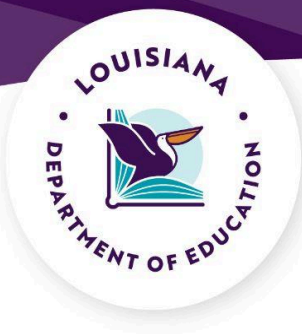
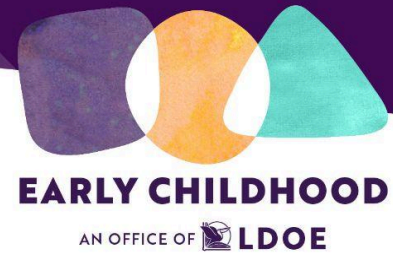




Early Childhood Newsletter



August 13, 2026

Setting the Stage for a Successful Year

As a new program year begins, August provides an opportunity for early childhood educators to establish classroom routines, build meaningful interactions, and create learning environments where every child can thrive. The first few weeks of the new academic year lay the foundation for children's engagement and future learning.

Consistent, predictable routines help children feel secure as they transition into new classrooms or return after the summer. Thoughtfully-planned schedules, clearly-defined expectations, and interactions support children in developing independence while fostering a sense of belonging.



As you prepare for the year, consider the following strategies:

- **Prioritize relationship-building.** Spend intentional time getting to know each child and family. Strong partnerships with families provide valuable insight into children's strengths, interests, and individual needs.
- **Teach routines intentionally.** Model and practice classroom expectations for daily activities such as arrival, handwashing, meals, transitions, and center time. Young children benefit from repetition and visual support as they learn new routines.
- **Create language-rich and literacy-rich learning environments.** Engage children in meaningful conversations throughout the day; ask open-ended questions; introduce new vocabulary; and incorporate books, songs, and storytelling into daily experiences.
- **Observe and respond to children's needs.** Use the first several weeks to gather information about children's developmental progress, interests, and learning styles. These observations can guide instructional planning and individualized support.
- **Foster a welcoming classroom community.** Create opportunities for children to build friendships, solve problems together, and develop confidence through play-based learning and positive interactions.

Beginning the year with strong routines and teaching practices helps maximize instructional time while supporting children's confidence and well-being. By intentionally creating engaging, nurturing environments, early childhood educators help ensure that every child is prepared to grow, learn, and succeed throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

- August 17: [EdLink New User Account Setup and Access Webinar](#)
- August 18: [Optional CNLA Collaborative Office Hours](#)
- August 19: [KinderSystems CenterTrack Webinar](#)
- August 20: [CCAP Monthly Call for Providers](#)

- August 24: [EdLink New User Account Set-up and Access Webinar](#)
- August 25: [Young Children with Disabilities Community of Practice](#)
- August 27: [CCAP New Provider Training](#)
- August 31: [EdLink New User Account Setup and Access Webinar](#)
- September 1: Nominations Open for the 2028 Early Childhood Teacher & Leader of the Year Program
- September 3: [September Provider Update Webinar](#)
- September 8: [Monthly CNLA Update Webinar](#)
- September 9: [Monthly FCC Office Hours](#)
- September 10: [ECEP Eligibility Office Hours](#)

More Important Dates

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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 September Provider Update Webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** September 3 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: EdLink New User Account Setup 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 August 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.

NEW: Optional Community Network Lead Agency (CNLA) Collaborative Office Hours

CNLAs are invited to attend an optional CNLA Collaborative Office Hours call where CNLAs can invite colleagues, bring questions, send topics for breakout discussions, and connect with colleagues on initiatives and topics from the Monthly CNLA Update Webinar. Attendees can access the next CNLA Office Hours webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95836360641>
- **Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 958 3636 0641
- **Passcode:** 592742

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

NEW: KinderSystems CenterTrack August 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:** August 19 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: CCAP Monthly Provider Call

CCAP hosts a monthly call for all certified providers, sharing CCAP updates and reminders about requirements for providers and families. Providers can access the August call via the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** August 20 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: 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 YCWD Community of Practice Webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** August 25 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 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:** August 27 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: Family Child Care (FCC) Office Hours

Current FCC providers with Academic Approval are encouraged to join monthly office hours. This is a dedicated time to check in, ask questions, and receive new information. Providers can access the office hours using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** September 9 at 6 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93029152858>
- **Meeting ID:** 930 2915 2858

For more information, please contact Brandee.David@la.gov.

NEW: Early Childhood Education (ECE) Fund Eligibility Office Hours

The LDOE will be hosting ECE Fund Eligibility Office Hours for participating networks. The LDOE will answer pre-submitted questions and provide additional eligibility guidance. Please submit all questions to

sarah.thanni@la.gov by Thursday, September 3, at 3 p.m. Providers can access the office hours using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** September 10 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93499767548>
- **Meeting ID:** 934 9976 7548

For more information, please contact Sarah.Thanni@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR ACADEMICS

Celebrating Excellence in Early Childhood Education

Congratulations to our **2027 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year, Jillian Graves (St. James Parish)**, and our **2027 Early Childhood Leader of the Year, Sarah Corley (Rapides Parish)**! Their dedication to supporting young children, empowering families, and strengthening Louisiana's early childhood community reflects the very best of our profession. Thank you for your commitment to creating meaningful learning experiences and inspiring excellence across our state.



Early Childhood Teacher of the Year
Jillian Graves • St. James Parish



Early Childhood Leader of the Year
Sarah Corley • Rapides Parish

NEW: 2028 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Nominations Coming Soon!

Know an outstanding early childhood educator and leader? Nominations for the 2028 Early Childhood Teacher & Leader of the Year Program open September 1. Start thinking now about the educators and leaders who inspire children, families, and their communities.

Celebration of Louisiana's outstanding early childhood educators and leaders is just around the corner! Watch for the nomination link and additional details in upcoming LDOE communications.

For additional information, contact Brandee David at brandee.david@la.gov.

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

The LDOE allocated funding for new infant, toddler, and pre-k curriculum purchases. This funding is available through December 30, 2026, to provide free Tier I early childhood curricula and professional learning for eligible child care providers.

How to Access Funding:

- Type III child care providers and Family Child Care with Academic Approval should contact their Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R).
- School systems and Head Start should work with their Community Network Lead Agency (CNLA).

Programs should work with their CCR&R/CNLA to:

- Select an approved Tier I curriculum that best meets program needs
- Complete any required purchase request or funding documentation
- Register staff for associated curriculum training and professional learning
- Contact your CCR&R/CNLA to confirm local deadlines

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 is being populated as reviews are completed and can be located on the [IMR](#)

[webpage](#) “Early Childhood Instructional Materials” dropdown.

- Currently, five curricula have completed the IMR process and have been approved as Tier I:
 - NEW: AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation–Every Child Ready, Pre-K 3-4 (2024)
 - Great Minds PBC - Eureka Math Squared, Level PK - ECE, Ages 4-5
 - Frog Street Press, LLC-Frog Street Infant: Joyful Beginnings, Louisiana
 - Frog Street Press, LLC - Frog Street Preschool Louisiana, Threes
 - Frog Street Press, LLC - Frog Street Pre-K Louisiana, ECE Ages 4-5

Please note: The newly-approved Frog Street curriculum now has “Louisiana” in the title. All previous versions will be archived.
- Currently, one curriculum has completed the IMR process and has been rated as Tier 3:
 - No Tears Learning, Inc. Learning Without Tears–Get Set for School Pre-K Program (2021), Ages 4-5
- Currently, five curricula are in the review stage of the IMR process. Those currently in review include the following:
 - Teacher Created Materials, Inc. Explore & Learn
 - Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Pre-K (2024)
 - Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Preschool (2026)
 - Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Toddlers (2024)
 - Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Infants (2024)
- Additional curricula reviewed and currently being updated include the following:
 - CELEBRATE Successful Early Learning-FOUNDATIONS, Ages 3-4 (2022)-Under Construction

In addition, the LDOE is providing 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:** Funding for SoR 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 is available through the PDG Consolidated funding application through the PDG Literacy allocation that was approved by BESE during the April meeting.

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.

UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Provider Changes

When a provider changes locations, temporarily closes, or closes permanently or when a new owner acquires a center, certified families must be notified by the LDOE to ensure that child care services continue for the family.

The parent will be mailed or e-mailed an “Emergency Report of Changes” form with a unique code to choose a new provider. In the case of a provider change in location or temporary change, families are informed that they may choose to receive care from the same provider at the new location or they may choose a new provider. For temporary provider closures, parents may complete a new “Report of Changes” form to return to their original provider when the site re-opens.

Parents are also informed about resources such as the LDOE School and Center Finder site as well as the local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency in their region, for assistance in locating a new provider.

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

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Weekly Payment Schedule

Effective July 6, 2026, B-3 and voucher payments began following one weekly payment schedule on the same day each week (Tuesday) to provide consistency and predictability for providers.

Providers will continue to receive separate remittance advice for B-3 and voucher payments until further notice. This approach supports a smooth transition while maintaining clear payment documentation and transparency.

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

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) B-3 Child Care Copayments

As of the July 6, 2026, payment run, the LDOE began deducting family fees (i.e., copayments) from CCAP B-3 payments.

Family fees/copayments are:

- based on the sliding fee scale
- determined by participants' household size and the household monthly gross income
- applied to the daily child care rate
- the responsibility of the participant (parent/guardian) to pay to the provider
 - The parent/guardian is responsible for any payment not covered by LDOE to the provider.

For additional assistance, contact LDOEB3@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) B-3 Bonus Payments and Backpayments

Effective August 5, 2026, Bonus Payments for B-3 Seats have been issued for the April-June 2026 period to providers, based on their star rating.

Backpayments for B-3 Seats will be issued August 13, 2026, and will continue to be issued, as applicable, as the LDOE continues to finalize and review the remainder of the B-3 Seats applications. The LDOE has applied additional staff resources to address remaining issues expeditiously.

For additional assistance, contact LDOEB3@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) B-3 Eligibility Determination Updates

Providers were contacted on June 3 and June 5, 2026 (via e-mail and telephone) to assist specific families in submitting documentation verifying completion of CCAP B-3 applications (that would have been submitted between the months of May and October 2025).

Children without a verified authorized application and active schedule were removed from the B-3 payment file effective July 6, 2026, if either of the following occurred:

- Submitted documentation resulted in an ineligible determination for the family
- Required documentation was not submitted by the deadline
 - Note: Rejection notices are not being sent to these families, as families never created cases (in FamilyCentral).

The LDOE is currently completing eligibility review for additional families that submitted documentation by the deadline. Temporary payment delays may occur while reviews are completed. Child care providers serving eligible families will receive retroactive payments, including for eligible siblings, back to the date of interruption.

For families with a child being served in a CCAP B-3 Seats program slot:

- If there is a new sibling that needs to be added to care since the family submitted their re-determination application, please have that family member submit a completed and signed change report.
- Change Reports can be submitted via e-mail to ldccap@la.gov, by fax to 225-376-6060, or by mail to CCAP Eligibility, P.O. Box 260037, Baton Rouge, LA 70826.

For additional assistance, contact LDOEB3@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Client Redetermination Requirements

Due to recent legislative changes (Act 351 (2025)), the following documents should be submitted by clients during the redetermination review, to continue to be eligible to receive child care assistance:

- Current Identification Card for the head of household (e.g., state identification card, passport, driver's

license)

- Copy of Birth Certificates for all household members

In response to extended processing times, the LDOE has extended families' redetermination periods as needed:

- Families who were to be redetermined for eligibility in June and submitted their applications by the 6/30/26 deadline will have their certification period extended until 8/31/26 or until a determination has been made.
- Families who were to be redetermined for eligibility in July and submitted their applications by the 7/31/26 deadline will have their certification period extended until 8/31/26 or until a determination has been made.
 - A SAI will be issued for these families; however, please note that due to system limitations, the SAI issuance will be delayed until 11RCs for September redeterminations have been sent out.

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

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Underutilization Process

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is preparing to process the July CCAP Underutilization Report. Families whose children have not been signed in and out using KinderConnect will receive an Underutilization Notice by mail.

Providers not submitting weekly attendance can cause family names to appear on the LDOE CCAP Underutilized Report and place the families in jeopardy of losing their CCAP certification, which includes both voucher and B-3 Seats.

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 the Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635 or 225-614-5917.

REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) New Provider Agreement

CCAP Provider Certification will soon release a New Provider Agreement for all certified providers to review and sign. Changes in the new agreement will ensure providers remain in compliance with CCAP requirements at the federal and state levels and with *Bulletin 139—Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*, which governs the child care program:

- Providers will receive an e-mail from EdLink directing them to thoroughly read and sign the new agreement.
- Due to the updated information, the Provider Agreement will be a separate document to review apart from the annual certification renewal.
- Failure to review and sign the Provider Agreement timely may result in CCAP ineligibility as a certified provider.

For additional assistance, contact Provider Certification via email at ProviderCertification@la.gov.

REMINDER: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Provider Certification Changes

When providers plan a change in their daily operations, providers must notify CCAP Provider Certification in advance of the change. Notifying Provider Certification prior to the change will allow timely closure of the center/home, prevent additional payments to the provider that have to be recouped, and allow families time to locate and continue child care services with a provider of their choice.

Per *Bulletin 139* §305.7, providers should provide written notice to Provider Certification and input updates in the designated LDOE portal, of receipt or notice of, or upon becoming aware of, any of the following:

- a. change in contact information, within 10 calendar days
- b. temporary closure of more than five calendar days
- c. permanent closure of 30 or more calendar days of a site, within seven calendar days of the closure
- d. change of location, prior to the change and
- e. family child care providers and in-home providers shall provide updates on changes in residential household compositions, prior to the change

Changes and questions can be submitted to ProviderCertification@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR LICENSED CENTERS

NEW: Act 893 Lead Risk Assessment

During the 2026 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed [Act 893](#), which establishes lead risk assessment requirements for certain newly-licensed early learning centers. Effective **August 1, 2026**, the owner, operator, or governing authority of any proposed licensed early learning center that is subject to federal child care licensing requirements and is **first placed into operation on or after that date** must comply with the following requirements:

- Obtain a lead risk assessment conducted by a qualified risk assessor to evaluate the facility and surrounding grounds for the presence of lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated soil.
- Attach the completed lead risk assessment report to the original application for licensure.
- If the risk assessment identifies lead hazards, operations shall not begin until appropriate lead hazard control measures have been implemented and the department has verified that the hazards have been properly addressed.
- Additional lead testing may be required if the owner or operator starts major renovations or remodeling.

Please contact your [Licensing Consultant](#) or [DEQ-LeadNotificationActivity](#) with any questions.

Reminder: Summer Sun and Playground Safety Tips

As summer approaches, here are a few tips to keep children safe during the warmer months:

- Staff members should ensure children are protected from the sun and hot surfaces between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Staff members are strongly encouraged to closely monitor children while on the playground to ensure shoes are being worn
- Limit sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when there is a heat index at or above 90°F
- Use play areas that have shade
- Check temperatures of and around playground equipment, including
 - metal swings and slides
 - rubber and plastic material
 - concrete and pea gravel surfaces
- Encourage families to dress children in cool clothing
- Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outdoors
- Hold regularly-scheduled water breaks

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

Reminder: Staff Records and Personnel Files

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

- All current staff names
 - *Note: When employees leave, please update employees to “inactive” status in EdLink.*
- Hire date
- First day onsite working with children
- Initial and annual mandatory reporter training documentation

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

Reminder: Motor Vehicle Checks

As temperatures rise outside, it is imperative that vehicles are adequately inspected for children before staff exit the vehicle. A staff person must physically walk through the vehicle and inspect the following:

- all seat surfaces
- under all seats
- all enclosed spaces and recesses of the vehicle interior

For field trips, each vehicle must have a face-to-name count conducted in addition to the visual passenger check at the following times:

- prior to leaving the center for the destination
- upon arrival at and prior to departure from each destination

- upon return to the center

A staff member must record the time of the visual passenger check and sign the log indicating that no child was left in the vehicle.

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

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

REMINDER: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) System Update: Multi-Factor Authentication Feature

To further strengthen CCCBC system security and protect user accounts, the LDOE has implemented Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) into the CCCBC System. MFA adds an additional layer of protection, beyond the traditional username and password, by requiring a second verification step during login. This significantly reduces the risk of unauthorized access, even if a password is compromised.

Users can choose one of the following authentication methods:

- For e-mail verification, a 6-digit verification code will be sent to the registered e-mail address: users should input the code within 10 minutes to complete the login process.
- Alternatively, users may use any compatible Authenticator App, including Microsoft Authenticator, Google Authenticator, Authy, 2FAS, or Aegis. Setup requires scanning a QR code, after which the app will generate a 6-digit verification code for login authentication.

When logging in for the first time since this change has been made, enter a username and password as usual. The system will then prompt users to configure MFA by selecting a preferred verification method, via either e-mail or an authenticator app, as described above. Complete the setup process to secure the account for future access.

For all subsequent logins after setup, simply enter a username and password followed by the verification code from the chosen method. This additional step ensures secure system access.

MFA is mandatory for applicable users, and access to the system will not be granted until setup and verification are completed. Please note that verification codes are time-limited and single-use only. Never share the verification code with anyone.

If selecting MFA via e-mail and the e-mail verification code is not received, check the e-mail address Spam or Junk folder or request a new code after a few moments. Should an authenticator code not work, ensure mobile device date and time settings are set to update automatically or try the next generated code.

Users can reset MFA preferences from the Account Details page while logged into the CCCBC system.

Please contact LDECCBCprocessing@la.gov with questions.

REMINDER: Child Neglect and Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training

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

- This means that after initial completion of training at 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.

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

- Please note: Act 409 (2025) requires the LDOE to publish on its website the completion rates of all child care staff at each early learning site who have and have not complied with this training requirement within the specified timeframe.

Documentation of the completed training must also be available for on-site inspection by Licensing staff, whether as

hard copies or in electronic form.

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

REMINDER: USDA Rule Expands Milk Options for Children

The USDA has published a final rule that gives food program participants more flexibility in the milk that can be offered to children participating in federal nutrition programs. The new rule was effective beginning June 8, 2026.

What is the change?

Food program participants can now offer 1% (reduced-fat), 2% (reduced-fat), or whole milk to child participants who are two years of age and older. The goal of this change is to give providers more options while still meeting nutritional standards for children. Historically, serving the incorrect type of milk has been a common error identified during compliance monitoring, and this flexibility aims to support better program integrity and participant satisfaction.

The final rule is as follows:

- Fluid milk served to children 1-year-old must be unflavored whole milk
- Fluid milk served to children 2- through 5-years-old may be unflavored whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, or fat-free milk and
- Fluid milk served to children 6 years and older and adult participants may be unflavored or flavored, whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, or fat-free milk

KidKare will be updated to handle the new USDA fluid milk rule that took effect June 8, 2026, and the changes will apply automatically based on the date of service. No action is required on the part of providers in order to remain compliant.

Please note that anything centers and homes are serving today will continue to be creditable on and after June 8:

- The expanded options (whole milk and 2% for ages 2–5 and flavored milks for ages 6+) will be available in KidKare for any operators who want to use them.
- Prior claims will continue to be evaluated under the rule in effect on the meal date, with no retroactive impact.
- Substitute milk and special-diet workflows are unchanged.

For more information, please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov or call (225) 342-3707.

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.