



Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

Early Childhood COVID-19 Updates

3.23.2020



Agenda

General

***NEW* ECE Updates**

Previously Communicated Information:

- Closures
- Licensing
- CCCBC
- CCAP
- LA-4 & NSECD
- Food Services
- Child Care Support Organizations
- Academic Resources
- Accountability
- Workforce
- Legal and Regulatory Flexibilities

Next Steps

Proclamation Update

Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020

The Governor issued [Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020](#) on March 22, 2020.

- All individuals within the state of Louisiana are under a general stay-at-home order and are directed to stay home unless performing an essential activity.
- All state office buildings are closed to the public. However, essential state functions shall continue.
- All gatherings of 10 people or more shall be postponed or cancelled.
- In addition to businesses that are closed to the public pursuant to Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, nonessential businesses shall be closed to the public and members
- Early learning centers and child care facilities adhering to guidance issued by the LDOE and LDH may continue to operate.
- The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is directed to ensure compliance with this order.
- These provisions are effective from 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020 to Monday, April 13, 2020, unless terminated sooner.

Louisiana's Response COVID-19

The Louisiana Department of Education continues to closely monitor the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. This webinar contains a collection of information about COVID-19, as well as resources for educators and families. All resources will be updated on an ongoing basis.

- The LDOE has created a [dedicated page](#) on its website focused on preventing and responding to COVID-19 in schools and early learning centers.
- All information and resources, including the [FAQ](#) documents, will be continually updated.
- Child care centers are **not** included in the governor's executive order. Sites should make closure decisions, and if needed, consult with [local public health contact](#).
- The [Louisiana Department of Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) websites also maintain updated information about COVID-19, prevention, and occurrences.
- For education-specific information, contact the LDOE at LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov.

Updated Guidance Child Care Centers

Memo from LDH

LDH has released an [updated memo](#) noting that child care facilities and programs can continue to operate unless otherwise informed as the situation progresses, but are requiring that adherence to the following guidance for all privately administered Daycare Programs and Early Learning Centers:

- Encourage children who can stay home to do so.
- Children and staff should be encouraged to wash their hands frequently.
- **Limit groups to fewer than 10.** This means that no classroom can have more than 10 individuals, including children and adults. Group sizes for infants should be limited to 5 or less.
- Encourage frequent environmental cleaning.
- Any child with fever or cold symptoms should not participate in these programs for the duration of their illness. Only well children should attend.
- Staff members in high-risk (elderly, those with medical conditions) should be encouraged to stay home.

See the previous [memorandum from the Louisiana Department of Health](#).

Updated Guidance Child Care Centers Recommendations

Early learning centers make individual decisions about whether or not to close their businesses.

Licensed child care centers should take all mitigating precautions if continuing to serve children. Examples include:

- Take the temperature of staff and children, and check for illness when children arrive.
- **Limit group sizes to 10 or fewer children and adults.**
- Accommodate older or medically at-risk employees.
- When possible, have children eat in individual classrooms.
- Clean high-touch surfaces ideally every 30 minutes, but at least 1-2 times during the day.
- Minimize visitors inside the center, as possible.

Child care centers are **not** required to contact the local public health unit to authorize closure. They only need to do so if consultation regarding closure is needed. When a center closes, notify LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov and note the center name, license number, location, & details of the closure.

ECE Updates

Introduction

Louisiana's early childhood workforce has been and continues to be a critical support to the state during this public health crisis.

- Louisiana is currently under a [shelter at home](#) order from the Governor to prevent further spread of COVID-19
- LDH recommends groups sizes be limited to ten to mitigate against risks of spread
- As of March 22, over 30% of child care centers statewide have temporarily closed due to COVID-19, and this number continues to rise
- Yet many people still work in essential jobs that are required to go to work daily, and are in need of child care during this public health crisis
- To support the early learning workforce, provide essential care for the workforce, and adhere to LDH and CDC guidance, the Department is releasing guidance, including on how early learning teachers and providers can become home-based providers.

NEW Care for Essential Personnel

The LDOE is pursuing multiple options to ensure care is available for essential personnel as it is needed.

- **Contracts for respite care:** The LDOE is working to stand up short-term emergency care in whole sites or whole classrooms (not spots) that is compensated on a per staff/hour basis through CCR&Rs or directly with LDOE
- **In-home providers:** The LDOE is streamlining the process to become an in-home provider, which many early learning center staff member can become quickly
- **Expanded and expedited CCAP eligibility:** The LDOE is expanding CCAP eligibility to include children of [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#) involved in COVID-19 such as health care workers to apply for CCAP and their application will be expedited

NEW Respite Services

- CCR&Rs are taking multiple steps to find short-term care for responders:
 - Referring families in need to centers with known open spots
 - Establishing respite care on site or near hospitals, and working with center staff to launch
 - Working to partner centers and hospitals together to provide respite care via contracts
- As needed, the LDOE is also directly partnering with centers in high-need areas to set up these short-term whole site/whole classroom contracts.
- These contracts are funded on a per unit/per staff basis, but counts of children and their parents employers must be tracked
- Sites providing care through these contracts must adhere to all LDH and LDOE recommendations regarding health, safety, and mitigation practices
- If space has been freed up to provide respite care, either the whole center or entire classrooms, please contact your local [Resource and Referral agency](#) and email LDOECOVID19support@la.gov.

NEW Types of Home-Based Providers

Providers can care for children either in the child's home, or in their own home, and can be registered with licensing and certified with CCAP to do so.

In-home child care is offered by a person in another family's private home, by a single individual, for that family's child(ren).

Family child care is child care for 6 or fewer unrelated children offered in the child care provider's private home.

Once you have registered with licensing, you can become certified with CCAP to be paid for serving CCAP eligible children. If you are providing care in your home (family child care), your home will be certified for you to receive payments for CCAP eligible children. If you are providing care in the home of the child's family (in-home child care), that family's home will be certified for you to receive payments for that family's CCAP eligible children.

Becoming registered and certified for CCAP

2 Easy Steps

Step 1 (Registration): Complete and submit the following to ldelicensing@la.gov:

- Signed CCAP Provider agreement for [Family Child Care Providers](#) or [In-Home Providers](#)
- Copy of a valid driver's license or government issued photo ID AND copy of social security card
- [Pre-service Orientation](#) Certificate AND completed [Emergency Plan](#)
- CCCBC – State whether you are eligible, provisional, or in progress. If you do not have a CCCBC you can apply at <https://cccbcldoe.la.gov/> and many fees are waived.
- CPR & Pediatric First Aid Certificate. Certificate can be obtained [online](#) (\$14.95)

Step 2 (Certification): Complete and submit the following to providercertification@la.gov:

- [Provider rate agreement](#) - Verification of rates charged (notice to parents such as newsletter, memo, etc)
- [Completed W-9](#), [completed direct deposit form](#) AND voided imprinted check
- Residence verification of physical address

More information is provided [here](#).

NEW Payment Process

Providers are paid a daily rate for their services, based on the number and age of CCAP-eligible children children they care for. If the provider's rate is higher than the state rate, families must pay the difference.

Provider Type	Age 3 and up	Age 1-2 (Toddlers)	Age 0 (Infant)	Special Needs Age 3 and up	Special Needs Age 1-2 (Toddlers)	Special Needs Age 0 (Infant)
Type III Early Learning Center	\$22.00	\$23.75	\$25.00	\$27.72	\$29.93	\$31.50
School Child Care Center	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$20.79	\$20.79	\$20.79
Family Home Provider	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$21.42	\$22.68	\$22.68
In Home Provider	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$22.05	\$22.05	\$22.05
Military Child Care Center	\$22.00	\$23.75	\$25.00	\$27.72	\$29.93	\$31.50

The Department is working to increase the rate for home-based providers during this emergency time.

***NEW* Role for Center Leadership**

Centers and center directors can play an important role in coordinating this care.

Center directors can help to ensure that early learning staff are deployed most effectively:

- Connect early learning center staff that are interested in providing care with families most in need of services
- Provide support to early learning center staff on what they can do to mitigate spread of COVID-19
- Provide support to early learning center staff on developmentally appropriate mixed age group activities
- You may be able to be compensated for this. If you are interested, complete survey here: <https://forms.gle/CtADFaqqnFyKiaXG9>

***NEW* LDOE Opening CCAP Eligibility to Critical Personnel Amid COVID-19 Outbreak**

Effective 3/23/2020, children of “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” working with COVID-19 are eligible on a case-by-case basis for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Essential critical infrastructure workers belong to the following industries:

- HealthCare/Public Health
- Law Enforcement, Public Safety, First Responders
- Food and Agriculture
- Energy (electrical industry, petroleum, natural and propane gas workers)
- Waste and Wastewater
- Transportation and Logistics
- Public Works
- Communications and Information Technology
- Other Community-Based Government
- Critical Manufacturing
- Hazardous Materials

You can find the link to the this expedited application [here](#).

***NEW* LDOE Opening CCAP Eligibility to Critical Personnel Amid COVID-19 Outbreak**

Families of essential critical infrastructure employees will be made eligible for 30 days. The LDOE will reevaluate eligibility at that time.

- **There are limited federal funds available to support these personnel, and CDC guidelines recommend social distancing for all families.**
 - Families who can keep their children at home should
 - Families who can afford to pay for their own care should
- Families must complete a [paper application](#) and submit it to:

Email: LDOECOVID19support@la.gov

Fax: 225.342.3906

If email is not available, application can be mailed:

CCAP Household Eligibility

P.O. Box 260037

Baton Rouge, LA 70826

***NEW* Rationed Supplies**

Authorization Letter

Early learning centers have expressed a need to purchase essential supplies (e.g., food, cleaning supplies, and paper products) that might exceed what stores allow individuals to purchase.

- The Department has provided an [authorized letter](#) requesting Louisiana retailers to consider allowing early learning centers to purchase basic supplies that exceed the rationed amounts.
- To verify the role of early learning centers, purchasers may be asked, in addition to the letter, to provide a copy of their state license from the LDOE and a copy of a Louisiana's driver's license.

***NEW* Child Care Question**

Gatherings of 10 or more and ratios

Q: If the Federal government has recommended gatherings of 10 or fewer to prevent COVID-19 spread, why are child care centers allowed to remain open?

A: Child care centers are remaining open in order to provide care for first responders and critical services personnel. Parents are being asked to not take their children to a child care center if they don't have to. Owners and directors are encouraged to make decisions based on the needs of the families, the children attending their centers and center's staff. Centers are also being asked to contact local health offices to help them make the decision on whether to remain open or not.

Q: The Federal government has recommended gatherings of 10 or fewer to prevent COVID-19 spread, yet our licensed child care ratios are above this recommendation. Which ratio do we follow?

A: Based on the governor's proclamation and LDH's guidelines, child care centers must adhere to the group size requirement of 10 or fewer, including all adults and children, in order to remain in operation.

NEW Business Interruption Documentation

Federal, state, local, and private funding will likely continue to roll out, and your record-keeping may be important to filing claims or supporting employees' claims.

Businesses are recommended to document the following, though this should not be considered a complete list:

Business closure: Document if/when your business closed, and communications to staff and families related to pay, tuition, rent or mortgage, etc.

Financial loss & Bad debt: Capture any losses (unused food, lost tuition, refunds made to families, etc.).

Employee-specific data: Document details of individual employment decisions made by you and/or your employees, and copy any support provided for unemployment claims.

Record the date, and financial impact of any decisions that you are making.

NEW Small Business Administration (SBA) loans Disaster Assistance

*On Thursday, March 19, [Louisiana became eligible](#) for qualifying organizations to help with economic injury caused by COVID-19. **Any previous attempts to apply might not have been successful, but Louisiana is listed now.***

Affected and interested businesses should apply [here](#) for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

- Up to \$2 million in assistance per small business and can provide economic support to help overcome temporary loss of revenue.
- Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.
- The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

***NEW* Workforce**

Eligibility for Unemployment due to CV-19

Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) will do all they can to ensure impacted workers receive the benefits for which they are eligible.

A number of factors determine eligibility for COVID-19 benefits. The LWC reviews each case separately. Workers may be eligible if they can answer ‘yes’ to any of the following:

- Your work hours have been reduced because of lack of work due to Coronavirus.
- Your workplace closes temporarily, and you are not being compensated.
- You have been instructed not to go to work, and you are not being paid while at home.

If your work hours have been reduced, partial benefits could be available to you up to a maximum of \$247 a week.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As per the Governor’s proclamation, for individuals whose employment has been impacted due to COVID-19:

- Work search requirements are waived.
- Week of waiting is waived.

***NEW* Workforce**

Filing for & Receiving Unemployment

Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) will do all they can to ensure impacted workers receive the benefits for which they are eligible. It is important to understand the guidelines for these benefits.

- Applicants can apply [online](#) or via the LWC call center at 866-783-5567 until 7:00 pm. for [Unemployment Insurance benefits for reasons related to COVID-19](#) (Coronavirus). **There is no deadline to apply.**
- The federal requirement for payment of unemployment funds is 21 days, but for now LWC is processing claims within 3-5 days, until the volume of applicants increases
- The maximum number of weeks that unemployment benefits can be paid per claim is 26 weeks in a 12-month period. **New employees may not be eligible if they have worked less an a quarter.**
- Wages and vacation pay (received or will receive) **MUST** be reported when you file your unemployment claim. Sick leave and PTO do not need to be reported.

Food Services

School Meal Sites

We are aware that as a result of the governor's proclamation, some school systems are closing feeding sites, and are working with multiple partners to identify possible solutions.

- The [School Meal Sites During COVID-19 Closures Interactive Map](#) provides the most current listing of schools providing meals for children 18 years of age and younger during the closure. Parishes have stepped up to fill this vital need in creative ways, such as grab-n-go, curbside pickup, and even meal delivery services.
- Additionally, Hoonuit has a mobile friendly nationally updated resource that families can search by address: schoolmealfinder.hoonuit.com
- For questions related to food and nutrition programs and options to serve children meals should a center close, contact the LDOE Division of Nutrition Support: childnutritionprogams@la.gov.



Child Care Support Organizations

Mental Health Consultation

[TIKES Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation](#) is providing MHC services via telephone or a telehealth web-based platform for any individual affiliated with Type III centers, family child care providers, individuals working in respite child care centers, and other individuals that have children in their care. Please complete the request form at <https://tinyurl.com/TulaneTIKES> and a consultant will contact you as soon as possible.

They are able to assist individuals, whether or not they have received consultation previously, with issues related to:

- Child behavior and social-emotional concerns
- Supporting children during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Self-care
- Stress and coping
- Director, Teacher, and Parent Concerns
- Other concerns as needed

Next Steps

Next Steps

Guidance and Communications

- All guidance will be linked here, including these slides:
<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19>
- Email any questions to LDOECOV19Support@la.gov
- Check the [ECE FAQ](#) and the [School System FAQ](#), which are updated in the afternoon each day
- **Please email any closures as soon as possible to the support inbox.**

Previously Communicated Information

The background of the slide is a watercolor-style illustration in shades of blue, teal, and yellow. A large, thin white circle is centered on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the text.

Proclamation Update

The Governor issued [Proclamation JBE 2020-27](#) on March 13, 2020.

- All public schools in the State of Louisiana shall close facilities to students until April 13, 2020.
- Schools may offer complete distance learning, as capabilities exist.
- With appropriate social distancing measures, schools shall, if able, continue to provide meals or other essential services with applicable staff.
- Instructional minute requirements shall be temporarily suspended for distance education courses and for curriculum delivery.
- The required 63,720 instructional minute requirement per year shall also be suspended.
- **NOTE:** the prohibition against all gatherings of 250 people or more (who are in a single space at the same time where individuals will be in close proximity to one another) does not apply to licensed centers.

Closures

Closures

Decision-making

Early learning centers make individual decisions about whether or not to close their businesses

- Louisiana Department of Health has recommended the first step in determining to close an early childhood center is to consult [the Office of Public Health Regional Contacts](#).
- When center closures are necessary, notify LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov and note the center name, license number, location, and details of the closure.
- When planning to reopen, notify LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov and note the center name, license number, location, and date of reopening.
- Review the [LDOE's webpage on COVID-19](#).
- Communicate clearly to staff and families regarding your plan for handling tuition and payroll during any closure.

Licensing Updates

Licensing Updates

Deciding to Stay Open

Should you decide to stay open, there is guidance to prepare you to operate in these conditions.

[The Center for Disease Control](#) has guidelines for businesses to consider:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and teach children to do the same.
- Emphasize staying home when sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

There is a nationwide shortage of supplies, including cleaning solutions. Centers should follow [CDC guidance on cleaning and hygiene](#). Please track expenditures and keep all receipts related to COVID-19 in the event funds become available to support these costs.

Licensing Updates

Deciding to Stay Open

Should you decide to stay open, there is guidance to prepare you to operate in these conditions.

Additionally, centers should take all mitigating precautions when serving children, including:

- Take the temperature of staff and children using a thermometer that does not touch skin, and check for illness when children arrive
 - Note: a temperature of 100.4 typically indicates a fever, but this can vary for young children
 - Follow your center protocol
- Consider activities that mitigate large groups
 - For example, when possible, have children eat in individual classrooms
- Accommodate older or medically at-risk employees
- Limit visitors as possible
- Clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces ideally every 30 minutes, but at least 1-2 times during the day

Licensing Updates

License Renewals

March, April, and May license renewals will be extended.

Licenses will be extended for 90 days for providers whose licenses expire in March, April, and May 2020.

- March renewals will be extended to June.
- April renewals will be extended to July.
- May renewals will be extended to August.

Annual inspections will be postponed or delayed with a focus on complaints and incidents. Delays of annual inspections by the Office of State Fire Marshal and the Office of Public Health will not negatively affect license renewals.

Licensing Updates

Change Requests

Change requests to accommodate out of school children or additional children.

- Early learning centers **do not** need to submit a change request in CAFE to accommodate out of school children or additional children.
- Early learning centers can make change requests to their [Licensing Consultant](#) via email for the following:
 - Age range
 - Hours of operation

Licensing Updates

Child-to-staff ratios

This is the first step in addressing child:staff ratios.

Minimum Child-to-staff Ratios for Early Learning Centers (effective March 14, 2020 through April 30, 2020, unless terminated sooner by the Superintendent.)	
Ages of Children	Ratio
3 years	16:1
4 years	18:1
5 years	24:1
6 years and up	29:1

Licensing Updates

Allowances to adjust for staffing

Additional allowances to provide flexibility regarding staffing.

The Department will:

- Extend time for approval for license renewals from the Office of State Fire Marshal and Office of Public Health from 90 days of the date of the license expiration to 120 days from the date of the license expiration.
- Adjust the child-to-staff minimum ratio for ages 3 years and older to allow centers to adapt for staffing.
- Decrease the staff age requirement from 18 years or older to include 16 and 17 year olds to be included in the child-to-staff ratio if the person works under the direct supervision of an adult staff member.
- Waive continuing education requirements (i.e. clock hours) and proof of documentation requirements.

Licensing Updates

Maximum Group Sizes

Centers should strive to maintain current group size standards or lower if possible. This narrow waiver should only be utilized for abrupt staffing changes.

Maximum Group Sizes for Early Learning Centers (effective March 14, 2020 through April 30, 2020, unless terminated sooner by the Superintendent.)	
Ages of Children	Maximum Group Size
3 years	33
4 years	37
5 years	45
6 years and up	55

Licensing Updates

Responses to Questions on Licensed Capacity

At this time, no changes will be made to centers' licensed capacity or family child care providers' maximum number of children enrolled.

Centers should continue to adhere to their licensed capacity in determining the number of children they can enroll.

Family child care providers will continue to be required to have no more than six unrelated children in their care.

Licensing Updates

Responses to Questions on Employing 16 and 17 Year Olds

The Department will decrease the staff age requirement from 18 years or older to include 16 and 17 year olds if the person works under the direct supervision of an adult staff member.

BESE has approved a waiver until June 30, 2020 allowing a center to employ staff ages 16 or 17, as long as they are under the direct supervision of a current employee.

These new 16 and 17 year old employees may count for the purposes of ratios.

Licensing Updates

Responses to Questions on Licensing Temporary Spaces

Temporary child care centers can be set up to support emergency response, and the LDOE will work with you to license the space.

Expanded care should only be created to support emergency or critical response personnel, or employees who support necessary services. If emergency care is needed to support response to COVID-19, providers can establish a temporary child care center in a church or other buildings and LDOE will work with you to license this space.

Note that providers should keep in mind the recommendations regarding social distancing and take all mitigating precautions.

Please contact the Division of Licensing by phone at 225.342.9905 or by email at ldelicensing@la.gov for more information.

Licensing Updates

Miscellaneous Licensing Questions

Q: Can centers require that parents sign waivers to ensure centers are not held responsible if a child comes into contact with COVID-19 at the center?

A: Centers should consult their attorneys in consideration of any waivers.

Q: Can centers implement a procedure requiring parents to drop children at the door, allowing staff to sign children in and out?

A: Yes. The center must have staff members signing the children in and out and adequate staff escorting children to and from their classrooms.

Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC)

Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBC)

Fees Waived

The CCCBC staff will continue to process background checks and provide updates of fingerprint services as the situation requires.

BESE has temporarily waived the following:

- Requirement of documentation of CCCBC eligibility determinations
- The LDOE \$15.00 CCCBC admin fee
- The LDOE \$15.00 out of state fee
- The DCFS \$25.00 fee

Importantly, those individuals that have previously been determined ineligible or for whom you receive notice of ineligibility are prohibited from being on the premises.

CCCBC questions should be sent directly to valerie.black@la.gov.

Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBC)

Fingerprint Locations

There are a few fingerprint locations that have closed. Please check this [list](#) and contact the location ahead of time. The Department's staff will be diligently processing CCCBC applications.

- If a fingerprint location has closed in your area, please notify valerie.black@la.gov.

Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CCCBC)

Responses to Questions on CCCBC documentation

- Prior to starting work a new employee must apply and be fingerprinted for a CCCBC.
- The requirement to provide proof to the Division of Licensing has been waived until April 30, 2020.

CCCBC Updates

Responses to Questions on Employing Substitutes

- K-12 substitute pools vary by community, so you should contact your local K-12 substitute staffing organization directly to access.
- Additionally, schools may have relationships with regular substitutes who you may be able to partner with, as well as staff from closed centers and others in your community who may be able to serve as additional staff in child care centers.
- Prior to starting work, a new employee must apply and be fingerprinted for a CCCBC if they do not already have one.

CCCBC Updates

Responses to Questions on Volunteers

The child care provider should apply for a CCCBC for the volunteer through the CCCBC System. If there are any hurdles in applying for the CCCBC contact valerie.black@la.gov.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Payments and eligibility

The Department will pay for enrollment versus attendance, and provide flexibility for families regarding redetermination periods and reporting requirements.

The Department will:

- As of March 16, pay all authorized children the full weekly amount regardless of the number of days or hours they attended.
- Waive CCAP copayments for families
- Extend family redeterminations for 3 months
- Extend reporting deadlines for eligibility determinations

A CCAP child's inability to attend a center during this time WILL NOT adversely affect their eligibility. They will continue to be eligible through their redetermination period.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Responses to Questions on Family Determination

Families can continue to apply for CCAP through [CAFE](#), and applications are being expedited.

Families who are interested in utilize the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can continue to apply in the [CAFE portal](#).

Families can apply for CCAP for their school-aged children in addition to children under the age of five.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Response to Questions Related to Report of Changes

The following changes can be made for children funded through CCAP:

- Change authorization from part time to full time
- Add CCAP authorization for sibling
- Change to a different CCAP authorized center for a child authorized for CCAP

Families should take **one** of the following steps:

- complete a [CCAP 10 Report of Changes form](#)
- email LDECCAP@la.gov with the request to change the authorization
- call 1-877-453-2721 with the request to change the authorization

Child care centers and providers can begin serving these children as full time immediately, but you will not be reimbursed until the parent changes the authorization.

Responses to Questions on 2019 Maximum State Rates

With CCAP copays waived, families will be subsidized at 100% of the 2019 Maximum State Rate level (shown below). Providers can charge the difference between rates and their tuition.

Provider Type	Age 3 and up	Age 1-2 (Toddlers)	Age 0 (Infant)	Special Needs Age 3 and up	Special Needs Age 1-2 (Toddlers)	Special Needs Age 0 (Infant)
Type III Early Learning Center	\$22.00	\$23.75	\$25.00	\$27.72	\$29.93	\$31.50
School Child Care Center	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$20.79	\$20.79	\$20.79
Family Home Provider	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$21.42	\$22.68	\$22.68
In Home Provider	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$22.05	\$22.05	\$22.05
Military Child Care Center	\$22.00	\$23.75	\$25.00	\$27.72	\$29.93	\$31.50

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Example of zero copayment

If the family has a copay of \$2, \$3, \$8, or \$10, it will be waived. They will receive the maximum rate for the age of their child according to the 2019 State Maximum Levels chart. An example of how the payment will change for a family that has a \$3 copay is below:

	Daily Rate and Standard Copay	Daily Rate and *NEW* Copay Waived
Provider Charge for Toddlers	\$31.00	\$31.00
State Max CCAP Rate for Toddlers	\$23.75	\$23.75
Required Copay for Family	\$3.00	\$0.00
Total CCAP Payment to Provider	\$20.75	\$23.75
Total Family Payment to Provider	\$10.25	\$7.25

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Responses to Questions on Payments for Closures

The Department will continue CCAP payments for enrolled CCAP children in the event that a center closes as a result of COVID 19.

In the event of a center closure, CCAP payments will continue in order to support centers to pay staff.

Payments will be based on enrollment, meaning centers will be paid for CCAP authorized children the full weekly amount regardless of the number of days or hours they attended.

This means that full-time children will be paid for 22 days or units monthly, and part-time will be paid for 20 hours weekly.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

TOTS machines

If a lead agency closes a building where TOTS machines are located, they must inform LDOE by email at LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov.

- The LDOE will keep the [TOTS locations](#) list updated in the event Heads of Household are looking for a TOTS location.
- If a family is not able to access a location in their area, the Provider must keep manual attendance records until the TOTS location is open again.
- Contact the Provider Help Desk (225-342-1879 or 225-342-7414) or Call Center (1-877-453-2721) for individual questions.

The use of TOTS finger imaging is strongly encouraged to continue to the extent possible but not required.

LA 4 and NSECD

LA 4 and NSECD

Payments and Reporting

- During school closures, LA-4 and NSECD payments will continue based on enrollment. When schools reopen, additional COVID19 related absences are considered excused absences.
- Please submit NSECD and LA-4 invoices by the 10th of each month to ensure prompt payment.
- LA-4 and NSECD attendance tracking should mark the school closures in the same manner used for normal school closures for weather, holiday, etc.
- If your teams are unable to submit invoices for LA-4 and NSECD due to COVID19 hardships, please lindsey.bradford@la.gov .

LA 4 Information

During school closures, LA-4 and NSECD payments will continue based on enrollment. When schools reopen, additional COVID19 related absences are considered excused absences

- TANF districts should submit attendance up to March 13th ASAP using their google attendance sheets.
- TANF districts will be contacted this afternoon via email by Lindsey Bradford to confirm attendance/closure submission.
- During the closure from March 16 to April 13, payment will be based on enrollment rather than attendance.
- State General Funds payments for January - March are scheduled to be made on March 19.

Email Lindsey.Bradford@la.gov with questions.

Food Services

Food Services

Questions and Answers

Q: Can children from public and private schools get meals from child care centers?

A: At this time, centers can only serve enrolled children and cannot serve children above their licensed capacity.

Q: If a center does not participate in CACFP, are they allowed to pick up food at local public schools for the children at their center?

A: Schools operating open feeding sites serve all children age 18 and under. Centers should contact the local school system to determine schools that are operating open feeding sites and work with the site on food delivery arrangements.

Q: Can school systems bring food to our centers or let us pick food up?

A: Centers should contact their local school systems to make meal service arrangements.

Food Services

CACFP and Centers

Families with children under the age of 18 will be able to go to a designated list of school sites around the state to access free meals.

USDA has provided flexibilities to schools to provide meals to children 18 years and under during the extended closure.

USDA has not provided the same flexibility to serve additional children through CACFP, although the Congressional House bill provides for non-congregant feeding. As additional flexibilities are approved, we will let you know.

The Department will maintain a [list of schools](#) providing feeding programs during the closure. This list will be continually updated with schools and other organizations providing open feeding programs. If a center closes, it should refer families to programs on this list.

With questions related to food and nutrition programs, please contact the LDOE Division of Nutrition Support at ChildNutritionPrograms@la.gov.

Food Services

Food Shortages

In the event of food shortages, please direct families to the list of schools providing food services to children under 18 years old.

The Department will maintain a [list of schools](#) providing open feeding programs for children 18 years of age and younger during the closure. If a center closes, it should refer families to programs on this list. The Department will provide updates on mass feeding programs facilitated by the state as they become available.

Child Care Support Organizations

Child Care Support Organizations

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies

The Department will notify CCR&Rs of closures in their areas daily.

All CCR&Rs can:

- suspend in-person coaching and switch to virtual coaching methods.
- move in-person group trainings and meetings to virtual formats as possible.

All CCR&Rs should:

- prioritize supporting centers that remain open.
- assist parents in finding alternative childcare options within centers that remain open.
- refer center directors to the [LDOE FAQs](#) for up-to-date guidance.

CCR&Rs may be requested to provide respite care services in needed locations, including hospitals. Please begin thinking about possible partnerships, and reach out to the LDOE regarding opportunities in your community. If respite care is provided, CCR&Rs will be paid.

Child Care Support Organizations

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program Providers may choose to move classes to a virtual (rather than in-person) format. Please email LDOECOV19support@la.gov if your program moves to online instruction.

If your program chooses to pause instruction, please communicate this to LDOECOV19support@la.gov

Continue to send tuition invoices on regular timelines.

Job-embedded coaching should be suspended until April 13, 2020.

Academic Resources

Academic Resources

Standards and Development

In the event of school or center closure, families may find the following resources helpful in facilitating learning at home.

- [Louisiana's Birth to Five Early Learning & Development Standards \(ELDS\)](#) describe the particular skills and abilities that children need to develop to be successful and provide ideas for fostering their development.
- [The National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#) offers research-based resources, tips and ideas for families—from child development to reading, writing, music, math, and more!

Academic Resources

Text Services

Several programs are available to offer tips and resources for families that support early learning through text messages.

- [Bright by Text](#) provides quality information and trusted resources to families of children prenatal to age eight partnering with LPB. Text: LPB to 274448
- [Vroom](#) offers free, easy-to-use learning tips for children 5 and under delivered daily directly to your phone. Sign up for free at <https://www.vroom.org/>.
- [Ready4K](#) is an evidence-based family engagement curriculum delivered via text messages. Text: Readby4th to 70138

** Message & data rates apply.*

Academic Resources

Online Learning

Frog Street's partner, Education technology provider Age of Learning, is offering families at schools and centers affected by closure free at-home access to research-proven learning resources.

- [ABCMouse.com](https://www.ABCmouse.com/EarlyLearningAcademy)® [Early Learning Academy](https://www.ABCmouse.com/EarlyLearningAcademy) is a comprehensive, research-validated curriculum for children 2-8. Visit www.ABCmouse.com/redeem and redeem your access code.
- [ReadingIQ](https://www.ReadingIQ.com)® is a digital library and literacy platform for children 2-12 designed by reading experts to improve literacy skills. Visit www.ReadingIQ.com/redeem and redeem your access code.

Families can use the redeem code: **SCHOOL3673** to sign up. Questions can be sent to support@aofl.com

Academic Resources

Online Learning

Teaching Strategies, creator of The Creative Curriculum® and GOLD®, has developed a free toolkit for supporting families impacted by COVID-19.

The [Healthy at Home](#) toolkit offers a free selection of resources from *The Creative Curriculum*® and *ReadyRosie*™ providing families with information and resources for supporting the children in their care.

Academic Resources

Online Learning

In partnership with **Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB)**, the Department will provide distance and home learning tools for educators, students, and caregivers. This will include:

- **An online hub for distance learning supports** set to launch by March 18. It will include:
 - Department-reviewed lessons and resources for math, ELA, social studies, science and early childhood, including links to Tier 1 [curriculum resources](#).
 - Increased access to Tier 1 curriculum digital content, including virtual lessons.
 - Resources to teach young children about COVID-19.
- **Broadcasted educational programming** through LPB and YouTube Channels, which will launch within the next two weeks.

The Department will announce the availability of these resources through all upcoming planning calls and newsletters.

Academic Resources

Special Education

School closure. When the school closure causes educational services for all students to pause within a school or school system, then the school/school system is generally not required to provide services to children with disabilities during the closure. This includes children with disabilities ages 3, 4, and 5 who have an IEP.

After an extended closure, school systems are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services on each child. If the child lost progress, teams will need to reassess services and determine whether the child requires compensatory education.

US Department of Education [Q&A](#) on special education has additional information, including information on Early Steps / IDEA Part C for infants and toddlers, and Distance Education.

***NEW* Academic Resources**

Special Education

Early Intervention and Home Visiting. Services will continue with added consideration to the health and safety of families and early interventionists to include:

- a telephone screening process for home visits to support limiting visitors in child care centers; and
- alternate locations for services and teletherapy if onsite services are not an option.

If a child cannot undergo evaluation using teletherapy or alternate locations, an interim IFSP can be developed using presumptive eligibility, then re-determined, or eligibility determination can be postponed with parent consent and documentation.

Part C to Part B Transition Conferences. Family Service Coordinators will continue to schedule transition conferences and provide notification to the LEA contact(s) for the school system. If the LEA representative is unavailable, all documentation will be shared.

***NEW* Academic Resources**

Special Education

[TeachTown](#) is a computer based curriculum providing instruction, tools, and strategies to support families with children diagnosed with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

TeachTown uses a balanced curriculum, providing instruction across six essential domains including adaptive behaviors, cognitive skills, language arts, language development, mathematics, and social emotional learning, in order to meet children's educational goals and complement what their child is learning in the classroom.

Families can set up a 30-day free trial.

Academic Resources

Family Guidance during Emergencies

Closures will result in changes in routine and some anxiety for children. Share these resources with families to support their conversations with young children.

[Parent and Caretaker guide for helping families cope with COVID 19](#)

[Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus](#)

[Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) - A Parent Resource \(English Resource\)](#)

[Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) - A Parent Resource \(Spanish Resource\)](#)

Accountability

Accountability

Local and Third Party Observations

The Department is suspending all local and third party CLASS observations until April 13.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Department is suspending CLASS® observations from taking place in schools and centers until school systems reopen on April 13, 2020.

BESE has approved a [Bulletin 140](#) waiver to extend the deadline for the spring observation period until May 31, 2020.

If observations are unable to occur in centers and schools by this deadline, the Department will work with programs and lead agencies to determine how to calculate performance ratings.

Accountability

Issuing Performance Profiles & Star Ratings

The Department will work with BESE to request a Bulletin 140 waiver to extend performance profiles for severely impacted sites.

85% of sites have already received all required observations for their 2019-2020 school year and will receive their performance profiles and star ratings without interruption.

The Department will request a [Bulletin 140](#) waiver to extend performance profile ratings for an additional year if any sites do not receive the required observations due to COVID-19 interruptions in order to ensure School Readiness Tax Credits for 2021 are not impacted.

Workforce

Workforce

Preparing to support your staff

Taking care of your teachers and finances is key to resuming business when this has passed.

- The [Governor's proclamation](#) offers flexibility around unemployment, which may be relevant to you. Look to the [Louisiana Workforce Commission](#) for unemployment supports.
- Ensure that you have family and staff contact information and emergency contacts.
- All staff should have direct deposit set up, or an alternate plan for receiving pay. Share your plan for payment and sick leave policies with staff, and any flexibility you will allow for pay.
- Consider developing a list of work-from-home tasks that your staff can engage in to continue moving your work forward.
- Look into resources from the [Small Business Association](#) in the coming months, including COVID-19 specific loans at a low-interest rate. Louisiana not eligible yet, but may be in the future.
- Review your insurance and business interruption policies, and consider filing a claim, even if there is a virus or pandemic exclusion.

Please complete the survey on financial issues child care centers are facing due to COVID-19 to help us capture the impact and plan for supports.

Impact of COVID-19 on Child Care Providers

Child Care Center Insurance Survey

LDOE is collecting data on centers' interruption insurance to inform emergency funding that may become available.

The LDOE is asking **all** early learning centers to notify us regarding business interruption insurance by completing this quick [form](#).** If you have already completed, you do not need to complete again.*

The form can be found at <https://forms.gle/Neny4tEdbaggLrvC6>.

**This does not imply that all business insurances cover viruses or pandemics or would consider covering.*

Small Business Supports

Resources for Impacted Businesses

Louisiana Economic Development (LED) has compiled a list of resources to support business continuity.

The LED's new [COVID-19 webpage](#) links to:

- The Governor's Proclamations and other information related to this crisis.
- Business assistance resources
- Regional information
- Relief funds

LDOE will continue to link to related supports like these through our page on Louisiana Believes to help centralize the resources available to you.

Impact of COVID-19 on Child Care Providers Survey

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, in partnership with the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, Louisiana Association of United Ways, Child Care Association of Louisiana, and Resource and Referral Agencies across Louisiana, is conducting a survey to learn how the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak is impacting child care providers in the state. Participation in the survey will help with understanding what is happening with child care in Louisiana during the outbreak. Findings from the survey will be used to both inform recovery efforts and make the case for more help for the sector.

- Providers may complete the survey online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCD8KSP>.
- Providers within the Agenda for Children regions may complete the survey online here: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5504799/COVID-19-and-child-care>
- Responses are requested by Friday, March 20th. For any questions, please contact info@policyinstitutela.org.

Legal and Regulatory Flexibilities

Legal and Regulatory Flexibilities

- BESE has approved an initial round of waivers: [BESE Emergency Waiver Memo](#)
- Additional regulation may be requested as necessary.