2027 Early Childhood Conference Overview

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is excited to host the 2027 Early Childhood Conference – *Louisiana's Future Starts Here!* The conference will take place on February 27 at the Shreveport Convention Center and on March 6 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge.

The Conference will provide opportunities for education and training for childcare providers, teachers, and administrators in all aspects of Early Childhood. The content and breakout sessions will support the following LDOE topics:

- High-Quality Early Childhood Classroom Environments
- High-Quality Teacher-Child Interactions
- Early Childhood Classroom Management
- Early Childhood Behavior Guidance
- Effective Implementation of High-Quality Curriculum
- Promoting Early Language and Literacy Development
- Early Childhood Math Concepts
- Using Child Assessment to Guide Learning and Development
- Supporting Young Children with Disabilities
- Family Engagement within Early Childhood Sites
- Facilitating Effective Parent and Provider Relationships
- Early Childhood Mental Health
- Teacher Recruitment
- Teacher Retention
- Supporting Teachers' Professional Development
- Teacher Well-being
- Utilizing Site-level Data for Quality Improvement

The purpose of this document is to outline the specifics of the 2027 Early Childhood Conference. Event updates will be posted to the Early Childhood Conference website and app.

Conference Schedule

Conference Venue	Date	Time
Shreveport Convention Center	**February 27**	**8:30 AM - 3:00 PM** *Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.*
Raising Cane's River Center	**March 6**	**8:30 AM - 3:00 PM** *Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.*

Conference Schedule	
Registration Opens	**7:30 AM**
Exhibit Hall Opens	**7:30 AM - 2:00 PM**
Opening Session	**8:30 AM - 9:00 AM**
Session 1	**9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**
Session 2	**10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**
Lunch	**11:30 AM - 12:30 M**
Session 3	**12:45 PM - 1:45 PM**
Session 4	**2:00 PM -3:00 PM**

Content and Audiences

This conference will provide early childhood professionals from all backgrounds and levels of experience with information and training related to a vast variety of topics that are relevant to early care and education, including:

- Preparing and supporting new teachers to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions and appropriate activities that facilitate development and learning
- Providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment for children ages birth through five

- Increasing the quality of teacher-child interactions and learning activities that meet the developmental needs of all children every day
- Removing barriers and access equitable, inclusive learning experiences for young children with disabilities
- Increasing family and caregiver engagement and empowering families to access tools and resources to support their children's development
- Building and supporting the early childhood workforce through effective recruitment and retention strategies
- Supporting early childhood teachers through evidence-based mentoring and coaching
- Developing childcare directors' leadership skills
- Becoming an active participant in community-level early childhood efforts
- Expanding access to care through innovative strategies

Registration

Early Bird registration will end on October 31, 2026. Regular registration will begin on November 1, 2026, and close on January 22, 2027, or at sellout.

Shreveport	Click here to register for **Early Childhood Conference - Shreveport** (February 27).
Baton Rouge	Click here to register for **Early Childhood Conference - Baton Rouge** (March 6).

There will be **no** onsite registration. All registrations **must** be completed in advance of arriving at the event.

Educators will use Whova to register and build their schedules for the Conference. Please note that the use of personal email addresses has a history of blocking emails from event platforms and/or marking them as SPAM.

Registration Fees

To help offset the cost of running a high-quality event for hundreds of Louisiana educators, the LDOE charges a nominal registration fee for the Early Childhood Conference. This fee will cover:

- Admission to the conference
- Conference sessions
- Lunch
- T-shirt
- Credential and lanyard
- Tote bag

All attendees will be provided with lunch. Special meal options will be provided for those with indicated dietary restrictions during registration. Educators can elect not to eat the meal provided. Discounts will not be given.

Description	Fee
Early Bird Registration	$45
Regular Registration	$55

Participants will pay for their registration fee in Whova using Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or AMEX. The LDOE does not accept cash, checks, money orders, or purchase orders for this event.

Waitlist

There will be no waitlist for the 2027 Early Childhood Conference. Should any remaining seats be available after registration closes, the LDOE will re-open the registration window for approximately two (2) weeks.

Presenting at the Early Childhood Conference

The Louisiana Department of Education will accept proposals to be a presenter at the Early Childhood Conference until **October 30.**

Sessions

Educators will have the opportunity to choose from more than 50 sessions led by content experts, including but not limited to the LDOE staff and partner organizations. The LDOE will release the full session list and open session selection via Whova a few weeks prior to each conference date.

Registered participants must reserve seats for sessions in advance via the Whova app. Registrants will receive an email when the app goes live.

Parking

Parking is available at and around the conference venues. All overnight parking is prohibited. It is encouraged for attendees to walk, utilize ridesharing services, or carpool.

Health and Safety

Creating a healthy and safe environment for all participants is of the utmost importance and concern to the LDOE. View safety and helpful information for Shreveport here, and for Baton Rouge here.

Tips for Visitors to Any Major City

- Travel in groups and avoid walking alone on unlit streets at night.
- Pay attention when walking and using a smartphone, as these devices have been the target of thieves nationwide.
- Do not leave belongings such as a purse, backpack, or briefcase unattended, especially not on the back of a chair.
- Be on the lookout for pickpockets. Consolidate items such as a wallet, and do not bring every credit card. Move wallets to a front pocket and/or wear a cross-body bag rather than a shoulder strap to ensure that it is placed in front. Do not display large amounts of cash in public places.
- Consider removing IDs such as a convention badge when leaving the hotel or meeting venue.
- When hailing a ride via a mobile app, confirm the identity of the driver before getting into the car.
- Trust gut instincts. If someone or something seems suspicious, leave the area and alert a police officer. Do not participate. Simply smile and walk past them.
- Lock car doors. Stow valuables out of sight in a vehicle.
- Ensure that the hotel room door is fully closed and always locked.
- Do not leave a drink unattended or accept drinks from strangers.
- Remember that most laws enforced in other cities are enforced in New Orleans as well.

What to Bring

In preparing for the Early Childhood Conference, the LDOE encourages the following items:

- Water
- Sweater or other long-sleeved covering
- Chargers for mobile devices, tablets, and laptops
- Computer/pen and paper for notetaking
- An umbrella in case of inclement weather
- Comfortable walking shoes

Social Media

The LDOE encourages all attendees of the Conference to share their experiences on social media using the hashtag #LAEarlyChildhood. Be sure to tag the LDOE in social media posts:

- Facebook: @LaEducation
- Twitter: @La_Believes
- Instagram: @la_believes

Attendees are encouraged to link to the website to share across social media platforms to celebrate attending the 2027 Early Childhood Conference.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Transfers

Registrants must request a refund or transfer of their registration no later than the dates listed below. No refunds or transfers will be allowed after. The refund will automatically be credited to the registrant's account within five (5) business days. Refunds can be requested and transfers can be requested by contacting events@emergentmethod.com.

	Shreveport	**Baton Rouge**
Last Day for Refunds	January 29, 2027	January 29, 2027
Last Day for Transfers	February 19, 2027	February 19, 2027

Lodging

The hotels listed below are located near the event venues for your convenience. Please use this list as a guide to make any necessary accommodations.

- Hotel Indigo Baton Rouge (0.3 miles away)
- Origin Hotel Baton Rouge (0.4 miles away)
- Watermark Baton Rouge (0.4 miles away)
- Hampton Inn Baton Rouge (0.5 miles away)
- The Remington Hotel (0.2 miles away)
- Bally's Shreveport Hotel (0.5 miles away)
- Holiday Inn Shreveport (0.6 miles away)
- Courtyard Shreveport-Bossier (1.4 miles away)

Contact Us

The LDOE will share additional information about the Conference through webinars and newsletters. Click here to sign up to receive the Early Childhood newsletter. Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions regarding the Early Childhood Conference.