

Louisiana Head Start State Collaboration Office

Quarterly Report

19 May 2023

Education - Louisiana schools showed marked improvement on the latest state rankings released by *U.S. News & World Report*. This widely-referenced report [captured education as a component](#) of its 2023 Best States rankings, which evaluates all 50 states. Louisiana moved up five places for Pre-K-12 education, improving to 41st in 2023.

Teacher Supplemental Pay Pilot: The LDOE has partnered with the Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center at UL Lafayette to design a supplemental grant program providing additional support for teacher pay while developing an evidence base to inform long-term solutions to address teacher pay and retention.

Eligibility: Type III licensed child care centers, to support lead and assistant teachers working 30 hours or more per week.

- Centers were selected into one of two pilot groups:
- One group of teachers receives a fixed \$2,080 per year (divided over the course of the year).
- One group of teachers receives a 10% pay increase.
- The pilot launched in September 2022 and will run until September 2024.
- Providers will periodically complete surveys to inform the LDOS and ULL of the status of their staff and the impact of the supplemental pay.

Early Childhood Data System: The Department also has continued updating Early Childhood data systems with one-time federal stimulus funding. The development of EdLink continued through 2023. The Entity Management System was released, giving all providers access to a site dashboard as well as the ability to update information about their site, banking information, manage staff training, and check CCCBC status. The Department continued rolling-out EdLink's functionality with the Division of Licensing, so that all licensed centers' application processes are now managed through EdLink. Additionally, as part of the modernization of early childhood care and education systems, the Department began preparing for the implementation of KinderConnect, a new attendance tracking system, and connectivity between EdLink and KinderConnect. Ultimately all CCAP applications, child attendance, payments, and reporting will be supported with KinderSystems.

Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) 5-Year Renewal: Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) determinations will begin expiring March 2023. Providers and applicants who were fingerprinted in 2018 will be contacted via email to initiate the fingerprinting renewal process within 90 days of the CCCBC determination expiration date. The renewal process must be initiated by the provider. Providers should ensure rosters are up-to-date,

with all current employees listed, or you will not receive an email notification to initiate the renewal application for your employees. CCCBC determinations will expire if they are not renewed in time. Please see the attached link from the February Early Childhood Provider Webinar, which provides step-by-step 8 instructions on how to apply and finish the renewal process. For questions, please contact a CCCBC Analyst at (225) 342-2716 or email ldccbcprocessing@la.gov.

Geaux Teach Scholarship Program: Act 463 of the 2022 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature established the Geaux Teach Program, which provides scholarships to students who are enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the state's postsecondary institutions, including alternative teacher programs approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Students may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover the cost of tuition fees, textbooks, and instructional materials required for enrollment. School systems are encouraged to share this information with future educators and educators enrolled in alternative certification programs. Additional information about the Geaux Teach Program, including eligibility requirements, the Geaux Teach Application, and answers to Frequently Asked Questions may be accessed on the LOSFA website. Please contact deborah.paul@la.gov with any questions.

New Statewide Registry for Interpreters: Please share with special education directors and educational interpreters. The Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD) announced a Statewide American Sign Language Interpreter Registry to provide an easily accessible, centralized platform to identify and locate interpreters across Louisiana. Please encourage educational interpreters to join this growing roster and to join a community of interpreters for support across the state. Please contact LCDinterpreterregistry@la.gov with any questions.

2023 Early Childhood Conference for Child Care Providers and Teachers: The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to host the second annual Early Childhood Conference – Foundations for Success! The conference will take place June 2-3, 2023, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC). The conference will provide opportunities for education and training for early childhood care and education (ECCE) professionals, including child care administrators, teachers, and family child care providers. This event has reached capacity and is currently sold out.

REMINDER: 2023 Teacher Leader Summit: The Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional development conference that brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2023-2024 academic year. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on educator's ability to accelerate to success every single day. ● The Teacher Leader Summit will take place from May 30-June 1, 2023, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC). Registration for this event will be on a first-come, first-served basis. As space is limited, individuals are encouraged to register early. More information on Teacher Leader Summit, including how to register, can be found in the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit Overview document.

Revised Bulletin 137 Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations. A revised version of Bulletin 137, Licensing Regulations, was posted to Louisiana Believes. This version of Bulletin 137 includes the following requirement: §1723 F. Within 60 calendar days from the date of hire and prior to assuming sole responsibility for any children, each staff member shall have current certification in pediatric first aid and CPR. During this period, caregivers and teachers who provide direct care for children must be supervised until training is completed. For any questions, please contact a licensing consultant.

Reinstatement of Licensure Fees: Effective March 1, 2023, licensure fees were requested upon submission of an application for early learning centers. Fees will continue to be requested as follows:

- \$25 fee for each application for initial licensure. NOTE: This fee shall be applied toward the total licensure fee, which is due prior to the issuance of an initial license, if applicable.
- \$25 fee for any change that requires the issuance of a new license or the reissuance of a current license outside of the regular renewal of the license. For example: changes in capacity, name, age range, and transportation.
- Annual licensure fees for each early learning center based on the licensed capacity of the center. See Section 313 of Bulletin 137 for the fee scale. Annual licensure fees will not be requested for Type I centers owned or operated by churches or religious organizations.

CAPCA Immigrant Head Start Center: In association with the Office of Women's Policy, Moments of Motherhood Site Tour, the LHSSCO, at the invitation of the First Lady, visited the CAPCA Immigrant Head Start Center in Amite City, Louisiana along with First Lady Donna Edwards. Certificates and Louisiana First Foundation comfort boxes were presented to each classroom. First Lady Donna Edwards completed a book reading, craft activities as well as a tour of the Head Start site.

HSSCO Needs Assessment and Grant Application: The HSSCO is currently conducting needs assessments and annual grant application (due June 30, 2023) for the upcoming funding cycle. This year's priorities will include but not be limited to workforce, professional development, data, health & safety and literacy.

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