NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** NOEEN Steering Committee

**From:** Caitlin Boley, Director of Early Childhood Systems & Supports

**Date:** March 17, 2026

**Re:** Community Network Lead Agency Updates

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This memo contains updates regarding the Community Network Lead Agency's recent and planned activities.

**Updates**

- *Coordinated Observations (CLASS):*
    - According to Louisiana Bulletin 140, lead agencies are required to coordinate and conduct local CLASS observations for all early childhood sites within their network.
    - There are 169 sites to be observed within the network
    - The CLASS team has conducted 267 of 643 required observations. These observations must be complete, with all scores to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) by May 15, 2026. The projected completion date for Spring observations is currently May 11.
    - The CLASS team has implemented the following strategies to support observations since January 21, 2026:
        - Held monthly in-person office hours for observers to get real-time support from the NOEEN team
        - Completed 51 double-coded observations in compliance with LDOE requirements
        - Feedback and reports from double-coded observations and calibrations were reviewed, and meetings were held between observers and the Manager of Program Observations and Accountability Content to identify opportunities for support to promote reliability
        - Conducted interviews for NOEEN contracted observers to support additional network capacity
        - Scheduled training for 12 of our 14 observers to be certified in the new CLASS 2nd Edition Infant-Toddler tool to ensure alignment with

upcoming LDOE-mandated requirements. 2 observers have already completed the certification training.
    - Denied 3 of 3 appeals on the basis of a lack of protocol violation

- *SmartTeach Assessments*
    - In accordance with Bulletin 140, all NOEEN providers must complete assessments of publicly funded children enrolled at their site using SmartTeach by the mandated checkpoint dates. The Winter 2026 SmartTeach assessment checkpoint was held on February 28.
    - The network-level benchmark for "satisfactory" site-level checkpoint completion is 80%.
        - Over 91% of sites with publicly-funded children met this benchmark, the highest satisfactory rate of any recorded checkpoint in our network to date
        - Over 79% of sites completed the checkpoint with 100% completion, up from 77% in Winter of 2025
        - Roughly 6% of sites did not participate in the checkpoint, up from 4% in Winter of 2025
    - The NOEEN team has implemented the following strategies to support the completion of SmartTeach assessments since January 21, 2026:
        - Sent individualized notices to providers with reminders of historic compliance, resources, and upcoming checkpoint dates
        - Identified sites with 0% of both checkpoints this academic year and requested specialist support
        - 30 of 30 requested SmartTeach transfers were completed to support accurate site rosters in the platform
- *Child Count:*
    - In accordance with Bulletin 140, all NOEEN providers must submit counts of all children enrolled, by age, funding source, and demographics (racial background, housing status, etc.), on October 1 and February 1 each year.
    - The NOEEN team submitted the required data to the LDOE on February 25, 2026, ahead of the February 28 deadline.

- *Upcoming Events:*
    - NOEEN's annual Spring Collaborative will be held on April 9 from 9am - 12pm at the University of Holy Cross's Moreau Center. Providers will receive updates from the lead agency and professional development sessions. Registration closes Friday, March 27.