

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

September 25, 2023

Agenda



- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the minutes of meeting held May 18, 2023
- IV. Consideration of an update report regarding the 2023 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report - Quarter 2
- V. Consideration of 2024 Council meeting dates



I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call





III. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held May 18, 2023

**IV. Consideration of the 2023
Early Childhood Care and
Education Advisory Council
Quarterly Report - Quarter 2**



Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Accountability System

The Department and Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) continued to support local sites to implement the early childhood accountability system.

Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) completed Spring CLASS[®] observations in April-June:

- CNLAs coordinated more than 3,000 CLASS[®] observations, observing more than 58,000 minutes of early childhood instruction inclusive of:
 - 510 Infant CLASS[®] observations,
 - 1,037 Toddler CLASS[®] observations, and
 - 1,505 Pre-K CLASS[®] observations.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Community Networks

The Department and Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) worked together to close out the 2022-2023 academic year.

As part of close-out activities for the 2022-2023 academic year:

- Teachers completed the third and final checkpoint for Teaching Strategies GOLD® in May 2023.
- CNLAs observed more than 500,000 minutes of care in the spring observation period between January and June 2023. This included more than:
 - 1,100 infant observations,
 - 2,100 toddler observations, and
 - 3,600 pre-K observations.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Community Networks

Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) successfully improved enrollment and access by increasing family engagement and outreach programs.

CNLAs are improving enrollment by implementing strategies such as:

- Creating more robust public awareness campaigns using a multimedia approaches (e.g., TV, print, geographical social media campaign, etc.).
- Hiring a marketing firm to promote the community network's mission and enrollment.
- Providing informational campaigns to inform families of young children with disabilities, children whose home language may not be English, and children experiencing homelessness about finding a placement that best accommodates their needs.
- Improving community outreach by increasing network presence at community events (e.g., community celebrations, library events, health events).

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Community Networks

The Louisiana Legislature invested more than ever in early childhood care and education, enabling the Department to allocate funding for the 2023-2024 CCAP B-3 Seats Pilot program.

The B-3 Seats pilot began in 2020-2021 and was projected to end as of June 30, 2023, prior to State investment.

By the close of Quarter 2 and the 2022-2023 academic year, B-3 Seats were serving 3,560 children across 30 networks:

- 553 Infants, 811 one year olds, 1,025 two year olds, and 1,171 three year olds.

The Department is currently developing strategies that will transition the original B-3 Seats pilot into a permanent program with sustained funding. This work will codify the CCAP B-3 Seats Pilot program into policy and formally incorporate it into Louisiana's CCDF State Plan.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Education Fund

The Louisiana Department of Education allocated funding to seven Community Network Lead Agencies that raised qualifying local funds for the Early Childhood Education fund.

Community Network Lead Agency	State Match Funds Allocated	Total Funds For Seats (State Match + Local Funds)	Total Anticipated Children Served by Local and State Funds in 2023-2024
Ascension	\$954,000	\$1,908,000	136
Bossier	\$ 43,910	\$87,821	18
Caddo	\$ 2,800,000	\$5,600,000	450
Jefferson	\$ 399,700	\$799,400	99
Orleans	\$ 21,449,919	\$42,899,838	1,810
Pointe Coupee	\$ 1,000	\$2,000	1
Sabine	\$ 5,315	\$10,630	1

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Believe! Requests and Allocations

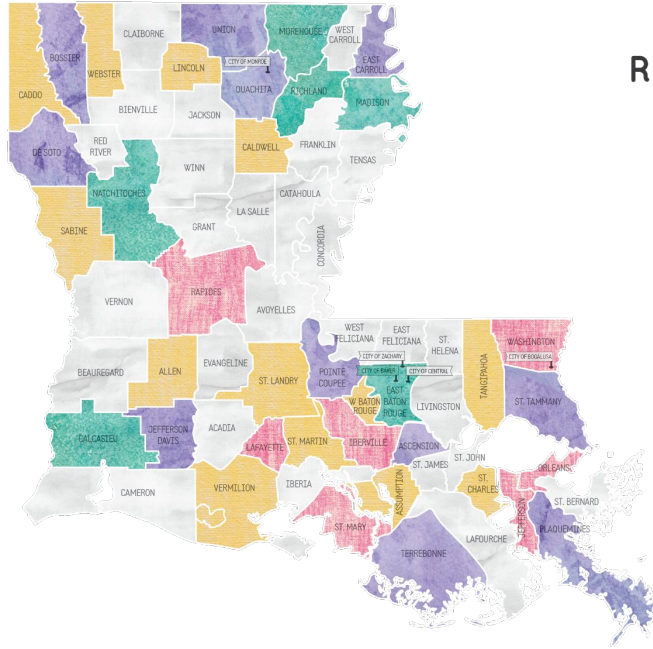


Category	# Networks Awarded	Amount Allocated	Average Allocation	Min - Max Allocation
Stabilization	55	\$3,822,094	\$62,657	\$0 - \$482,1554
Access Expansion	44	\$1,411,017	\$23,131	\$0- \$35,800*
Quality Improvements	58	\$2,244,930	\$36,802	\$0-\$212,500
Family Engagement	58	\$1,852,328	\$30,366	\$0- \$140,000
Total		\$9,330,369	\$152,957	\$0 - \$1,350,750

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Ready Start Networks

Ready Start Networks continue to develop and implement new initiatives focused on early childhood workforce development, quality improvements, access expansion, and increased family engagement.



READY START NETWORK

- COHORT 1
- COHORT 2
- COHORT 3
- COHORT 4

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Ready Start Networks

Ready Start Networks are committed to a unified effort to promote high-quality ECE and increase access at the local level.

- In May 2023, 5 Ready Start Networks began participation in a Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Workforce Planning SubGrant to study local-level data related to workforce development, recruitment, and retention.
- Another 5 Ready Start Networks began participation in a PDG Family Engagement and Leadership grant to promote family engagement initiatives at the network level through:
 - robust communication strategies to expand family engagement,
 - the leadership development of parents, and
 - sharing of best practices that most effectively prepare children for success in school and beyond.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Teachers to Be Successful

The Department continued to provide professional development opportunities for child care teachers across the state.

- 17 BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) Programs provided course content, coaching, and support focused on preparing teachers for successful classroom interactions during this period.
- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies conducted training and coaching that:
 - focused on Instructional Support and Engaged Support for Learning, and
 - targeted sites with overall scores in the Approaching Proficient range and classrooms with new teachers and/or low scores.
- CCR&R agencies provided a total of 4,044 hours of coaching and 617 hours of training. These agencies also provided 375 hours of coaching to 87 Family Child Care sites across the state that have opted into Academic Approval.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Teachers to Be Successful

The Department supported teachers and leaders to support young children with disabilities by providing training and materials to networks for the administration of developmental screening.

- Community Network Lead Agencies reported that 86% of networks administered a universal developmental screener to 18,122 publicly-funded pre-K children in school-based settings across the state.
- The Department presented sessions at the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit and Early Childhood Conference to improve outcomes for children with disabilities. Sessions included the following:
 - **Promoting Inclusion in Early Childhood** - This session provided the field with information on creating inclusive environments, how inclusion impacts child achievement, and supporting children with disabilities in inclusive environments.
 - **Accelerating Learning in Early Childhood Settings** - This session provided the field with information on accelerating learning in early childhood by embedding high-quality instruction within the learning day to maximize success for all children.
- The Young Children with Disabilities Community of Practice provided training to early childhood administrators to improve child outcomes and data hygiene practices when using TS GOLD®.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Teachers and Directors to Be Successful

The Teacher Leader Summit took place May 30 - June 1 and the Early Childhood Conference took place on June 2 - 3 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

More than 750 early childhood professionals attended the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit, which included 71 early childhood sessions on topics such as:

- Using the Data Cycle to Increase Program Quality,
- Language and Literacy in the Preschool Classroom, and
- Engaging All Families in the Community.

Approximately 2,000 teachers, leaders, and staff attended the 2023 Early Childhood Conference:

- Along with two days of high-quality sessions, there were opportunities to network with colleagues and recognize excellence across the state.
- Early childhood professionals learned how they can make the most of their time teaching and supporting children during the conference.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Directors to Be Successful

The Department is supporting child care directors meet standards for high-quality learning, leadership, and business practices.

The Department supported directors by:

- Providing outreach, support, and monthly webinars for new directors;
- Launching intensive technical assistance efforts for the transition of the CCAP attendance tracking system from TOTS to KinderConnect, including site visits to assist sites in finalizing set up of the new system;
- Providing one round of ARPA Stabilization grant funding for more than 1,300 providers for more than \$63 million, and opening an application for a final round of grant funding;
- Awarding Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year 2024 Award winners at the 17th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala; and
- Offering Cohort 4 of the [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy](#), providing participants with leadership development, systems thinking training, and collaboration with peers to strengthen their business practices.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The Department has supported child care providers and families through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

- The Department transitioned to KinderConnect as its mandatory attendance tracking system for all CCAP families in April 2023.
- KinderConnect is a web-based provider portal that saves time spent on administrative tasks while minimizing the possibility of fraud.
- The transition to KinderConnect is the beginning of implementation of a new, more simplified application process for families and payment process for providers..

<i>CCAP Children Served in Quarter 2</i>		
April 2023	May 2023	June 2023
20,217	20,181	19,705

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Sites

Site Type

	Type I	Type II	Type III	FCC	In-Home
April 2023	207	168	1161	248	6
May 2023	207	167	1157	245	4
June 2023	207	164	1159	246	4

Star Ratings:

	0 Stars	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
2022	22*	7	67	420	507	61
2023	7*	7	78	408	448	51

**This does not include new, unrated sites.*



V. Consideration of 2024 Council Meeting Dates

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Calendar of Meetings

2023 Meetings
February 15, 2023
May 18, 2023
July 19, 2023
September 25, 2023
November 15, 2023

2024 Meetings
February 14, 2024
May 15, 2024
July 17, 2024
September 18, 2024
November 20, 2024

Adjournment

