

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Academic Approval
for
Family Child Care (FCC) Providers
FCCs Statewide
May 11, 2022

FCC Academic Approval

May 11, 2022

Agenda

1. Family Child Care in Louisiana
2. Academic Approval for Family Child Care
 - Benefits
 - Requirements
3. Questions
4. Next Steps

Presenters: Felicia Jackson, Demita Walker, & Karen Powell

Family Child Care in Louisiana



Family Child Care in Louisiana Definition

Family Child Care Provider—*one or more individuals who provide child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day per child, unless care in excess of 24 hours is due to the nature of the parent's work, for six or fewer children, in a private residence other than the child's residence*

- [Bulletin 139](#)



Family Child Care Background

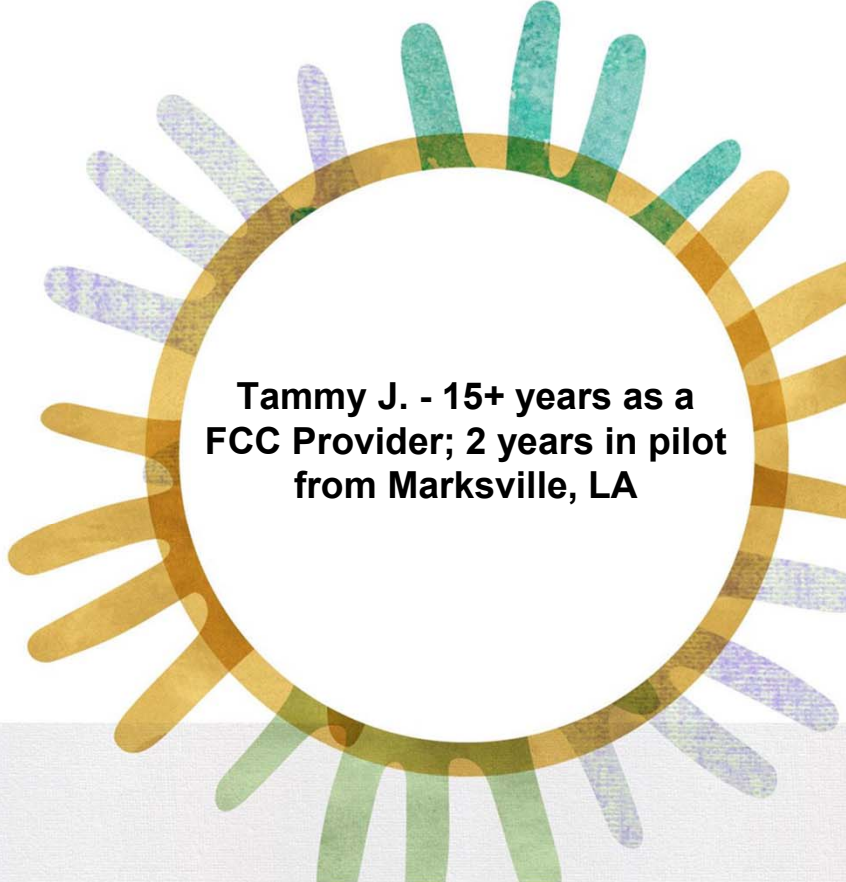
Overview of LDOE Pilot

The Department is in its third and final year of conducting the family child care network pilot that was designed to learn more from and provide support to family child care providers.

The pilot expanded in 2021-2022 to include 80 family child care providers from 20 parishes across the state, who

- Receive observations on adult-child interactions (CLASS®) and the environment for learning (FCCERS®)
- Receive one-on-one coaching, training, and technical assistance
- Receive monthly professional development and support from Tulane University Mental Health Consultants (to support interactions with children)
- Attend network meetings with other FCCs and training facilitated by their regional CCR&R
- Count and report the number of enrolled children

“During my time in the pilot program, I learned better ways to be effective - for example, to let learning be children led.”



**Tammy J. - 15+ years as a
FCC Provider; 2 years in pilot
from Marksville, LA**

Family Child Care in Louisiana

New Opportunity

While the Department explores potential paths for family child care expansion and licensure in future, more immediately FCCs have the opportunity to opt into Academic Approval.

The Department made revisions to Bulletins 139 and 140 that allow Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)-certified family child care providers to apply for Academic Approval, starting in the 2022-2023 academic year.

CCAP-certified FCCs who opt into Academic Approval will participate in the state's quality rating system and become eligible for related incentives and supports, including

- School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)
- CCAP bonus payments (if site is rated Proficient or higher)
- quality improvement supports
- and more!

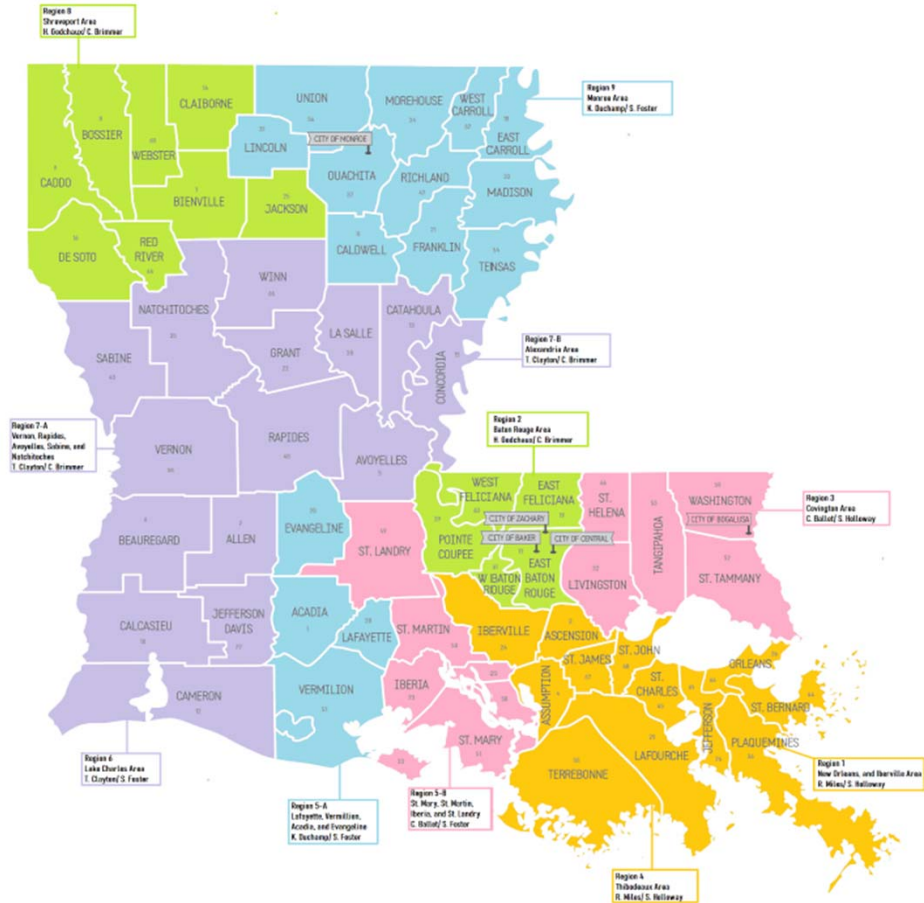
LDOE Provider Help Desk Regional Map

Regions 1 & 4 - R. Miles/S. Holloway
 Region 2 & 8 - H. Godchaux/C. Brimmer
 Region 3 - C. Ballet/S. Holloway
 Region 5A & 9 - K. Duchamp/S. Foster
 Region 5B - C. Ballet/S. Foster
 Region 6 - T. Clayton/S. Foster
 Region 7A & 7B - T. Clayton/C. Brimmer

PHD: 225-250-7635 or
 225-252-9543

Email: ProviderCertification@la.gov

Provider Help Desk Regional Map



Reference: [Bulletin 139-Early Learning Site Provider Certification Regulation](#)

**Benefits of Participation in
Academic Approval**



Benefits of Academic Approval

Opting into Academic Approval will open new doors for Family Child Care sites.

These opportunities will provide many benefits, including:

- Performance Profile on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#)
- If eligible, School Readiness Tax Credits
- If eligible based on star rating, CCAP Bonus Payments
- Ongoing coaching, training, and TA from Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies*
- Access to high-quality curriculum*
- Mental health consultation*
- Other aligned supports as resources, as applicable*
- Network inclusion*

**denotes practices already in place or similar to the FCC Pilot*

Benefits of Academic Approval Published Performance Profiles

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval will receive an official Performance Profile published on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).



Family child care providers registered with the LDOE Division of Licensing currently have a page on Louisiana School and Center Finder with basic site information, including ages served, hours of operation, and location.

After opting into Academic Approval and receiving a Performance Profile, the provider's page will include more detailed information about the site's quality and best practices to help parents make more informed decisions about the best placement for their child.

Benefits of Academic Approval Performance Profile Video



Benefits of Academic Approval School Readiness Tax Credits

Family child care providers who opt into academic approval will be eligible for School Readiness Tax Credits.

Louisiana School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC) aim to increase children's access to high-quality care:

- These tax credits reduce the state taxes paid by individuals and businesses, dollar-for-dollar.
- Unlike a tax deduction, a tax credit is the whole value of the credit regardless of the tax bracket in which the taxpayer falls.
- The SRTCs are refundable, meaning they are available to taxpayers even if they do not owe any taxes.
- Family Child Care Providers who opt into Academic Approval by June 17, 2022 and meet Academic Approval requirements, may be eligible for SRTCs in 2023.

Benefits of Academic Approval

Example: Type III Teacher Tax Credit Amounts

The LDOE is developing what the family child care SRTC ladder will look like, but requirements and amounts should be similar to those for Type III center teachers.

Teacher Tax Credit Levels	Tax Credit Amount for 2021	Requirements for Type III-Based Staff
Early Learning Staff Level I	\$1,809.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDA or approved early childhood diploma
Early Learning Staff Level II	\$2,412.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDA or approved early childhood diploma, and nine continuing education units or two early childhood college courses, or ● 30 hours towards associate degree with four college courses in early childhood/child development, or ● Related associate degree, or ● Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate

Benefits of Academic Approval

Example: Type III Teacher Tax Credit Amounts

The LDOE is developing what the family child care SRTC ladder will look like, but requirements and amounts should be similar to those for Type III center teachers.

Teacher Tax Credit Levels	Tax Credit Amount for 2021	Requirements for Type III-Based Staff
Early Learning Staff Level III	\$3,015.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associate degree in early childhood/child development, or ● Related associate degree with four college courses in early childhood/child development, or ● Bachelor's degree in early childhood/child development, or ● Related bachelor's degree with three college courses in early childhood/child development, or ● Early Childhood ancillary certificate and demonstrated evidence of eligibility for staff school readiness tax credit for at least one prior year

Benefits of Academic Approval

Example: Type III Teacher Tax Credit Amounts

The LDOE is developing what the family child care SRTC ladder will look like, but requirements and amounts should be similar to those for Type III center teachers.

Teacher Tax Credit Levels	Tax Credit Amount for 2021	Requirements for Type III-Based Staff
Early Learning Staff Level IV	\$3,617.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bachelor's degree in early childhood/child development of which three college courses focus on infant/ toddlers, or ● Related bachelor's degree with six early childhood/child development college courses of which three must focus on infant/toddlers, or ● Early Childhood ancillary certificate and demonstrated evidence of eligibility for staff school readiness tax credit for at least two prior years

Benefits of Academic Approval Star Ratings

Family child care providers who opt into academic approval will receive a star rating in 2024 based on their 2022-2023 Performance Profile scores; these star ratings will affect incentives for FCCs.

Overall Performance Score	Site Performance Rating	Star Rating of Site
6.00 - 7.00	Excellent	5 stars
5.25 - 5.99	High Proficient	4 stars
4.50 - 5.24	Proficient	3 stars
3.75 - 4.49	Approaching Proficient	2 stars
3.00 - 3.74	Approaching Proficient	1 star
1.00 - 2.99	Unsatisfactory	0 stars

Benefits of Academic Approval CCAP Bonus Payments

CCAP-certified family child care providers who opt into academic approval and serve children on the CCAP program will be eligible for CCAP Bonus Payments.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) bonus payments are distributed at the end of each calendar quarter to eligible sites that care for children on CCAP.

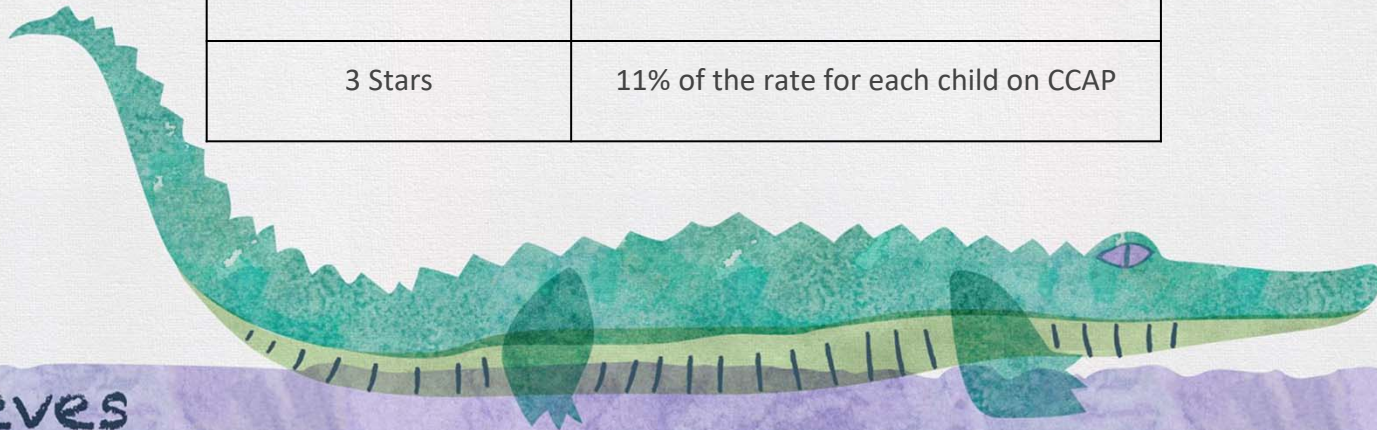
The CCAP bonus payment is calculated based on:

- the site's star rating (must be rated 3 Stars or higher to qualify)
- amount of CCAP payments made that quarter
- the age of the child(ren) served

These quarterly payments are made in May, August, November, and February and would begin in 2024 for FCCs who opt into Academic Approval by June 17, 2022.

Benefits of Academic Approval Provider Quarterly Bonus Payments

Star Rating	Quarterly Unified Bonus Received for Each Eligible Child in 2021 and beyond
5 Stars	23% of the rate for each child on CCAP
4 Stars	16.5% of the rate for each child on CCAP
3 Stars	11% of the rate for each child on CCAP



Benefits of Academic Approval

CCAP Bonus Payment Examples

Overall Performance Score	Site Performance Rating	Star Rating	% Of Monthly CCAP Payment Given as Bonus
6.00 - 7.00	Excellent	5 star	23%
5.25 - 5.99	High Proficient	4 star	16.50%
4.50 - 5.24	Proficient	3 star	11%

Infant Examples			
Star Rating	Number of CCAP Children	Approximate CCAP Monthly Payment	Approximate Quarterly Bonus Payment
5	1 infant	\$1342	\$308.66
4	1 infant	\$1342	\$221.43
3	1 infant	\$1342	\$147.62

Benefits of Academic Approval

CCAP Bonus Payment Examples

Overall Performance Score	Site Performance Rating	Star Rating	% Of Monthly CCAP Payment Given as Bonus
6.00 - 7.00	Excellent	5 star	23%
5.25 - 5.99	High Proficient	4 star	16.50%
4.50 - 5.24	Proficient	3 star	11%

Toddler Examples			
Star Rating	Number of CCAP Children	Approximate CCAP Monthly Payment	Approximate Quarterly Bonus Payment
5	1 toddler	\$924	\$212.52
4	1 toddler	\$924	\$152.46
3	1 toddler	\$924	\$101.64

Benefits of Academic Approval Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Support

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval will continue to be eligible for ongoing coaching, training, and technical assistance (TA) from their CCR&R.

CCR&Rs will provide

- Coaching, which helps your site improve teacher-child interactions and helps your site increase its rating on the Performance Profile
- Technical Assistance, which are short visits that address your custom needs, such as assistance with environment set-up or completing paperwork
- Group Trainings that are tailored to the unique needs of FCC sites
- FCC network meetings that provide more opportunities for peer-to-peer interactions, to meet and learn from one another and receive peer support, and to hear from valuable guest speakers

Benefits of Academic Approval Curriculum Initiative

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval will be eligible for high-quality curriculum and supports.

To improve the quality of learning and Kindergarten readiness, the Department supports providers by reimbursing the majority of the cost for [High-Quality Early Childhood Curriculum](#).

Benefits of High-Quality Curriculum:

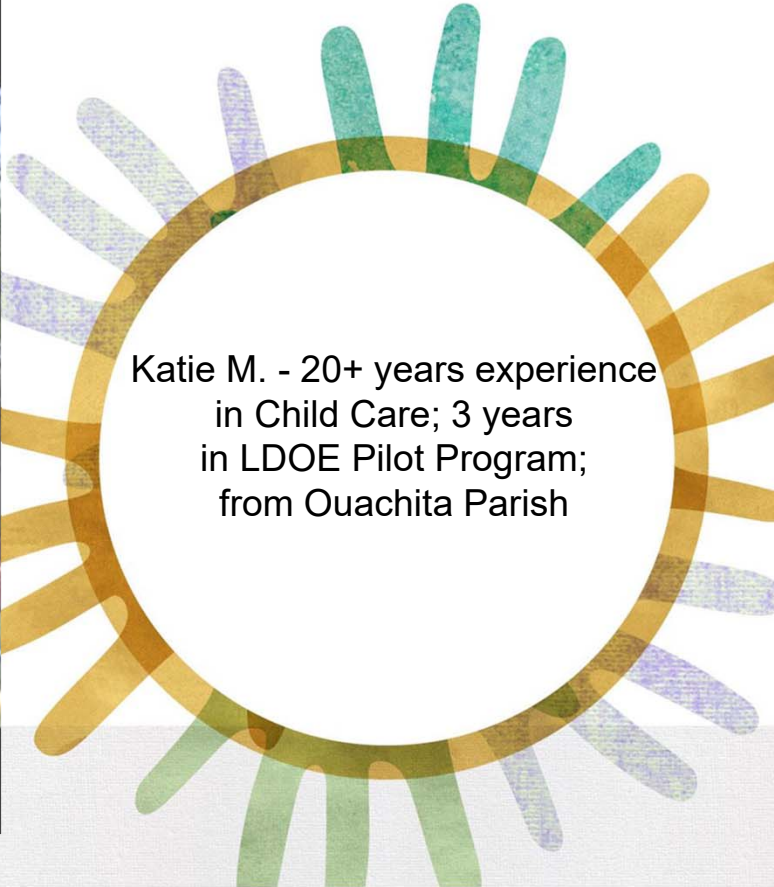
- Alignment to the Birth to Five Standards
- Options for family engagement
- Quality and complexity of learning activities
- Potential for individualizing instruction
- Cultural and linguistic sensitivity
- Ease of use by staff
- Embedded assessment
- Developmental appropriateness

Benefits of Academic Approval Mental Health Consultation

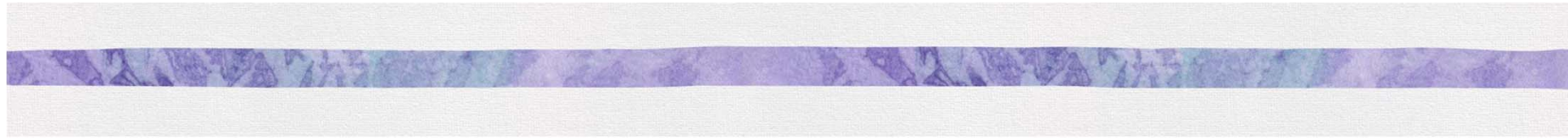
Family Child Care providers who opt into Academic Approval will have access to support from Tulane TIKES Mental Health Consultants (MHCs).

MHCs support Family Child Care providers in improving the social, emotional, and behavioral health of children in their sites. Support provided are based around several components such as:

- trainings on topics such as behavior management, developmentally-appropriate expectations, and creating supportive environments
- coaching on effective management skills, how to model social-emotional skills for children, and supporting teachers in using developmental screening instruments to create and implement behavior support plans for children
- combining prevention and intervention when working with early childhood educators to create an environment and relationship that is supportive for all children and, with families' consent, work with both families and educators to provide direct support for children in need of in-depth intervention, including providing specific referral information



Katie M. - 20+ years experience
in Child Care; 3 years
in LDOE Pilot Program;
from Ouachita Parish



Requirements for Participation in Academic Approval



Requirements of Academic Approval

As Family Child Care sites opt into Academic Approval, there are certain obligations and requirements that are necessary to become eligible for the new benefits and opportunities for FCCs.

These requirements include:

- CCAP certification*
- Participation in the community network, including child count* and coordinated enrollment
- Participation in the unified quality rating system, including CLASS® observations*, use of child assessment, and reporting on use of best practices, such as curriculum and provider credentials
- Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) within 24 months of receiving Academic Approval
- Participation in Site Improvement Planning if site is low-performing

**denotes practices already in place or similar to the FCC Pilot*

Requirements of Academic Approval

Registration with Licensing Division and CCAP Certification

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval must be registered with the LDOE Division of Licensing and certified to receive children through the Child Care Assistance Program.

Maximum Daily <u>CCAP Rates</u> for Family Child Care Providers		
Infants	Toddlers	3+
\$61.00	\$42.00	\$29.00

More families are now eligible for CCAP due to the state increasing eligibility for families from 65% to 85% of the state median income, and CCAP rates have increased. FCCs who serve more children on the CCAP program will yield more funding to support their business financially.

Requirements of Academic Approval Coordinated Enrollment

Family child care providers who opt in to Academic Approval must participate in coordinated enrollment through their [local community network](#).

Coordinated enrollment is the process developed and implemented by a community network for infant, toddler, and pre-K children whose families want to enroll them in a publicly-funded program within the community network.

Participating in coordinated enrollment means that

- Community networks will include information about FCCs who opt into Academic Approval in their informational campaign to parents seeking care locally
- Free advertising on behalf of the FCC
- More families will learn about family child care in their area as an option

Requirements of Academic Approval Child Count

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval must participate in the twice annual child count.

Child Count would require the family child care provider to report to their local community network the number of publicly-funded children served as of October 1 and February 1 of every year.

This includes the number of children in publicly-funded seats by funding source and associated demographic information.

The Department conducts child count twice a year to have a better understanding of the early childhood landscape and number of children being served. Providers in the FCC Pilot have already begun this practice.

Requirements of Academic Approval CLASS® Observations

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval will receive two CLASS® observations conducted by the community network as well as a third-party observation.

CLASS® (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is a classroom observation-based system used to assess and rate classroom quality across multiple domains of child learning using a scale of 1 to 7.

Scores collected from CLASS® observations will be used to calculate a Performance Profile score, which will be published on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

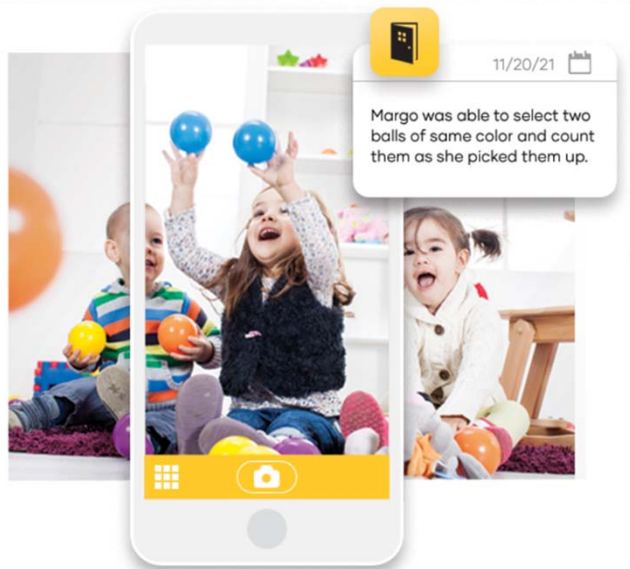
These ratings are necessary for FCCs who opt in to Academic Approval to be eligible for School Readiness Tax Credits and CCAP-bonus payments, provide valuable information to encourage professional growth, and improve outcomes for the children in care.

Requirements of Academic Approval

TS GOLD Assessment



Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval will be required to assess all publicly-funded children using the TS GOLD assessment.



The primary purpose of TS GOLD is to document children's learning over time, inform instruction, and communicate with families.

TS GOLD measures the knowledge, skills, and behaviors most predictive of school success in 9 areas of development and content learning: Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics, Science & Technology, and The Arts.

Training and technical assistance on TS GOLD will be available to FCCs through their local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs).

Requirements of Academic Approval Reporting on Best Practices

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval will be required to annually report on best practices to their [community network lead agency](#).

FCCs with Academic Approval must report the following annually:

- **Ratios** - What is the ratio of children:teacher?
- **Assessment** - Are teachers measuring progress with TS GOLD?
- **Curriculum use** - What is the quality of the curriculum used at the site?
- **Credentials** - What is the highest degree earned by the FCC provider? Does this FCC provider have an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate?

Reports of these criteria will be included on the Performance Profile publicly available on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

Requirements of Academic Approval Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate

Family child care providers who opt into Academic Approval will need to earn their Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) within two years of receiving Academic Approval.

In order to earn the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate through a CDA or technical diploma, FCCs must attend a [BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate \(ECAC\)](#) program.

Financial support to complete a BESE-approved ECAC program is available through [Louisiana Pathways](#); this support covers 100% of the tuition for ECAC programs.

Attaining the ECAC will also result in increasing your SRTC amount, by placing you at a higher tax credit level.

Requirements of Academic Approval Site Improvement Planning

Family child care providers who opt in to Academic Approval must participate in Site Improvement Planning (SIP) if their Performance Profile rating is below 3.75.

Site Improvement Planning consists of working with Department staff and the local CCR&R to develop and implement a plan for improvement.

- The Site Improvement Planning will detail and provide guidance on how to improve site's performance rating.

Site Improvement Planning would begin in the 2023-2024 academic year after Performance Profile results are released for 2022-2023.

Academic Approval Flow Chart

Step 1: FCC will become CCAP-certified

Step 2: FCC Provider will sign Academic Approval Assurances and submit for review



Step 3: Certificate of Academic Approval will be issued by LDOE and valid from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Questions and Next Steps



Next Steps

Family child care providers interested in opting in to Academic Approval will have until June 17, 2022 to decide and submit their Assurances, to begin for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Family child care providers interested in Academic Approval can sign up via JotForm between April and June 2022, using this link: <https://form.jotform.com/220745546363155>

Please reach out to felicia.jackson3@la.gov with any questions.



LDOE FCC Provider Contact Information

Topic	Contact Information
Health/Safety Inspection	ashley.jones3@la.gov
Provider Certification (CCAP, Payments, etc.)	providercertification@la.gov
Provider Help Desk	225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543
Academic Approval	felicia.jackson3@la.gov

