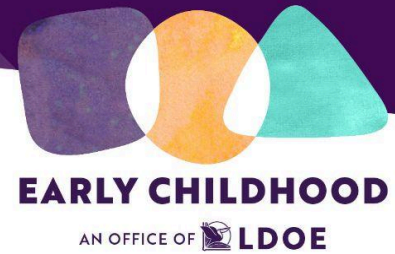




Early Childhood Newsletter



April 9, 2026

April is Autism Awareness Month

April is recognized as Autism Awareness Month, a time to increase understanding, acceptance, and support for young children with [Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#). In early childhood education, this month reminds us of the importance of creating classrooms where every child is valued and supported by building a community that encourages kindness.

In early childhood classrooms, using stories and activities to teach friendship, patience, and understanding helps children recognize that everyone learns and communicates in their own unique way.

Educators can make a difference by creating early learning environments where all children are able to learn and grow together. Educators can learn more about early developmental [signs and symptoms](#) and connect families with [EarlySteps](#) (for children under age 3) or the local school system Pupil Appraisal office (for children 3 and older) to receive more information on screening, evaluation, and early intervention services.



Upcoming Deadlines

- [Teacher Leader Summit Registration](#) closes April 12

Upcoming Events

- April 13: [EdLink New User Account Set-up and Access Webinar](#)
- April 15: [KinderSystems CenterTrack Webinar](#)
- April 15: [Early Childhood Active Coaching Office Hours](#)
- April 16: [CCAP Monthly Call for Providers](#)
- April 16, 21, 22: Spring Collaboratives for CNLAs and CCR&Rs
- April 20: [EdLink New User Account Set-up and Access Webinar](#)
- April 23: [CCAP New Provider Training](#)
- April 24: [New Director Office Hours](#)
- April 27: [EdLink New User Account Set-up and Access Webinar](#)
- April 28: [Young Children with Disabilities Community of Practice](#)
- May 4: [EdLink New User Account Set-up and Access Webinar](#)
- May 7: [Monthly Provider Update Webinar](#)
- May 11: [EdLink New User Account Set-up and Access Webinar](#)
- May 12: [Monthly CNLA Update Webinar](#)

More Important Dates

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

In This Issue

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Updates for Funding and Enrollment](#)

[Updates for Licensed Centers](#)

[Updates for Licensed Centers, Family Child Care, and In-Home Providers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

REMINDER: Teacher Leader Summit 2026

Registration is open for Teacher Leader Summit 2026, Louisiana's premier professional learning event for educators. Teacher Leader Summit 2026 will take place May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Registration:

- Regular Registration Window: March 16-April 12 (or when capacity is reached)
- Rate: \$299

Registration must be completed on the [TLS 2026 event site](#). All registrations include full access to sessions, an official TLS 2026 t-shirt, and lunch on May 26 and May 27. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis; once registration capacity is reached, additional registrants will be added to a waitlist. No onsite registration will be available.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions or refer to the [Teacher Leader Summit 2026 site](#).

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 May Provider Update Webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** May 7 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872>
- **Meeting ID:** 935 9774 5872
- **Passcode:** 641464

Past webinar slides can be located on the [Quality Providers Resources](#) webpage under "Early Childhood Provider Webinars."

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. This month's topic, "Building Language and Communication Skills in Early Learning Sites," will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the supports that strengthen classroom quality.

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

- **Webinar Date/Time:** April 15 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98038985498>
- **Meeting ID:** 980 3898 5498
- **Passcode:** 989833

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

NEW: Office Hours for New Directors

The LDOE team hosts New Director Office Hours focused on sharing information about early childhood quality and operations while also expanding new directors' peer networking.

This month's topic is "Using Observation Tools to Strengthen Classroom Interactions." Participants will learn to use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), TS GOLD®, and the CLASS® tool to conduct effective observations and document children's development. Participants will also learn to use this data to inform instruction, support child outcomes, and strengthen teacher-child interactions.

Interested participants can access the webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** April 24 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98824530491>
- **Meeting ID:** 988 2453 0491
- **Passcode:** 760909

Please contact Tella.Henderson@la.gov with questions.

NEW: Young Children with Disabilities (YCWD) Community of Practice Webinar

The LDOE hosts monthly webinars for early childhood special education administrators and educators. These webinars include professional development and updates regarding young children with disabilities in early childhood settings.

Providers can access the April YCWD Community of Practice Webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** April 28 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99301224453>
- **Meeting ID:** 993 0122 4453
- **Passcode:** 497464

For more information, please contact Emily.Coussou@la.gov.

NEW: CCAP Monthly Provider Call

CCAP hosts a monthly call for all certified providers that shares CCAP updates and requirements for providers and families. Providers can access the April call via the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** April 16 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CCAP Monthly Call for Providers](#)
- **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 training gives providers essential tools and resources that support them in their new role as a certified provider. The training can be accessed via the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** April 23 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [CCAP New Provider Training](#)
- **Meeting ID:** 973 3264 6864

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

NEW: KinderSystems April 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:** April 15 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: EdLink New User Account Set-Up and Access Webinar

These webinar sessions are to assist providers with setting up EdLink User accounts, securing access to sites, and addressing other EdLink OPS requests. Interested participants can access the webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Mondays April - July 2026 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93164206416>
- **Meeting ID:** 931 6420 6416

For any questions, please submit a [support ticket](#), and an EdLink Support Team Member will address your issues.

UPDATES FOR ACADEMICS, FUNDING, AND ENROLLMENT

NEW: 2027 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Honorees

The LDOE recognizes that great teachers and leaders are critical to student success. Annually the LDOE, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), announces exemplary early childhood teachers and leaders as honorees for this award program. Eligible candidates are teachers or Directors (leaders) in CCAP-certified Type III centers, CCAP-certified Family Child Care sites, Head Start centers, or Early Head Start centers.

2027 Teacher of the Year Honorees:

- Vanessa Baltazar–LSU Early Childhood Education Laboratory Preschool, East Baton Rouge Parish
- Jeannine Danos–South Plaquemines Children’s Center, Plaquemines Parish
- Tangi Ambeau Flowers–Little Learner’s Preparatory Academy, Ascension Parish
- Jillian Graves–St. Louis Academy Head Start, St. James Parish
- Kirsty Short–Thibodaux Head Start, Lafourche Parish

2027 Leader of the Year Honorees:

- Cheryl Morrison Champagne–Tender Years, St. Tammany Parish
- Sarah Corley–Louisiana State University at Alexandria Children’s Center, Rapides Parish
- Jamalynn Lewis–New Horizon Learning Center, Jefferson Parish
- Niki Mills–New Horizon Learning Academy, Jefferson Parish
- Sarah Thobodeaux–Bright Beginnings Learning Center, Vermilion Parish

Congratulations to the outstanding educators named as the 2027 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Honorees! Overall Honorees will be named at the 20th annual Cecil J. Picard awards gala in July. Please visit this year’s [newsroom post](#) to see more information about this year’s honorees.

For more information, please contact shallan.jones@la.gov.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Literacy Initiative - Upcoming Early Childhood Curriculum Funding, Reviews, and Updates to the Tier I Early Childhood Curriculum List

The LDOE updated the state’s *Early Learning and Development Standards* (ELDS) in 2024 to reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education. In alignment with these updated standards, the LDOE has revised the “2025-2026 Instructional Materials Review (IMR) Rubric” for Early Childhood Education (ECE), Ages Birth to Five, and is currently reviewing newly-submitted early childhood curricula.

The LDOE has allocated funding for new infant, toddler, and pre-k curriculum purchases. This funding was approved by BESE at its January 14 meeting, and funding is now available through eGMS to CNLAs, for school-based Pre-K classrooms, and to CCR&Rs, for child care classrooms. This funding opportunity will run from February 1 - June 30.

Funding can be used to provide the following:

- **Curriculum Allocation:** The curriculum allocation will be used to purchase newly-rated high-quality instructional materials (rated as Tier I) that align to the updated [Early Learning and Development Standards](#) and LDOE IMR review processes. The newly-rated Tier I curriculum list will be populated as reviews are completed and can be located on the [IMR webpage](#) “Early Childhood Instructional Materials” dropdown. Currently, three curricula have completed the IMR process and have been approved as Tier I:

- Great Minds PBC - Eureka Math Squared, Level PK - ECE, Ages 4-5
- Frog Street Press, LLC - Frog Street Preschool Louisiana, Threes
- Frog Street Press, LLC - Frog Street Pre-K Louisiana, ECE Ages 4-5
 - CNLAs should work with schools to purchase newly-rated Tier I curriculum and curriculum-aligned professional development requested by school-based publicly funded pre-K classrooms.
 - CCR&Rs should work with child care sites to purchase newly-rated Tier I curriculum and curriculum-aligned professional development requested for infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms by Type III child care and FCC sites who have opted into Academic Approval.

Please note: Newly-approved Frog Street curriculum now has "Louisiana" in the title. All previous versions will be archived.

- **Science of Reading (SoR) Training Stipend Allocation (available for district-employed pre-K teachers, through CNLAs):** The SoR Training stipend allocation will be used to provide LDOE-created SoR training to support early identification and interventions, including for teachers of young children with disabilities who teach pre-K.
 - This portion of the allocation offered through CNLAs to school-based pre-K educators will fund \$250 stipends for the completion of 3 LDOE Science of Reading pre-K modules through the LDOE Canopy platform.
 - The *Early Childhood Science and Art of Reading* professional learning series aims to equip educators with a shared understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to implement scientifically-based literacy instruction. This professional development series is housed in the LDOE's [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#). The course code is **C100N1N9**.
 - Please note: There will be additional information regarding funding opportunities for training stipends for publicly funded child care center teachers, Early Head Start/Head Start teachers, Family Child Care educators with Academic Approval, and NSECD teachers in publicly funded sites shared at a later date.

The LDOE is committed to supporting providers and school systems through this transition. Information about new Tier I curricula that have been approved will be made available via this newsletter, e-mail blasts, and webinars. These newly-reviewed and approved resources will ensure that all early childhood classrooms are equipped with high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials that support strong learning outcomes for every child, from birth to age five.

Please reach out to LouisianaCurriculumReview@la.gov with questions related to the instructional materials reviews.

For all other questions, including those related to funding, purchases, and newly-rated curriculum, please reach out to earlychildhood@la.gov.

REMINDER: Heggerty Training Registration

To provide targeted support to improve literacy and language outcomes in Pre-K early learning classrooms in Type III child care centers and academically-approved Family Child Care, 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.

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. Heggerty will 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.

The available training dates and times can be found below. Please select the date below to register for training.

- [April 15: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.](#)
- [April 18: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.](#)
- [April 21: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.](#)
- [April 23: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.](#)
- [April 23: 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.](#)
- [April 27: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.](#)
- [April 29: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.](#)
- [May 2: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.](#)
- [May 5: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.](#)
- [May 7: 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.](#)

Please note: The 10 virtual sessions are identical training sessions. Please only register for 1 training session; participants will need their manual for training. Participants will need the [Heggerty curriculum sample](#) for training.

For more information, please contact Caitlyn.Robinson@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Underutilization Monitoring

The LDOE is obligated to ensure proper oversight of CCDF dollars that govern payments for certified CCAP Voucher and B-3 Seat families. The LDOE's obligation and oversight includes ensuring that those families are using child care authorizations regularly.

Presently, both CCAP Voucher and B-3 Seats families who have not demonstrated monthly use of their child's authorizations since December 2025 are being notified of immediate case closures. Specifically, the family names of those being notified appeared on the recent LDOE CCAP Underutilized Report.

Please note the following:

- The family names may have appeared on the report due to families not checking their child(ren) in and out of child care via the site's Child Care Management System (CCMS).
 - Signing in and out on a paper attendance log is only one part of the attendance process.
- Checking in/out on the site's CCMS is required **each time** approved families receive child care from a certified provider.
- Providers not submitting weekly attendance can also cause family names to appear on the LDOE CCAP Underutilized Report and place them in jeopardy of losing their CCAP Voucher or B-3 Seats certification.
- Families appearing on the CCAP Underutilized Report due to the provider not submitting weekly attendance may be referred to the Early Childhood Program Integrity and Compliance (ECPIC) unit for review of their case.
 - Cases referred to ECPIC relative to Underutilization will be reviewed and/or reopened on a case by case basis.
 - After review, ECPIC will provide an update to the families regarding their case.

For additional assistance, contact LDECCAP@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Special Populations Application Processing

CCAP provides child care services to Special Populations that are not subject to the Waitlist.

The CCAP Eligibility team processes these special population applications in the order in which they are received. Unfortunately, the LDOE is currently experiencing a large number of these applications. Due to this influx, processing times are currently delayed.

Note: Special population applications receive the same level of scrutiny as all CCAP applications and may be referred to the Early Childhood Program Integrity and Compliance team for any suspected fraud.

For additional assistance, contact LDECCAP@la.gov.

REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Attendance Tracking - Provider Role

Required attendance monitoring as a CCAP provider includes all of the following:

- Maintaining a secure, working internet connection so family attendance can be recorded and is visible in the attendance portal.
- Submitting KinderConnect attendance records weekly, for all CCAP-enrolled children (served in both voucher seats and B-3 Seats).
- If using an additional Child Care Management System (CCMS) for CCAP attendance tracking, that CCMS

must be linked to KinderConnect for providers to submit weekly attendance.

- KinderBridge API is the integration tool that joins a provider's CCMS to KinderConnect so that attendance can be submitted seamlessly. Visit EdlinkInfo.com for [KinderBridge Providers](#) for instructions.
- Providers may call 1.888.829.9258 or e-mail supportLA@kindersystems.com to ensure their CCMS is linked properly to KinderConnect.
- Physically checking the attendance portal for successful check in/out of clients **each time** child care services are provided.
- **Immediately** notifying clients who are not checking in/out properly and providing guidance as needed.
- **Immediately** reporting, through the [CCAP Provider Help Desk Ticket System](#), children not visible in the attendance portal or children removed from care, transferred, or no longer attending.
 - Once the ticket system is accessed, providers will choose one of the following topics:
 - "No Longer Attending" to have children removed from their center capacity or
 - "KinderConnect" for children not visible in the attendance portal
- Comparing weekly CCAP voucher seat and B-3 Seats bank deposits with remittance advices to ensure accuracy.
- Reporting any kind of payment discrepancies, within no more than 30 days from the discrepancy, as noted in the annual Provider Agreement, through the [CCAP Provider Help Desk Ticket System](#).
- **Immediately** (within no more than 48 hours) contacting KinderSystems and the LDOE regarding any technical issues or problems experienced with the attendance tracking system, whether with KinderSign (tablet) or KinderSmart (phone).

Access the [Louisiana EdLink Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\) Infosite](#) for attendance resources, tools, and trainings for families and providers.

For additional help, contact KinderSystems at 1-888-829-9258 or by e-mail at supportLA@kindersystems.com.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) B-3 Seats Recertification Notifications to Providers

The LDOE has concluded the process of sending out provider notifications for the CCAP B-3 Seats program children who have been re-certified or rejected. The e-mails were sent from the NoReply@la.gov e-mail address, so providers should check their e-mail inbox for the CCAP B-3 seats re-certification or rejection notices for their site.

For additional assistance or if providers have not received a notice regarding certification or rejection for any B-3 child that has been in a provider's care, contact the B-3 inbox at ldoeb3@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Case Redeterminations

Clients and providers with an April 2026 redetermination should have received a redetermination notice in the mail in mid-March 2026 as a reminder.

These redeterminations include the families whose cases were extended from August and September 2025 to April 2026. It is important that all CCAP families have the most up-to-date contact information on file with the LDOE for all future notifications.

Due to recent citizenship changes, if the following documents were not received for initial application processing, clients will have to submit these items during the redetermination review for continued child care assistance:

- Current identification card for the head of household
- Copy of birth certificate for all household members
- Social Security cards for all household members

If the family's prior redetermination month was extended from August and September 2025 and neither the provider nor the parent have received a redetermination notice for the month of April 2026, please contact the LDOE as soon as possible to avoid potential breaks in service. Families should e-mail LDECCAP@la.gov, and providers should contact the CCAP Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635 or 225-614-5917.

REMINDER: Preventing Delay of CCAP Payments from Late Provider Renewals

Due to paying providers with Prospective Payments, it is imperative that Type III license renewal and CCAP certification renewals are completed timely.

An application for renewal of a license and certification shall be submitted using the Department's online electronic system. Each center is solely responsible for timely completing the online license and certification renewal application. "Timely" means that a license/certification 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 May 31, you must submit your license and certification renewal by April 30.
- Notice is given 60 days prior to the expiration date via EdLink email alert.

If providers do not submit a complete license and certification renewal at least 30 days prior to the expiration date and have not received notice of renewal from Licensing by the 15th of the renewal month, **providers may experience a delay in payments.** Please adhere to the guidance above to avoid payment delays.

Annual current approvals from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and/or City Fire (if applicable) are required before the expiration of the license. In the event there is a delay in receiving these approvals, the provider must submit, with the renewal application, documentation (e.g., a payment receipt, a typed statement from the site owner or director) attesting that the site is awaiting current approval from the Department of Health, Office of State Fire Marshal, and/or City Fire (if applicable). When the self-attestation documentation is submitted along with a timely license renewal application, LDH, OSFM, and/or City Fire approvals will be accepted up to 90 calendar days after the date of the license renewal.

For additional assistance, contact LDECCAP@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR LICENSED CENTERS

NEW: Staff Records and Personnel Files

[Bulletin 137](#) now requires the following information be maintained in the LDOE electronic system, EdLink:

- all current staff names
 - Note: When employees leave, please update employees' status to "inactive" in EdLink
- hire date
- first day onsite working with children
- initial and annual mandatory reporter training documentation

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

NEW: Child Neglect and Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training

[Bulletin 137 §1727](#) notes that documentation of the completed Child Neglect and Abuse Mandatory Reporter training course must be submitted in the LDOE electronic system, EdLink, no later than September 30 of each calendar year for all staff.

Please note that [Act 409 \(2025\)](#) requires that the LDOE publish the completion rates on the website of all staff who have and have not complied with this training requirement within the specified timeframe. Documentation of the completed training must also be available at early learning sites for on-site inspection by Licensing staff, whether as hard copies or electronic form.

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

Reminder: Tornado Drills

[Bulletin 137](#) requires tornado drills be conducted at least once per month in the following months: March, April, May, and June. These drills must be conducted at various times of the day, include all children, and be documented.

A [sample form](#) to document tornado drills can be found on the [Child Care Facility Licensing](#) webpage under Licensed Center Forms.

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

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

NEW: Child Neglect and Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training

[Article 603.1](#) of Louisiana law requires all teaching and child care providers to complete the online Mandated Reporter Training course provided by the Department of Children and Family Services between June 1 and August 31

annually:

- This means that after initial completion of training at the time of hire for any staff hired between September 1 and May 31 of each year, those staff members shall again complete the online child abuse and neglect Mandated Reporter Training provided by DCFS between June 1 and August 31 of the calendar year.

Licensed centers, please contact a [Licensing Consultant](#) with questions. Home-based providers, please contact providercertification@la.gov with any questions.

NEW: Summer Staffing Guidance for Hiring Student Workers

As the summer months are approaching, many providers hire student workers to assist in child care centers. Remember that **Child Care Criminal Background Checks are required for child care staff under 18 years old.**

[Consent and disclosure forms](#) are required for these staff members and must include a parent's signature. Government-issued identification is also required for application processing.

While completing applications, be sure the correct position is selected to prevent delays in processing. All documents and information should be reviewed prior to completing the application. Any error or missing information will cause delays in processing.

Please contact LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov with questions.

NEW: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Ineligible Determination Appeal

Individuals have the right to contest the accuracy and completeness of results presented in a CCCBC determination. Appeals should be filed within 45 calendar days following the receipt of a Notice of Ineligibility (NOI) related to child care.

The appeal request must include a written explanation detailing the specific information in the NOI that is considered inaccurate or incomplete, along with official documentation supporting the correct information. Upon receipt of the appeal and all necessary documentation, a decision will be rendered by the LDOE within 30 calendar days. **Please note: an individual undergoing an appeal to challenge an Ineligible determination is not permitted to work in a child care facility.**

An individual may request an appeal by adhering to the following procedure:

- Download the printable [Child Care Criminal Background Check \(CCCBC\) Appeal Request Form](#) from the LDOE CCCBC [webpage](#).
- Complete and sign the CCCBC Appeal Request Form.
- Obtain official documentation proving the inaccuracy or incompleteness in your record .
- Submit the signed Appeal Request Form, including the official documentation, to the LDOE via e-mail to LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov, Attention: Kayla Batiste, or via facsimile at 225-376-6035.

Please contact LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov with questions.

NEW: Preliminary Informational Metrics

In preparation for Data Certification conducted by the Community Network Lead Agencies this summer, providers should do the following by the end of April:

- Review the data in the [Early Childhood CLASS® Portal](#) and
- Make any changes needed directly in the [Early Childhood CLASS® Portal](#)

All informational metrics should reflect what was true on October 1, 2025. **Only the data in the [Early Childhood CLASS® Portal](#)** will be used to generate Informational Metrics for network and site Performance Profiles.

Please contact your [Community Network Lead Agency](#) with questions.

NEW: 2026-2027 Type III and Family Child Care Program Partner Assurances for Academic Approval Renewal

2025-2026 Academic Approval certificates will expire on June 30, 2026. To maintain Academic Approval status, Type III centers and Family Child Care sites must renew their Academic Approval by submitting the 2026-2027 Program Partner Assurances to the LDOE no later than May 31, 2026.

Signed Program Partner Assurances must be submitted using the 2026-2027 Program Partner Assurance online form, which was e-mailed to providers on April 6, 2026. Paper submissions will not be accepted.

The 2026-2027 Academic Approval certificates will be automatically generated upon successful submission of the Assurances and will be e-mailed to the address provided in the online form. Providers should retain a copy for their records and post their 2026-2027 Academic Approval certificate at their site beginning July 1, 2026.

Please contact kishia.grayson@la.gov with questions regarding Academic Approval.

NEW: Annual Lead Teacher Survey

The LDOE released the annual [Early Childhood Lead Teacher Survey](#) on April 6. The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback from lead teachers in all early childhood settings. The LDOE will use lead teacher data to publish information on teacher support as part of the Community Network Performance Profiles released in November 2026.

Educators received the survey link through their TS GOLD® e-mail address. The survey will close on April 30, 2026. All program partners should ensure teachers complete this survey.

For more information, contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

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.