

LOUISIANA HEAD START COLLABORATION OFFICE

QUARTERLY REPORT

6 September 2024

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Electronic Remittance Advice: In an effort to ensure that providers have timely access to information and can conduct timely reviews of CCAP payments, the LDOE is pleased to announce that providers now have access to the “Remittance” screen in KinderConnect. The remittance advice is proof of payment sent from the Louisiana Department of Education to child care providers and details all payments included in each deposit. This Remittance screen in KinderConnect contains data regarding payments, payment corrections, refunds, and recoupments made for each provider. Payment data will be updated nightly, and providers can search for and display data based on a date range. As the LDOE transitions the CCAP payment systems, this screen will replace the paper remittance advice that providers are currently receiving via mail. For more instructions on how to locate the Remittance screen and to see an example of the information shared on the Remittance screen, please see the KinderConnect –Remittance Detail QRC.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Families Experiencing Homelessness: To support all families in accessing high-quality child care, it is important for families experiencing homelessness or participating in a transitional living program to indicate that on their CCAP application. This indication will ensure the application is appropriately reviewed. While services will begin upon the day of receiving the application, eligible parents or caregivers experiencing homelessness must submit all requested documentation within 90 days of the application date. The employment and training requirement may be waived for participants who demonstrate they are seeking employment by registering for a HiRE account through the Louisiana Workforce Commission or by participating in a transitional living program. Once these families have applied for Child Care Assistance, a Local Education Agency (LEA) liaison will contact the family to review their housing status. The LEA is a separate program from CCAP and is federally-responsible for identifying and assessing the needs of children experiencing homelessness in the state. It is important that families respond to and cooperate with the LEA so the LEA may timely finalize their review of the family's living situation and so that families experiencing homelessness do not experience any loss of services. Please contact TLCCAP@la.gov with questions regarding families experiencing homelessness.

CPR and Pediatric First Aid Certifications: Maintaining current certification in CPR and Pediatric First Aid continues to be one of the most cited deficiencies. To ensure the health and safety of children in care, it is important to have qualified staff members, that are able to respond to life-threatening emergencies, in attendance at all times. Knowledge in these areas, and the confidence to use these skills, are critical to the outcome of an emergency situation. Bulletin 137 requires the following: ● All staff members on the premises of a center and who are accessible to children must have current certification in infant/child/adult CPR and Pediatric First Aid. ● Newly-hired staff members must obtain this certification within 90 calendar days from the date of hire and prior to assuming sole responsibility for any children. During this period, staff members must be supervised until the training is completed and certification is received. ● Documentation of current certification for each staff member must be on-site at all times and available for inspection by the Department. Please contact your licensing consultant with questions.

Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Fingerprinting Sites Closures and Openings
Fingerprinting services at the Florida Street location in Mandeville and the Williams Boulevard location in Kenner have been permanently discontinued. The Winnfield location's last day of operation will be October 16, 2024. New fingerprinting sites for early learning sites' employees will be opening in the coming months in the following parishes: Jefferson, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, and St. Tammany,. Exact dates of operation will be communicated as soon as they are finalized by IDEMIA. The LDOE will continue working with our partners, the Louisiana State Police and IDEMIA, to increase appointment availability at nearby fingerprinting locations and opening replacement sites.

SEVEN LOUISIANA SCHOOLS EARN 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

Sep 23, 2024

National Blue Ribbon Schools located in Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Ouachita, Rapides, and St. Tammany parishes

(BATON ROUGE, LA) - The U.S. Department of Education today announced seven Louisiana schools have been named 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools. The winning Louisiana schools are located in Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Ouachita, Rapides, and St. Tammany parishes. This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.

“Being named a National Blue Ribbon School is a remarkable achievement that exemplifies a commitment to academic achievement,” said Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. “I applaud the students, educators, and families of these schools for setting a high bar of excellence.”

The Louisiana schools named as National Blue Ribbon schools are:

- Baton Rouge– Mayfair Laboratory School, East Baton Rouge Parish Schools
- Baton Rouge– Saint Aloysius School, Diocese of Baton Rouge
- Delcambre– Delcambre Elementary School, Iberia Parish School District
- Lake Charles– T.S. Cooley Elementary Magnet School, Calcasieu Parish Schools
- Mandeville– Woodlake Elementary School, St. Tammany Parish Public Schools
- Sterlington– Sterlington Elementary School, Ouachita Parish Schools
- Woodworth– Caroline Dorman Junior High School, Rapides Parish Schools

While awardees represent a wide array of schools, they share common traits. National Blue Ribbon Schools are led by leaders who articulate a clear vision of instructional excellence and uphold high standards. They showcase effective teaching methods and offer robust professional development for their staff. Data-driven instruction is a hallmark, and there is a concerted effort to ensure every student succeeds. Collaboration among families, communities, and educators is a key component of their success.

A National Blue Ribbon School award flag displayed in a school's entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized emblem of exceptional teaching and learning. These schools serve as models of effective and innovative practices for educators across the nation.

The Department recognizes all schools based on student performance data including assessment results, student subgroup performance, and graduation rates.

LOUISIANA AWARDED \$70 MILLION TO ACCELERATE STUDENT READING

Sep 09, 2024

Five-year grant expands focus of state's comprehensive literacy plan and provides targeted support to struggling students, schools, and systems

(BATON ROUGE, LA) - The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has been awarded \$70 million to help more Louisiana students become strong readers. The Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) program awarded Louisiana more than any of the 23 states to win these competitive grants. The LDOE will target the funds to support literacy efforts for students, teachers, and schools most in need.

“This considerable investment reflects the success of our current literacy efforts and the strong academic return on investment we’ve achieved with previous funds,” said Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. “These funds will help teachers and leaders improve in their profession, so they can have the greatest impact on students.”

The LDOE will target the five-year grant towards four main focus areas:

- Building teacher and leader capacity around evidence-based practices in the most struggling schools and systems
- Providing targeted capacity and resources for schools serving high rates of the highest-need students
- Ensuring every child has access to a highly-effective teacher by providing literacy mentors to new teachers within three years of service in schools with high teacher turnover and/or high numbers of new teachers.
- Implementing high-quality, evidence-based practices, interventions, and opportunities to support children and families.

“Over the past four years, Louisiana educators have made a significant shift in the way we teach students to read, and we are seeing steady increases in our literacy rates,” said Executive Director of Literacy Shanna Beber. “This grant will allow us to continue the momentum as we push for all Louisiana children to have improved literacy outcomes.”

The funding will be used to serve schools that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Chronically failing
- High teacher turnover
- High percentage of new teachers
- Growing number of English Learners
- High schools with low graduation rates
- High number of third graders at risk of retention

The LDOE will award funding to schools and systems through a competitive grant process that will begin this school year. The first round of funding will be for the 2025-2026 school year. School and system leaders can stay up-to-date on opportunities to apply for competitive funding through the [LDOE Weekly Newsletter](#).

ABOUT THE STEVE CARTER TUTORING PROGRAM

The Steve Carter Education Program provides \$1,500 vouchers to families of eligible K-12 public school students per school year. The digital vouchers can be used to purchase high-quality literacy and math tutoring. The program is part of the Louisiana Tutoring Initiative and is named after the late Baton Rouge State Representative Steve Carter. Established in R.S. 17:4032.1 through Act 415 of the 2021 Legislative Session, the program was expanded through Act 649 of the 2024 Legislative Session.

- Available to K-12 grade public school students who are below reading and mathematics proficiency.
- Tutoring sessions must be held after school hours, in-person or virtually.
- Families will apply through a portal and, if approved, will select an approved tutoring provider.

Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant: Based upon HHS-2024-ACF-OHS-HP-0157, the Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Expansion Grant Opportunity, which ended on 14 May 2024. (INK) Innovative Network of Knowledge has been awarded a federal grant including cost sharing in the amount of \$18,095,828.00 to provide Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership services to Ouachita, Lincoln, Richland and Franklin Parishes in the state of Louisiana.

Workforce Development: Workforce development is one of the highest priority for Head Start at this time. The HSSCO is actively involved in workforce initiatives nationally with the Office of Head Start, National Head Start Association and the Region VI Administration of Children & Families as well as Southern and Grambling State Universities to develop a sustainable ECE workforce. The HSSCO through these collaboration are exploring apprenticeships supported by the Louisiana Workforce Commission and Federal Apprenticeship Program to support this workforce initiative. Meetings with these workforce coalition partners will resumed in October 2024 and additional site visits are on schedule for November - December

Early Childhood Conference (ECC) 2024 The Early Childhood Conference were completed in September and October 2024. New this year, the 2024 Early Childhood Conference were held at two locations, in order to make it easier for providers from across the state to be able to attend:

- September 7: Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo St, Shreveport, LA 71101
- October 5: Crowne Plaza, 4728 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

At each site, ECC 2024 was held on one day only, a Saturday, and provided more opportunity for educators and providers to attend.

Edlink Updates: The Head State Start Collaboration Office continues to assist Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partners with Edlink supports and logistics within the Department of Education. Training sessions are also made available to assist you with your Edlink orientation and utilization. All sessions require registration, register early since space is limited.

- Accessing EdLink, Tuesdays and Fridays 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Completing Type I, II, and III New and Renewal Applications, Tuesdays 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Completing Entity Change Applications, Fridays 10:00-11:30 a.m.

For additional assistance contact Anthony Martin, Program Specialist, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership at anthony.martin@la.gov or 225-405-8896.