F** Press **Send**.   
**Note:** The messages you send are displayed in blue.
- G** To create a new message, click on the pencil icon. 
- H** Enter the **Subject** and the **Message**. Upload a file if needed, then press **Send**.  
**Note:** The **To** field is populated by default and cannot be edited.



CCAP B-3 Seats Reminders & Updates

Please contact [LDOEB3@la.gov](mailto:LDOEB3@la.gov) for support.



# 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 has submitted their re-determination application, please have that family member submit a completed and signed change report by e-mail to [ldeccap@la.gov](mailto:ldeccap@la.gov) or by fax to 225-376-6060.
- If a child drops from a provider program, please notify the LDOE by e-mailing [LDOEB3@la.gov](mailto:LDOEB3@la.gov) and include the child's first initial, first three letters of child's last name, provider number, and date of drop.
- Providers should advise parents to e-mail [LDOEB3@la.gov](mailto:LDOEB3@la.gov) if their case status has not been updated in FamilyCentral.



# CCAP B-3 Seats Payments for Siblings

Payments for seats for currently-enrolled CCAP B-3 Seats children and newly-certified sibling children are being made by the LDOE directly to providers, via the same banking accounts on file for CCAP voucher seats, on Thursdays each week.

- At this time, the Department is working diligently to complete adding recently-approved siblings to weekly payments.
  - All payments for siblings will be back-dated to the date of family certification.



# CCAP B-3 Seats Payments Remittance

Providers with CCAP B-3 Seats participants receive a weekly remittance statement on Fridays, from [noreply@la.gov](mailto:noreply@la.gov), that contains the following information:

- Child first initial and first three letters of child's last name
- Child age
- Payment rate
- Service week

As a reminder, providers must capture daily attendance on a [Daily Attendance Log for Children](#) and keep those logs on file. Providers must also capture daily attendance in KinderConnect once certified children appear in their rosters.

CCAP B-3 Seats Reminders & Updates

Please contact [LDOEB3@la.gov](mailto:LDOEB3@la.gov) for support.



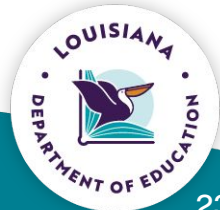
# CCAP B-3 Seats Quarterly Bonus Payments

Quarterly bonus payments for CCAP B-3 Seats child care payments received between October 1 and December 31, 2025, were issued on February 4, 2026:

- The Department is working on sending a remittance notice for the quarterly bonus payment so providers may confirm quarterly bonus payments for CCAP B-3 Seats.

CCAP B-3 Seats Reminders & Updates

Please contact [LDOEB3@la.gov](mailto:LDOEB3@la.gov) for support.



# CCAP B-3 General Reminders

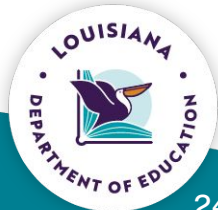
It is **critical** that providers are monitoring their e-mail for rejection and certification notices, including monitoring the spam folder in their e-mail box.

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

CCAP B-3 Seats Reminders & Updates

Please contact [LDOEB3@la.gov](mailto:LDOEB3@la.gov) for support.





# Licensing

Reminders & Updates



# Bulletin 137 Revisions

A revised version of *Bulletin 137* has been posted to the Department's website:

- The proposed revisions to *Bulletin 137* address the requirement of licensure of Nonpublic Schools due to Act 409 (2025) and additional revisions that strengthen measures designed to protect children.

The following slides will address the sections of *Bulletin 137* that have been revised and went into effect January 20, 2026.

In reviewing the bulletin revisions, please note the following:

- A ~~strike through~~ of text indicates a deletion of prior policy.
- Underlining of text indicates an addition to prior policy.

# Bulletin 137 Revisions

The revisions to *Bulletin 137* include the following sections:

## Chapter 1 Definitions

- Updates meaning of early learning center, add meaning for “Student Mentor” and a technical change

## Chapter 3 Licensure

- Clarifies requirement of licensure of prekindergarten programs operated by a non-public school
- Removes non-public day school with pre-k attached exemption
- Adds Montessori association and registered family day care home exemption

## Chapter 5 Ownership of Early Learning Centers

- Updates meaning of Juridical Entity

Licensing Reminders & Updates

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



# Bulletin 137 Revisions

The revisions to *Bulletin 137* include the following sections:

## **Chapter 7 Licensing Process and Procedures**

- Makes technical change of documentation establishing ownership
- Adds requirement for secured point of entry
- Clarifies requirements for submitting a renewal application

## **Chapter 9 Changes Requiring a New License**

- Clarifies requirement for a change in location

## **Chapter 11 Operating Violations and Incidents; Fines; Appeals**

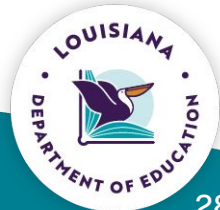
- Adds requirements for Child Safety and Minimum Standards Information

## **Chapter 13 Denial, Revocation, or Non-Renewal of License**

- Adds requirements for Suspension

Licensing Reminders & Updates

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



# Bulletin 137 Revisions

The revisions to *Bulletin 137* include the following sections:

## **Chapter 15 Minimum General Requirements and Standards**

- Clarifies requirements of general liability insurance policy
- Adds requirement for Student Mentors

## **Chapter 17 Minimum Staffing Requirements and Standards**

- Adds another director qualification
- Updates child to staff ratio and supervision requirements
- Updates orientation training to require documentation of notification to parents that “written consent to release” is not applicable to staff members’ personal communication devices or accounts but only to release of information by center

## **Chapter 18 Child Care Criminal Background Checks**

- Makes technical changes

Licensing Reminders & Updates

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



# Bulletin 137 Revisions

The revisions to *Bulletin 137* include the following sections:

## **Chapter 19 Minimum Health, Safety, and Environment Requirements and Standards**

- Updates requirements for communication and request for 25 square feet
- Prohibits water beads or Orbeez
- Adds meal requirements for centers located in schools

## **Chapter 21 Minimum Transportation Requirements and Standards**

- Clarifies training requirements for contracted drivers

Licensing Reminders & Updates

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



# Bulletin 137 Revisions

## §705. Access

A. – B.5.

C. Each early learning center shall maintain a secured point of entry into the licensed space or school to provide for supervision of ingress and egress during operating hours or when children are present.

# Bulletin 137 Revisions

Examples of types of secured point of entry for Licensing determination of compliance include, but are not limited to, the following:

## Locked Main Entrance

- The entrance remains locked from the outside at all times.
- The entrance stays locked and is opened manually after confirming identity.

## Main Entrance with Staff Present

- A staff member sits at or near the entrance, monitoring entry and exit.

## Entrance Alarm

- When someone opens an entrance, an alarm beeps.
- Staff respond immediately to ensure the person entering is authorized.



# Bulletin 137 Revisions

Examples of types of secured point of entry for Licensing determination of compliance include, but are not limited to, the following:

## Entrance Bell

- Staff respond to ensure the person entering is authorized.

## Keypad or Key Fob Entry System

- Parents and staff use an assigned PIN or electronic fob to enter.
- PINs are disabled when a family unenrolls and when staff resign or are dismissed.

## Video Intercom System or Ring Entrance Bell Camera

- Visitors press a call button.
- Staff can see the visitor via camera and speak with them before unlocking the entrance.

# Bulletin 137 Revisions

Examples of types of secured point of entry for Licensing determination of compliance include, but are not limited to, the following:

## Double-Entrance “Mantrap” System

- Exterior entrance leads to a small lobby area.
- Second entrance remains secured until a staff member authorizes entry.

## Electronic Visitor Check-In System

- Guests must scan an ID (e.g., driver’s license, QR code badge).
- System prints a visitor badge with the visitor’s name and time.

# Revised Bulletin 137 Provider Training

The Division of Licensing will offer three training opportunities for Owners and Directors regarding the revisions to *Bulletin 137*.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Every Thursday, February 19-March 5
- **Webinar Time** 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [Bulletin 137 Revisions](#)

All attendees will receive 1 continuing education hour.

A copy of the updated [Bulletin 137 -Licensing Regulations](#) will be needed to follow along with the training.

# Preventing Delay of Provider Approvals for Renewal

It is imperative that Type III license renewals and CCAP certification renewals are complete and submitted timely.

- “Complete” means that all documents submitted are current and meet [Bulletin 137](#) requirements.
  - For example, documentation of commercial liability insurance must consist of the insurance policy or current binder that includes the name of the early learning center, physical address of the center, name of the insurance company, policy number, period of coverage, and explanation of the coverage.
- “Timely” means that a license renewal must be submitted no later than the last day of the month *prior to* the month in which the current license expires.
  - For example, if your license and certification expire March 31, you must submit your license and certification renewal by February 28.
  - Notice is given 60 days prior to the expiration date via EdLink email alert.

Please adhere to the guidance above to avoid payment delays.



# Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCCBC)

Reminders & Updates



# Transferability and Validity

The Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) process is structured to ensure comprehensive screening of child care staff. Once completed, a CCCBC remains valid for five years and may be transferred between licensed child care providers, provided that specific conditions are met.

- Under [45 CFR Part 98](#), Louisiana child care staff background checks are valid for 5 years and can be transferred between licensed child care providers.
- Eligibility begins when the staff member receives an eligibility notice after completing the required criminal background screening.
- Eligibility remains in place as long as the staff member stays employed without a break longer than 180 consecutive days.
- Staff who move to a new licensed provider within 180 days do not need a new background check within the original 5-year validity period, unless moving into an owner role, which requires a new check.
- Employment interruptions longer than 180 consecutive days require a new CCCBC, including submission of new fingerprints.

Child Care Criminal Background (CCCBC) Reminders & Updates

For questions contact [ldcccbbcprocessing@la.gov](mailto:ldcccbbcprocessing@la.gov).



# IDEMIA No Charge Authorization Codes (NCACs)

IDEMIA-issued NCACs are an eligible payment method for CCCBC fingerprinting. Providers must ensure compliance with all requirements for proper utilization.

NCAC Guidelines are as follows:

- IDEMIA NCACs for the *27N4H8-LA Department of Education-Early Learning Center* fingerprints are exclusively for CCCBC purposes.
- NCAC coupon codes issued for other services cannot be used for CCCBC payments.
- To obtain NCACs, a completed [NCAC Authorization](#) form, submitted directly to IDEMIA, is required.
- The coupon codes will have an expiration date, which is included in the notification e-mail from IDEMIA.
  - Please check the expiration date before use.

For IDEMIA finance or NCAC questions, call 877-512-6962 or e-mail [LAUEPaccounts@us.idemia.com](mailto:LAUEPaccounts@us.idemia.com).  
For UEID or scheduling, call 844-539-5543.



# Application Guidance

To ensure timely application processing, please pay close attention to all information entered.

## Required Information Must Match Applicant's ID:

The following details must exactly match the applicant's identification:

- **Applicant's Name:** Enter the name exactly as it appears on the ID, omitting any spaces or apostrophes.
- **Applicant's Date of Birth**
- **Applicant's Social Security Number**

## Review and Corrections:

- **Before Submitting:** Carefully review all entered information to ensure accuracy.
- **If a Correction is Needed:** Please e-mail [LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov](mailto:LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov).
  - The e-mail subject line **must** include the Application ID and the correction needed.
  - Include a call-back number in the e-mail for follow-up, in case clarification is required.

## Fingerprinting Appointment:

- After submitting the application, a fingerprinting appointment must be [scheduled](#).
- The required service code is **27N4H8 - Early Learning Centers**.
- Please note that the CCCBC System and team will not receive the results if the incorrect service code is used.





# Teaching and Learning

Reminders & Updates



# Early Childhood Curriculum Initiative

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

- These reviews are designed to evaluate the alignment of instructional materials with the revised [2024 Early Learning and Development Standards \(ELDS\)](#) and ensure that the materials used in classrooms support high-quality teaching and learning.
- Beginning in February, a new Tier I Curriculum List for ECE will be published as IMR reviews are completed.
  - This updated list will be released by mid-February and populated as reviews are complete. The list will only include instructional materials that are aligned with the 2024 ELDS and meet the criteria of the 2025-2026 IMR rubric.
  - Currently-posted Tier I materials were reviewed using previous standards and do not fully align with the newly updated ELDS. As a result, these materials will be archived and will no longer appear on the active Tier I list.
    - (Note: The use of an archived curriculum will not count against site Performance Profiles.)

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

Please contact [caitlyn.robinson@la.gov](mailto:caitlyn.robinson@la.gov) with questions.

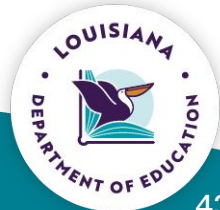


# Early Childhood Curriculum Initiative

The LDOE is committed to supporting providers through this transition to newly-approved curricula:

- As new Tier I curricula are rated and approved, that information will be made available via the EC newsletter, e-mails, and informational webinars.
- The LDOE is allocating \$4.7 million for the purchase of new, newly-rated infant, toddler, and pre-k curriculum.
- After the list of newly-rated curricula is released, providers interested in purchasing new curricula should contact the CCR&R.

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates  
Please contact [caitlyn.robinson@la.gov](mailto:caitlyn.robinson@la.gov) with questions.



# Early Childhood Curriculum Initiative

Date	Event or Task
January 14, 2026	BESE approved allocating funding for new infant, toddler, and pre-k curriculum purchases
February 1, 2026	Funding made available to CCR&Rs in eGMS
Mid-February 2026	IMR reviews complete and a new Tier I Curriculum List for ECE will be published as reviews are completed
March-May 2026	CCR&Rs will work with interested providers to purchase newly-rated high-quality instructional materials (rated as Tier I) that align to the updated <a href="#"><u>Early Learning and Development Standards</u></a> and LDOE IMR review processes.
June 2026	All Early Childhood Curriculum Initiative funding must be spent

*\*These dates are tentative and subject to change.*

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

Please contact [caitlyn.robinson@la.gov](mailto:caitlyn.robinson@la.gov) with questions.



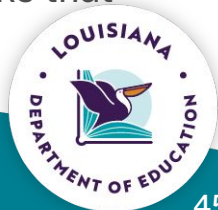
# Early Childhood Literacy Initiative: Heggerty

To provide targeted support to improve literacy and language outcomes in Pre-K child early learning classrooms, the LDOE is purchasing Heggerty Pre-Kindergarten and Early Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum manuals along with professional development.

- The LDOE is not requiring the use of Heggerty curriculum manuals. However, programs that are using Heggerty materials are seeing improved child outcomes in phonological awareness and phonemic awareness skills and improved Kindergarten readiness.
- The Early Pre-K curriculum book focuses on phonological awareness skills while the Pre-K curriculum book focuses on phonemic awareness skills.
  - Both books include 35 weeks of explicit and systematic instructional lessons that provide teacher modeling and support.
  - It would be best to purchase one manual per classroom since they are spiral books that can easily be utilized during transition or other times throughout the day.

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

Please contact [caitlyn.robinson@la.gov](mailto:caitlyn.robinson@la.gov) with questions.



# Early Childhood Literacy Initiative: Heggerty

- There is not an expected date for recipients to begin using the materials. However, it would be best if educators wait to use the materials until after they have been trained to use them correctly in April or May.
- CCR&Rs will be collecting from child care early learning sites, by no later than February 20, how many manuals each site is requesting.
  - All materials will be shipped directly to the CCR&R and distributed as announced by your CCR&R.

# Early Childhood Literacy Initiative: Heggerty

Heggerty will also provide a series of 10 virtual administrator professional development opportunities to those who will be utilizing the manuals.

- These sessions will focus on supporting child care educators to implement Heggerty Curriculum lessons to improve child outcomes in language and literacy objectives.
- Educators needing professional development will sign up for 1 of 10 virtual sessions to be offered in April and May 2026.
  - More information concerning training dates and registration will be provided in the March Provider Webinar.



# February 1 Child Count

Per [Bulletin 140](#), Community Network Lead Agencies are required to count all publicly funded children served at each publicly funded site as of February 1 and submit the Child Count to the LDOE by **February 27, 2026.**



# February 1 Child Count

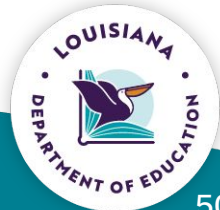
Community Network Lead Agencies will be working with all program partners to capture accurate data as of February 2, 2026:

- Child Count is intended to count every publicly funded child, birth through age four, at each publicly funded site in the state.
- Child Count is intended to be an unduplicated count: only count children under one funding source.
- A child's age cohort is determined by the child's age on September 30 of the academic year, not the age configuration of the classroom they are in.
  - During February Child Count, the child age cohort is still determined by the child's age on September 30.

# February 1 Child Count

Age Group	Children born between...	Children who have...
Infants	October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025	Not reached their first birthday before September 30, 2025
Ones	October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024	Reached first birthday on or by September 30, 2025
Twos	October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023	Reached second birthday on or by September 30, 2025
Threes	October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022	Reached third birthday on or by September 30, 2025
Fours	October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021	Reached fourth birthday on or by September 30, 2025

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates  
Please contact your Community Network Lead Agency with questions.



# School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)

Director and Staff School Readiness Tax Credit (SRTC) forms (R-10615) were mailed from Louisiana Pathways in late January 2026.

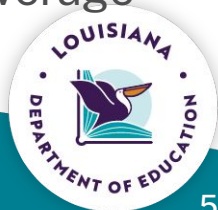
- If you have not received your forms by the middle of February, please contact Louisiana Pathways via phone at (800) 245-8925 or via e-mail at [cowanj@nsula.edu](mailto:cowanj@nsula.edu).

The Provider SRTC notices for 2025, that show “Certificate of Star Rating” and “Average Number of Children,” will be mailed by the LDOE by March 2026.

- CCAP B-3 children will be included in the average number of children served for July-December 2025. For questions, regarding B-3 children in the average number, contact [LDOEB3@la.gov](mailto:LDOEB3@la.gov).

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

For questions contact [Demita.Walker@la.gov](mailto:Demita.Walker@la.gov).



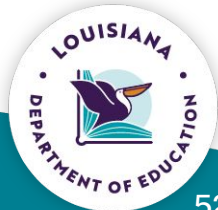
# School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)s

In order to claim [family](#), teacher, or director School Readiness Tax Credits, individuals must file a tax return.

- The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to lower-income individuals who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. This assistance is offered by IRS-certified volunteers and provides free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.
- Please contact 2-1-1 for more information or to make an appointment for assistance in filing a tax return.
- For VITA programs in your area, visit the [Louisiana 211](#) website.

Teaching and Learning Reminders & Updates

For questions contact [Demita.Walker@la.gov](mailto:Demita.Walker@la.gov).



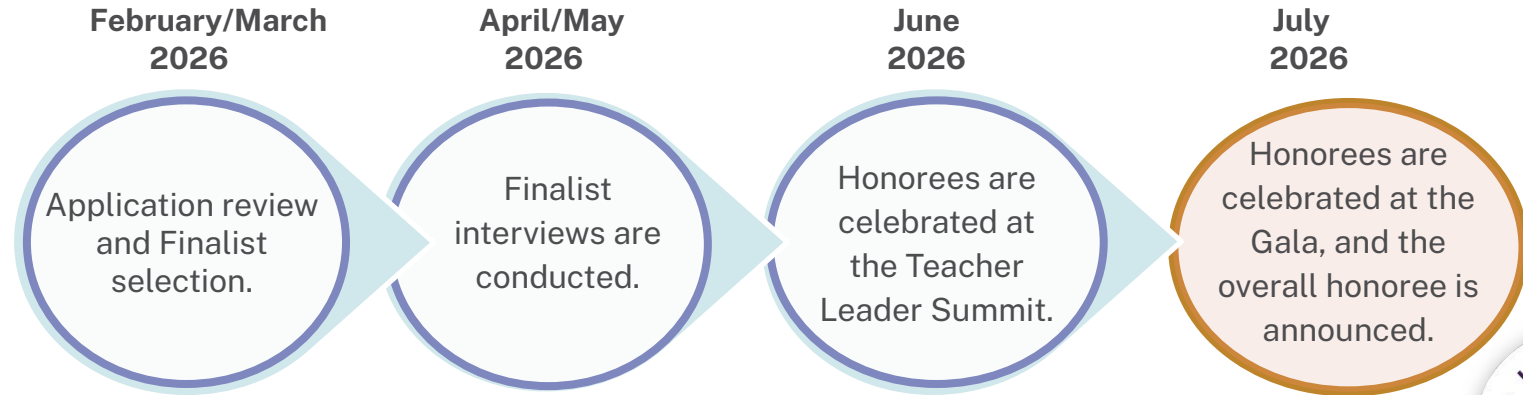
# Announcements & Upcoming Events



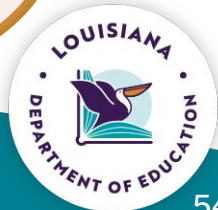
# Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Award Program

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), is excited to recognize and celebrate some of the state's most exceptional educators through the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year programs.

The application period **closed** as of **January 14, 2026**. If your network's teachers or leaders applied, please note the important timeline of next steps below:



Announcements & Upcoming Events  
Please contact [Shallan.Jones@la.gov](mailto:Shallan.Jones@la.gov) with questions.



# 2026 Teacher Leader Summit



- **Save the Date:** The 2026 Teacher Leader Summit will be held May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.
  - Early bird registration opens **February 16, 2026.**
- Teacher Leader Summit now has a [website](#). Please check it out and share it!
- Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional learning conference that brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Announcements & Upcoming Events  
Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.



# 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, February 18, 2026, 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.





# Early Childhood Connection Newsletter

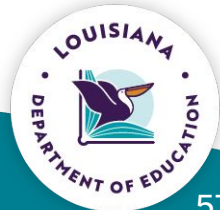
All child care providers are encouraged to subscribe to the Early Childhood Connection Newsletter for the latest Louisiana Department of Education updates and reminders.

Providers may subscribe to the newsletter by accessing this [form](#). Providers will have the option to choose additional subscriptions. Other LDOE subscriptions include the following:

- Counselor Connect
- Educator Certification News and Update
- LDOE Weekly Newsletter
- Louisiana Tutoring Initiative
- Preparation Provider
- Teacher Leader Newsletter
- Teacher Leader Newsletter
- LA GATOR - Education Savings Accounts
- LEADS Educator Newsletter
- News Releases
- Principal's Newsletter

Announcements & Upcoming Events

For questions, contact [LDECCAP@la.gov](mailto:LDECCAP@la.gov)



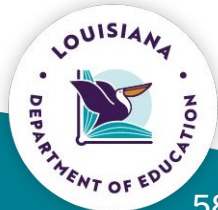
# Monthly Provider Webinar

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

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 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

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov) with any questions.



# Provider Webinar Slides

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



Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please contact [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov) with any questions.



# Contact Information



## Child Care Licensing

- Call 225-342-9905
- E-mail [ldelicensing@la.gov](mailto: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](mailto:ldeccap@la.gov) or enter a [ticket](#) at the Provider Help Desk

## Child Care Provider Certification

- E-mail [providercertification@la.gov](mailto:providercertification@la.gov)

## Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBCs)

- Call 225-342-2716 or 225-342-5311 or e-mail [ldcCCBCBprocessing@la.gov](mailto:ldcCCBCBprocessing@la.gov)

## General Early Childhood Support

- E-mail [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov)

