



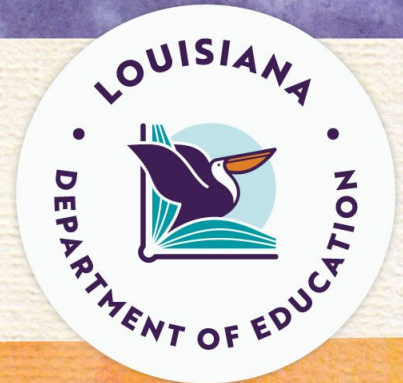
EARLY CHILDHOOD

**CONFERENCE 2024**

**SHAPING LOUISIANA'S FUTURE**



**Navigating Academic Approval:  
FCC's GPS to Maintaining Success**



# Louisiana's Education Priorities

- ✓ **Early childhood** leading to kindergarten readiness
- ✓ **Literacy** instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- ✓ **Foundational math** instruction advancing to conceptual understanding
- ✓ Opportunities ensuring a **meaningful high school experience**
- ✓ An effective **teacher for every student**
- ✓ Expand **educational choice** for students and families



# Agenda

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10. **Closing Activity**
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12. **Destination Success**
13. **Session Conclusion**
14. **FCC Support from the LDOE**

# Session Summary

# Session Summary

This session is for early childhood stakeholders that are committed to engaging the communities across Louisiana to expand access to high-quality child care through Family Child Care (FCC) sites. Attendees will be provided with collaborative strategies grasping a defined regime for FCC success throughout the academic year.

Join us for an engaging and informative session designed to offer FCC providers with a comprehensive “GPS” to guide them in maintaining academic approval and achieving sustained success. This session will offer practical strategies, expert advice, and actionable insights to help FCC providers stay on course and meet the standards required for academic approval in Louisiana.



# **Session Objectives**

# Session Objectives

During this session, participants will:

- Gain a clear roadmap to achieving and maintaining academic approval
- Access valuable resources and support networks
- Learn from the experiences of others and apply practical strategies to individual site
- Ensure the highest standards of care and education for the children and families served within FCC sites

# Key Takeaways

Topics covered during this session will include:

- **Setting Your Course:** Understanding the key components of the academic approval process and the criteria for maintaining good standing throughout the year
- **Navigational Tools:** Introducing essential tools and resources that will assist providers in tracking their progress and ensuring compliance with state regulations
- **Avoiding Roadblocks:** Identifying common challenges and obstacles that FCC providers may face and offering proven solutions to overcome them
- **Staying on Track:** Tips for creating and implementing effective quality improvement plans that align with academic standards and promote continuous growth
- **Destination Success:** Celebrating success stories from experienced FCC providers who have successfully navigated the academic approval process and maintained their status





# **Presenter Information**

# Presenter Information



## **Felicia M. Jackson**

Louisiana Department of Education  
Early Childhood Strategy  
Family Child Care Strategy Manager

[felicia.jackson3@la.gov](mailto:felicia.jackson3@la.gov)





# **Welcome Activity**

# Welcome Activity

Attendees, please open the envelope provided - detailing a color-coded challenge in which FCC educators face while maintaining Academic Approval. Each group shall brainstorm and discuss possible solutions to best support the FCC site.

Objective: Encourage critical thinking focused to support FCC sites and problem-solving skills.

Upon completion of the timer, we will share discussed thoughts and recommendations with the whole group.



# **Importance of Academic Approval**



# Importance of Academic Approval



Academic Approval for an Family Child Care site indicates that the educator meets specific standards and requirements necessary to deliver quality early childhood education in care.

An FCC site that actively participates in Academic Approval ensures that the FCC educator adheres to best practices in child development, safety, and educational programming, thereby ensuring parents and guardians of the quality and reliability of their care children receive within the site.

# Importance of Academic Approval

**For FCC Educators:** It validates the efforts to deliver high-quality early childhood education, helps in attracting families, and can provide access to additional funding and resources.

**For Parents:** It provides assurance that the child(ren) are in a safe, nurturing, and educationally rich environment.

**For Children:** It ensures care that supports the overall development in preparing our children for future academic success.

By achieving and maintaining academic approval, FCC educators demonstrate the commitment to excellence and dedication to fostering a positive and enriching environment for the children in care.







# Setting Your Course

# Setting Your Course (How)

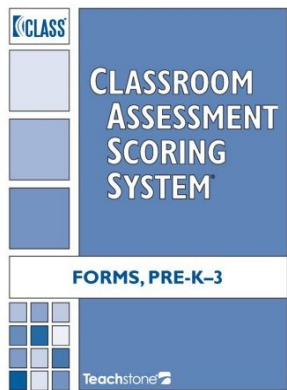
Understanding Academic Approval requirements, deadlines, and how to prepare/organize an FCC site is crucial to maintain success throughout the academic year.

Here are a few steps to navigate success:

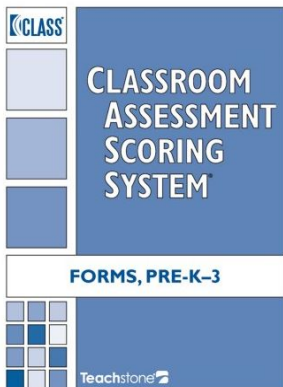
- ⊗ Renew Academic Approval status annually by July 1
- ⊗ Complete Child Count and Fall & Spring Observations
  - participation in accountability is non-negotiable for all academically approved sites
- ⊗ Participate in community and state-level support efforts
  - enhancing relationship with CNLA, CCR&R, and LDOE

# Setting Your Course (How)

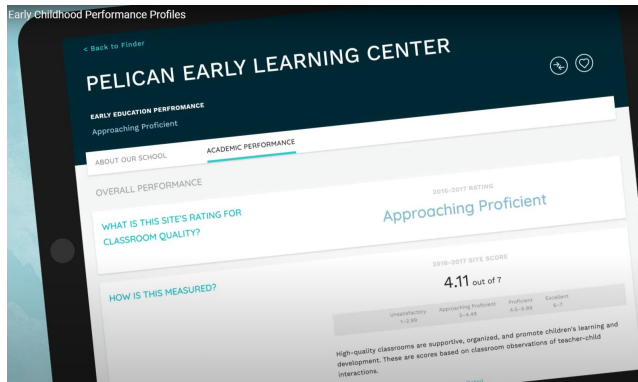
All eligible FCCs claiming the SRTC at the end of the tax season, must receive a star rating on their Performance Profile, which is issued the following academic year during the fall semester.



Fall Obsv.



Spring Obsv.



Performance Profile



SRTC & CCAP Bonus Pay

# Setting Your Course (How)

In order for an FCC educator to be eligible for director and staff School Readiness Tax Credits, the following qualifications must be met:

1. Registered with Provider Certification
2. Maintain current Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Certification
3. Maintain Academic Approval for 6 months in the applicable tax year
4. Enrolled in Louisiana Pathways
5. Provide full-time care for 30+ hours per week

# Setting Your Course (How)

## **What does this mean for FCC Sites that opted into Academic Approval in 2022?**

Eligible FCC educators that opted into AA for the 22-23 academic year, should have claimed the Director and Staff tax credit when filing taxes this year (Jan. - April 2024).

## **When can FCCs claim the Provider SRTC?**

FCC educators that have been awarded a star rating (released in November 2023) of 3, 4, or 5 in the 2022-2023 Performance Profile, will be able to claim the Director, Staff, and Provider SRTC when filing taxes in 2025.

# Setting Your Course (How)

Academic Year	Academic Year Performance Profile Results	Performance Profiles Released	Star Rating Effective Dates	When Can I File my Taxes?
2025	2023-2024	November 2024	January – December 2025	January 2026
2024	2022-2023	November 2023	January – December 2024	January 2025
2023	2021-2022	November 2022	January – December 2023	January 2024
2022	2020-2021	November 2021	January – December 2022	January 2023

## Quarterly Bonus Payments- for Sites Star Rated 3, 4, or 5 Stars Only

Quarter	Payment Made
January, February, March	May
April, May, June	August
July, August, September	November
October, November, December	February

# Navigational Tools

The image features a dark, textured background with shades of blue and purple. In the center, the text "Navigational Tools" is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the text, there is a decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping L-shaped bars. The top bar is dark purple, the middle bar is orange, and the bottom bar is teal. Each bar has a thin white outline and is positioned such that they appear to be layered on top of each other, extending from the right edge towards the center.

# Navigational Tools

To streamline the navigation throughout the academic year for Family Child Care sites, utilizing the following tool is essential to maintaining academic approval success:

## 🧭 Technical Assistance



Computer Assistance



Coaching



Business Supports



# Navigational Tools

To streamline the navigation throughout the academic year for Family Child Care sites, utilizing the following tool is essential to maintaining academic approval success:

## 🧭 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Currently with over 7,000 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) participants in Louisiana, stakeholders are utilizing the nutrition program database as a recruiting tool to identify Family Child Care sites within their community.

To access the CACFP database and filter for your community, scan the QR code.



# Navigational Tools

To streamline the navigation throughout the academic year for Family Child Care sites, utilizing the following tool is essential to maintaining academic approval success:

## Louisiana Pathways

All FCCs in Academic Approval must register with LA Pathways. FCCs must send their completed forms and attached documents to [felicia.jackson3@la.gov](mailto:felicia.jackson3@la.gov) by October 31, where they will be reviewed and forwarded to LA Pathways for processing.

This method will ensure that all FCCs meet requirements for the SRTC at the end of the year.





# Avoiding Roadblocks

# Avoiding Roadblocks

FCC educators may find it challenging to navigate complex regulatory requirements or understand and comply with the detailed and regulations of Academic Approval. This complexity can lead to unintentional non-compliance, which affects the status for the site.

- ⊗ **Education & Training:** Regularly attend workshops and training sessions on regulatory updates and compliance requirements. These can be provided by CNLAs, CCR&Rs, and the LDOE
- ⊗ **Mentorship and Support Networks:** Join professional networks or associations where experienced providers can offer guidance and support in navigating regulatory complexities.
- ⊗ **Clear Documentation:** Maintain organized and up-to-date documentation of all compliance-related activities.

# Avoiding Roadblocks

Many FCC educators operate with limited resources for implementation, making it difficult to execute the necessary changes to meet academic approval standards. This includes investing in training, educational materials, and site improvements.

- ⊗ **Access Funding Opportunities:** Apply for grants, subsidies, and funding programs specifically designed to support early childhood education providers.
- ⊗ **Resource Sharing:** Collaborate with other local FCC educators to share resources such as training materials, educational supplies, and training sessions.
- ⊗ **Incremental Improvements:** Develop a phased plan for improvements, prioritizing the most critical areas - allows for gradual changes without overwhelming resources.

# Avoiding Roadblocks

FCC educators often are faced with difficulty balancing administrative tasks required for academic approval with primary responsibility of providing care for children.

- ⊗ **Time Management:** Implement effective time management strategies, such as setting aside specific times each week dedicated to administrative tasks. Use tools like calendars, planners, and task management apps to stay organized.
- ⊗ **Delegation:** Where possible, delegate administrative tasks to staff members or hire part-time administrative support.
- ⊗ **Streamlined Processes:** Use technology to streamline administrative tasks. For example, digital record-keeping systems can simplify documentation, while automated reminders can help manage deadlines and compliance checks.

# Avoiding Roadblocks

By addressing these obstacles through targeted strategies, FCC educators can best navigate the academic approval process, ensuring the necessary standards are met while maintaining a high quality of care for the children in care. Regular training, resource optimization, and effective time management are key to overcoming these challenges and achieving sustained success.

- ⊗ Maintaining active registration and CCAP-certification with the LDOE
- ⊗ Taking advantage of financial incentives available to FCC sites
- ⊗ Actively participating in opportunities to follow best practices



# Staying on Track



# Staying on Track

By staying informed, keeping accurate records, conducting self-assessments, implementing quality improvement plans, and engaging with parents and the community, Family Child Care educators can ensure they remain in compliance with academic approval standards. These proactive measures will help maintain high-quality care and education for the children in their programs.

- ✓ Regularly check for updates
- ✓ Maintain accurate and organized documents
- ✓ Conduct regular self-assessments
- ✓ Develop and implement site goals
- ✓ Engage with parents and the community





# **Destination Success**

# Destination Success

FCC Educators that opted into Academic Approval during the 2023-2024 academic year, were able to receive an Environmental Enhancement Grant up to \$5,000 to purchase materials to enhance learning outcomes for their site.

Grant purchases included over 5,200 enhancement materials, from all developmental categories, including: Arts & Crafts, Block Play, Dramatic Play, Infants & Toddler Care, Language & Literacy, and Fine Motor Skills.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies administered the grant to each site, while FCC Coaches worked diligently to ensure that every item was strategically placed to maximize the learning experience for each scholar.

# Destination Success



FCC sites vary when it comes to space. Therefore, maximizing without cluttering the learning environment, requires strategic planning, preparation, and placement.



# Destination Success

Patricia Moore

Second Year in Academic Approval

Tangipahoa Parish

16+ Years in Early Child Care

Teresa Toomer

Second Year in Academic Approval

Tangipahoa Parish

5+ Years in Early Child Care



# Session Conclusion



# Session Conclusion

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is committed to supporting Family Child Care (FCC) sites across the state, whether they are registered or seeking academic approval.

By ensuring that all eligible FCC sites attain academically-approved status, the LDOE aims to enhance learning outcomes for children, effectively preparing them for kindergarten and setting a strong foundation for their future education.

For more information, visit

[https://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/family-child-care-\(fcc\)-providers](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/family-child-care-(fcc)-providers)



**Welcoming  
All Families**

# **FCCs Support from the LDOE**



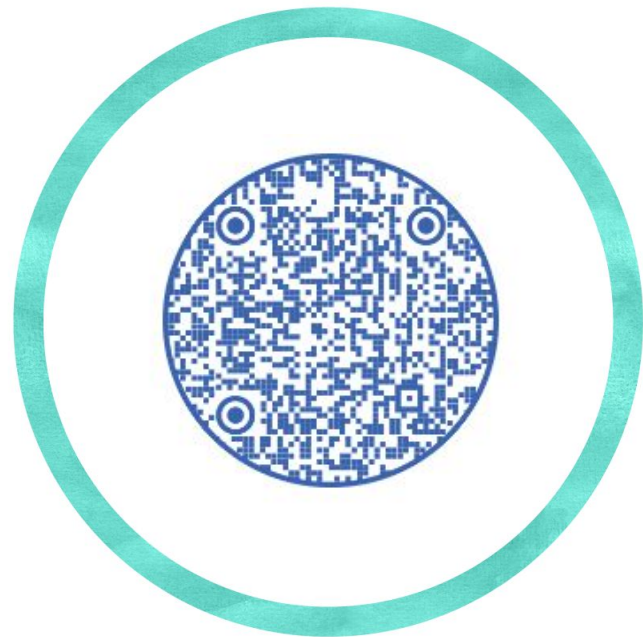



# FCC Support from the LDOE


Would you like to schedule time to share your plans to maintain success in 2024-2025?

**Felicia M. Jackson**

Louisiana Department of Education  
Early Childhood Strategy  
Family Child Care Strategy Manager





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**Thank You for Attending**



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF**  
**EDUCATION**