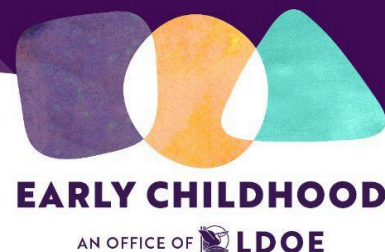




Early Childhood Newsletter



December 11, 2025

Early Childhood Performance Profiles

Last month, the LDOE released the 2024-2025 Early Childhood Performance Profiles for more than 1,800 early learning sites. The Early Childhood Performance Profiles show continued improvement from previous years, with more than 95% of sites earning a rating of Proficient or higher. The data published reflects results from nearly 14,000 local observations in more than 7,000 classrooms across Louisiana.

The LDOE also published Honor Roll designations for sites rated Excellent, for sites providing high-quality care to infants and toddlers, and for sites showing overall growth of more than one point. In total, more than 900 sites will be highlighted for the high-quality early care and education they are providing to children. This amounts to nearly 50% of sites in the state, covering 96% of community networks in the state.

These scores are a testament to the incredibly hard work of Louisiana's Early Childhood teachers and leaders. Thank you for the remarkable work you do each and every day. Your dedication to educating our youngest learners is truly appreciated and is shaping the future for our communities and our state.



Upcoming Deadlines

- January 14: [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Application Closes](#)

Upcoming Events

- December 17: [KinderSystem CenterTrack Webinar](#)
- December 18: [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Application Support Webinars](#)
- January 15: [CCAP Monthly Call for Providers](#)
- January 22: [CCAP New Provider Training](#)
- February 5: [Monthly Provider Webinar](#)

More Important Dates

Please see the [LDOE School System Support Calendar](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW: Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Application Support/Office Hours Calls for Candidates

The LDOE will host two application support Office Hours for anyone with questions regarding the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Award [Application](#).

Candidates can access the webinars using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time(s):** December 18 at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159>
- **Meeting ID:** 441 892 1159

For more information, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

NEW: Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar

The LDOE hosts monthly webinars for early childhood providers. These webinars include essential reminders and updates for all provider types.

Providers can access the upcoming February Provider Update Webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** February 5 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872>
- **Meeting ID:** 935 9774 5872
- **Passcode:** 641464

The December 4 webinar presentation slides are available in the [Quality Providers Library](#) on the LDOE website. Please note that there will be no January webinar.

For more information, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

NEW: CCAP Monthly Provider Call

CCAP hosts a monthly call for certified providers. The call shares updates and requirements for providers and families. Providers can access the January Monthly Call via the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** January 15, at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CCAP Monthly Call for Providers](#)
- **Phone Number:** 1 470 381 2552
- **Meeting ID:** 939 7378 5023
- **Passcode:** 082226

For more information, please contact the Provider Help Desk at 225 250 7635 or 225 614 5917.

NEW: CCAP New Provider Training

CCAP hosts a monthly training for all newly-certified providers. The New Provider Training gives site leaders all the tools and resources that support their new role as a certified provider.

The training can be accessed as follows:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** January 22, at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CCAP New Provider Training](#)
- **Phone Number:** 1 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID:** 920 6545 2011

For more information, please contact the Provider Help Desk at 225 250 7635 or 225 614 5917.

NEW: KinderSystems December 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:** December 17, at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CenterTrack Webinar](#)
- **Webinar ID:** 160 165 2409

Please note that attendees need to register for the webinar prior to attending. Please e-mail SupportLA@KinderSystems.com with questions.

NEW: Fatherhood Listening Session

The Louisiana Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement is hosting a *Fatherhood Listening Session*. The Task Force wants to hear from fathers across Louisiana about their experiences, challenges, and the support and resources that would help strengthen their families, to help shape future policies and programs.

Fathers can attend the event utilizing the following information:

- **Date/Time:** December 6, at 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Where:** Cafetorium of David Thibodeaux STEM Magnet Academy
805 Teurlings Dr. / Lafayette, LA 70501
- **RSVP:** [Register Here](#) to attend.

If unable to attend the session, fathers are encouraged to share their perspective through the [Fatherhood Engagement Task Force Survey](#).

Please share this information with fathers of the children you serve. For more information, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

NEW: Early Childhood Active Coaching Office Hours

The LDOE hosts monthly Active Coaching Office Hours specifically for early learning sites participating in site improvement. These sessions provide important reminders, guidance, and updates to support continuous growth and implementation efforts.

All early learning providers are welcome to attend. Providers can access the upcoming webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** January 21, at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98038985498>
- **Phone Number:** 1 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID:** 980 3898 5498
- **Passcode:** 989833

For more information, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) 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 do the following:

- 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.

NEW: CCAP B-3 Seats Recertification Notifications to Providers

Provider notifications for the CCAP B-3 Seats children who have been re-certified have begun to be sent via e-mail this week. The e-mail will come from the NoReplyCCAP@la.gov email, so please check your e-mail inbox daily for the CCAP B-3 Seats re-certification notices for your center.

For additional assistance, contact the Provider Help Desk through the [Provider Help Desk Ticket System](#) or at 225 250 7635 or 225 614 5917.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) FamilyCentral Portal

In 2026 the LDOE will launch the new [FamilyCentral](#) application portal for families. 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.

For additional assistance, contact the Provider Help Desk at 225 250 7635 or 225 614 5917.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Provider Ticket System

The [New Provider Help Desk Ticket System](#) is available for certified child care providers to input concerns and issues relative to CCAP and other areas to receive assistance.

When submitting a ticket the following details must be included:

- Selection of a “Help Topic”
- A clear description of the issue or concern
- Parent and child(ren) names
- Case ID number
- Relevant date(s) or timeline of the issue

Please do not submit duplicate tickets of the same issue. Providers receive a confirmation e-mail after submitting a ticket and once a ticket is resolved. Tickets are addressed in the order received.

Providers should not upload any documents into the new Provider Ticket System—no Change Requests, SAIs, attendance logs, eligibility verifications, Provider Certification documents, training certificates, etc. All documents should be faxed to 225 376 6060 or e-mailed to LDECCAP@la.gov for processing.

For additional assistance, contact the Provider Help Desk at 225 250 7635 or 225 614 5917.

REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Provider Recertification: Banking Information

As providers renew CCAP certification, it is imperative that the correct banking response is selected in EdLink.

If the provider’s banking information is the same—specifically, if the provider is using the same bank, has the same account, and has the same routing number as before—the provider must select “No” to the question of “Do you want to update your banking information?” With this response the provider’s banking information will remain the same. If the provider selects “Yes” to the question “Do you want to update your banking information?” the provider will begin receiving paper checks until the bank change is processed in EdLink.

For further assistance, e-mail Provider Certification at ProviderCertification@la.gov.

REMINDER: CCAP Case Redeterminations

Redeterminations for CCAP families will resume January 2026 for families whose redetermination was extended from June. Redetermination notices for these families and providers will start to go out in the month of December.

It is important that all CCAP families have the most up-to-date contact information on file with the LDOE.

For questions, families should contact the LDOE Call Center at 1 877 453 2721, and providers should contact the CCAP Provider Help Desk at 225 250 7635 or 225 614 5917.

UPDATES FOR LICENSED CENTERS

NEW: Basic Life Support CPR Cards

During inspections, providers are submitting Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR cards to satisfy the requirement for documentation of certification in CPR and Pediatric First Aid (PFA). **Please note that these cards only document being certified in CPR.**

Per [Bulletin 137](#), there must be documentation of certification for each staff member on-site, at all times and available for inspection by the LDOE.

For questions, licensed centers should contact a [licensing consultant](#).

NEW: Delayed CPR and Pediatric First Aid (PFA) Cards

The LDOE has been informed that the American Heart Association allows for a 20-day processing period—from the date payment is received, not the date of the class—to process certification cards.

To avoid a deficiency for failing to have documentation of current CPR and PFA, providers must have a roster of attendees for the date of the class from the class Trainer and proof of payment.

Please contact your [Licensing Consultant](#) with questions.

NEW: End-of-Day-Check

Checking the entire early learning center at the end of each day is an essential safety and quality practice. Here are some reasons why it is important:

1. Ensures no child is left behind - Confirm that all children have been safely picked up
2. Maintain safety and security - Ensure all doors and gates are locked and that hazardous materials are secured
3. Identify health concerns - Notice items that might attract pests as well as spills or messes that were not cleaned up
4. Protect confidential information - Properly store child records, incident reports, or medications
5. Prepare for the next day - Restock supplies, reset learning areas, arrange furniture safely

[Bulletin 137](#) requires the entire center and play yard be checked after the last child departs and that it shall be documented with the date, time of visual check, and signature of staff conducting the check.

Please contact your [Licensing Consultant](#) with questions.

NEW: Nighttime Care for Children

All minimum standards for early learning centers apply to centers that care for children after 9 p.m. and prior to 5 a.m. [Bulletin 137](#) requires the following in addition:

1. An employee on duty designated as staff-in-charge
2. There shall always be a minimum of two staff members present
3. Staff counted for purposes of meeting child to staff ratio shall be awake
4. Meals shall be served to children at ordinary meal times
5. Time for personal care routines and preparation for sleep, such as brushing teeth, washing hands and face, and toileting and changing clothes shall be provided
6. Each child shall have a separate, age-appropriate bed or cot with mat or mattress

7. Bunk beds are prohibited
8. Physical restraints shall not be used to confine children to bed
9. The center's entrance and drop-off zones shall be well-lighted during hours of operation

Please contact your [Licensing Consultant](#) with questions.

UPDATES FOR LICENSED CENTERS, FAMILY CHILD CARE, AND IN-HOME PROVIDERS

NEW: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Application Guidance

To ensure efficient processing, all information provided in CCCBC applications must match the identification documents exactly. When completing the application:

- Enter the name exactly as it appears on identification, omitting any spaces or apostrophes
- Ensure the date of birth matches the date shown on identification
- Confirm accuracy of the social security number before submission

Review all entered information and documents carefully prior to submitting the application. If an error is identified after submission, contact LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov.

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.

For questions or assistance, contact the CCCBC team at LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Fingerprinting Site Closure

Please be advised that the fingerprinting facility located at 1881 Rousseau St., Ste 3, New Orleans, LA 70130, will permanently cease operations after December 12. Efforts are currently underway to secure a replacement site within Orleans Parish, and the availability of this new location will be communicated immediately upon confirmation.

To identify an alternative IDEMIA fingerprinting center, applicants and providers should proceed as follows:

1. Access the official IdentoGO [website](#).
2. Utilize the search function by entering the city or postal code.
3. Select the most convenient location from the generated list of results.

As a reminder, all fingerprint submissions must be in an electronic and digital format, unless explicit contrary instructions have been issued by the LDOE.

If an applicant has a medical or physical condition that may potentially affect the fingerprinting process, they must contact the LDOE CCCBC Section prior to the scheduled appointment. Please direct an e-mail to LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov to notify the CCCBC team.

For questions or assistance, contact the CCCBC team at LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov.

REMINDER: The 2027 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Application Portal is Now Open!

The search is now on for next year's Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year honorees. The [application portal](#) is open until January 14, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

Anyone who is eligible for the award can apply, not only those who were nominated. Eligible applicants must be a Teacher or a Leader in a Type III child care center, a CCAP-certified FCC site, or a Head Start or Early Head Start program.

To learn more about the current and previous Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year honorees, visit the

[Awards Resources library.](#)

Please contact Shallan.Jones@la.gov with questions.

NEW: School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC)

Parent School Readiness Tax Credit (SRTC) forms (R-10614) will be mailed to Type III sites and Family Child Care sites with Academic Approval this month. Once tax forms are received, site directors should complete the child care portion and distribute the forms to all eligible parents.

Director and Staff member School Readiness Tax Credit (SRTC) forms (R-10615) will be mailed from Louisiana Pathways beginning in January 2026. As a reminder, the requirements for educators who work at a Type III site or a Family Child Care site with Academic Approval are that educators must:

- Enroll with Louisiana Pathways by submitting an enrollment form and employment verification form
- Work in the site for at least six months of the calendar year
- Work at least 30 hours per week at the site

Please contact demita.walker@la.gov for questions regarding SRTCs.

REMINDER: School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTCs)

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

Reminder: Incomplete applications or applications submitted after November 30 are not guaranteed to be processed by the Certification Team before the deadline and thus may not qualify for re-leveling and a potential increase in SRTCs for tax year 2025.

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 at the address below:

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

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate application resources are posted on TeachLouisiana.net:

- [Applicant Guide](#)
- [Early Childhood Director Guide](#)
- [Early Childhood Director Training - recorded session](#)
 - Full session for Directors and CCR&R representatives that sign renewal applications
 - Applicants may view minutes 12 - 35 for a demonstration of the initial ECAC and ECAC Renewal applications
- [Logging into the Louisiana Educator Portal - Individual Applicants](#) article on the Teacher Certification Help Center

Submit certification questions at <https://ldoe.force.com/s/ask-certification>. For questions regarding Pathways Leveling, contact cowanj@nsula.edu.

CONTACT US



- For questions regarding licensing or child health and safety, please contact LDElicensing@la.gov.
- For questions regarding the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), please contact the LDECCAP@la.gov.
- For all questions regarding Child Care Criminal Background Check processing, please contact LDEcccbcprocessing@la.gov.
- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.
- Subscribe to our monthly newsletter by completing our [Newsletter Signup](#) form.