

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council



July 17, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held May 8, 2024
- IV. Informational Reports:
 - A. 2024 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report - Quarter 2 (April-June)
 - B. Louisiana Early Childhood Workforce Pilots



I. Call to Order



II. Roll Call



III. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held May 8, 2024



Reminder of Council Charges

- Revised Statute 17:407.51
- The council shall provide input and guidance to BESE and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of rules, regulations, bulletins, policies, or standards related to all early care and education programs, including:
 - Early Learning Centers,
 - Enrollment in Early Learning Centers,
 - The Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program,
 - The Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant,
 - The Child Care Assistance Program,
 - Early Head Start, and Head Start.



IV.A. 2024 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report - Quarter 2 (April - June)



Quarter 2 Report Outline

- I. Program Participation
 - Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
 - CCAP B-3 Program
 - Early Childhood Education Fund
- II. Early Childhood Community Networks
- III. Ready Start Networks
- IV. Activities to Recognize and Support Early Childhood Professionals



Early Learning Sites by Type (2024 - Quarter 2)

Site Type:					
Month	Type I	Type II	Type III	FCC	In-Home
April 2024	201	164	1210	241	2
May 2024	200	164	1204	242	2
June 2024	199	163	1205	247	2

Star Rating:						
	0 Stars	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
2023	0	4	56	342	407	50
2024	1	10	82	380	512	105



CCAP Voucher Seats

- As slots and funding become available, additional eligible applicants from July 1, 2023, and on will be removed from the Waitlist, based on the date of the application.
- Families certified to the Waitlist from October 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, were mailed a Waitlist Verification Form.
- Families were instructed to review the form and note changes, if any, since submitting their original application. Changes may include income, provider choice, or Education and Training (E&T) hours.

CCAP Children Served in Quarter 2	
April 2024	18,253
May 2024	18,112
June 2024	18,307

CCAP Waitlist as of June 2024	
Families Certified for Services Since October 2022	1,970
Children Certified for Services Since October 2022	2,573



CCAP B-3 Contracted Seats

CCAP B-3 Seats Program continued in Quarter 2:

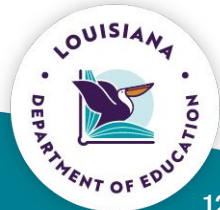
- As of May 2024, the 38 networks enrolled 5,300 children.

CCAP B-3 Contracted Seats in Quarter 2	
Infants	1,298
One-Year Olds	1,328
Two-Year Olds	1,454
Three-Year-Olds	1,220



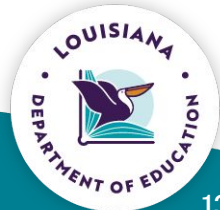
CCAP B-3 Contracted Seats Program Update

- As a result of the end of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, funding from the Louisiana Legislature for the CCAP B-3 program decreased, meaning the number of children enrolled for the 2024-2025 year will decrease.
- The full impact of this decrease will be evaluated in October 2024 based on July, August, and September participation in the program.



CCAP B-3 Seats Program Update

- A letter was sent to both Networks and Providers on June 7, 2024 to share the immediate next steps for the CCAP B-3 Program.
- This communication stated that networks should maintain current enrollment in the CCAP B-3 Seat Program at existing CCAP B-3 partner provider sites by:
 - **Continue Currently-Enrolled**
 - **Pause Redeterminations**
 - **Pause New Enrollment**
 - **Pause Substitutions**
 - **Provide Alternative Program Guidance for 4 Year Olds**



Early Childhood Education Fund

In 2023-2024, seven Ready Start Network (RSN) Lead Agencies are participating in the Early Childhood Education Fund.

- At peak enrollment in May 2024, the participating networks had 2,166 children enrolled.

Early Childhood Education Fund in May 2024	
Infants	339
One-Year Olds	470
Two-Year Olds	650
Three-Year-Olds	707



Early Childhood Education Fund

LDOE accepted applications for anticipated funding to be matched for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. 13 networks raised qualifying funds. These allocations were brought to June 2024 BESE in Quarter 2, and enrollment for these seats began July 1, 2024.

Networks New to ECE Fund	Anticipated Funding Amount
Assumption	\$12,100
East Baton Rouge	\$154,885
Grant	\$132,000
Natchitoches	\$639,000
Rapides	\$2,380,000
Tangipahoa	\$1,020
Webster	\$2,750

Networks Continuing to Participate in ECE Fund	Anticipated Funding Amount
Ascension	\$900,000
Bossier	\$70,289
Caddo	\$2,000,000
Jefferson	\$340,000
Orleans	\$23,674,959
Pointe Coupee	\$4,694

Total Matching Funds Raised for 2024-2025 is **\$30,312,097**

Early Childhood Community Networks- Child Assessment

LDOE and Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) worked together on the following TS GOLD® activities:

- LDOE provided technical support to all networks in need of support.
- Sites completed the final 2023-2024 TS GOLD® Spring Checkpoint on May 31, 2024.
- Spring TS GOLD® Checkpoint data showed that 88% of networks met the Spring checkpoint criteria.



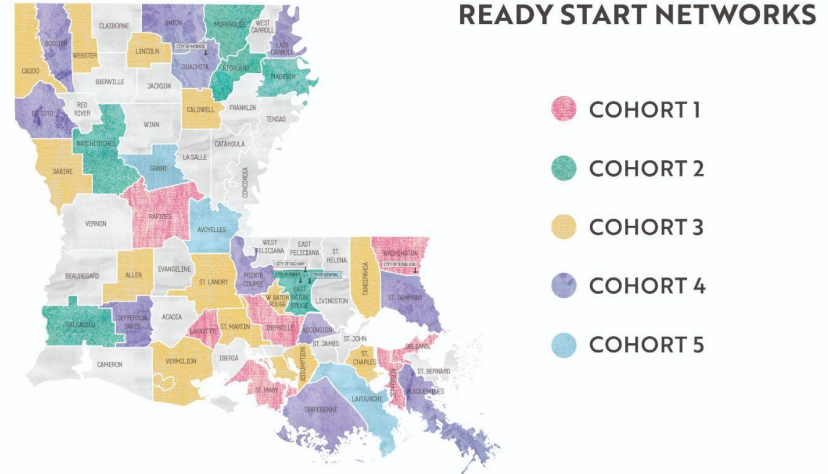
Early Childhood Accountability System

CNLAs coordinated with program partners to complete observations in April through June 2024:

- CNLAs coordinated more than 3,000 CLASS[®] observations, observing more than 234,000 minutes of early childhood instruction.
- CNLAs conducted 515 Infant CLASS[®] observations, 1,041 Toddler CLASS[®] observations, and 1,528 Pre-K CLASS[®] observations.
- Observations were conducted at 1,183 sites.

Ready Start Networks (RSNs)

The RSNs have been encouraged to evaluate their network's coalition and advisory council structures that make the EC collaborative decisions at the community-level, in preparation of developing the RSN Funding Plan.



Ready Start Networks (RSN)

In Quarter 2, RSNs are working to develop a funding strategy, which is a written plan that aligns with the network's blueprint and determines the financial requirements of the network over time.

LDOE provided RSNs with a funding strategy planning guide to being the process that:

- Contributes to the identification of potential funding sources
- Supports the development of a schedule of tasks to assist in identifying and obtaining potential funding sources
- Promotes a long-term action plan that adheres to the aims, timelines, and resource requirements of the network

Recognizing Early Childhood Professionals

LDOE recognized site leaders and teachers for their hard work and dedication to the field of early care and education:

- Finalists from the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader Award for the 2023-2024 Year spoke at Teacher Leader Summit on a panel sharing their experiences, wisdom, and best practices in the early childhood care and education profession.



Supporting Early Childhood Professionals

LDOE provided opportunities for early childhood professionals to further their professional learning and gain access to much needed benefits:

- The application for Cohort 6 of the [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy](#), which provides child care site leaders with leadership development, systems thinking training, and collaboration with peers to strengthen their business practices, opened on May 31. Applications closed on June 24.



Supporting Early Childhood Professionals

Healthy Navigators for Louisiana

- A program of the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center (SWLAHEC)
- In Quarter 2, SWLAHEC continued to connect child care site leaders and staff members with information from to assist directors in offering benefits packages to their employees or connecting employees with health insurance options.

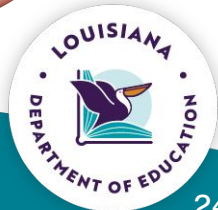


IV.B. Louisiana Early Childhood Workforce Pilots



LDOE Workforce Initiatives

- Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Planning Grant
 - Early Childhood Workforce Planning Grant
 - Workforce Stabilization Study Group
 - Impact Team
 - High School ECAC Program Best Practice Partnerships



Avenues to Early Childhood Certification

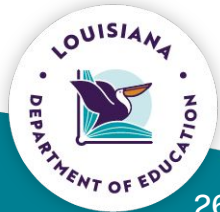
Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC)

- Child Development Associate (CDA) credential obtained by attending a BESE-approved ECAC Program
- Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field
- Bachelor's Degree in any field



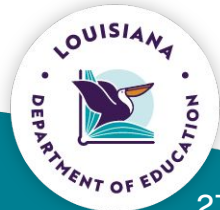
Early Childhood Development Associate Degree Pilot Programs

- Dual Enrollment is the opportunity for a student to be enrolled in high school and college at the same time. A dual enrollment student receives credit on both their high school and college transcripts for the same course.
- Various courses are offered by local technical, community, and four-year colleges.
- Pilot programs are underway in certain districts specifically targeting juniors and seniors interested in early childhood education.



Early Childhood Development Associate Degree Pilot Program Panel

- Kristy Bennett, Washington Parish
- Carmen Brabham, Tangipahoa Parish
- Dr. Michelle DeMeulenaere, Board of Regents



Upcoming Activities



Health Safety Trainers Next Steps

LDOE is implementing steps to ensure that child care providers have the training to comply with Bulletin 137 as the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) concludes the Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) program.

These actions include ensuring that providers who seek in-person trainings have accessibility to health and safety and medication administration training administered by qualified trainers who have the knowledge and credentials necessary to provide training on these topics.

These trainers will now be integrated into LDOE's registry of approved trainers and identified as Early Childhood Health and Safety Trainers (ECHST).

CCDF State Plan Next Steps

Date	Activity
May - June 2024	LDOE Office of ECCE reviewed all stakeholder feedback received
June 2024	LDOE submitted the CCDF State Plan to the federal level for review
July - September 2024	ACF-OCC provides feedback on proposed State Plan
October 1, 2024	2025-2027 CCDF State Plan becomes effective
October 2024 - September 2027	LDOE submits revisions to the CCDF State Plan as new policies are implemented



Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

2024 Meetings
February 20, 2024
May 8, 2024
July 17, 2024
September 18, 2024
November 20, 2024



Adjournment

