NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

MEMORANDUM

To: NOEEN Steering Committee

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

Date: June 9, 2026

Re: Community Network Lead Agency Updates

This memo contains updates regarding the Community Network Lead Agency 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.

- The CLASS team has implemented the following strategies to support observations since May 13, 2026:
    - Sent communication to providers regarding the upcoming transition to the 2nd Edition Infant - Toddler CLASS Tool, including resources to support implementation.
    - Trained all remaining Infant and Toddler observers in the updated tool to support internal capacity and compliance with LDOE requirements.

Performance Profiles

- Per Louisiana Bulletin 140, lead agencies are required to collect metrics to support the compilation of performance profiles. This information was collected alongside CLASSroom configurations in the Fall and confirmed on October 1, the LDOE's designated "snapshot" date.
- The LDOE will release draft informational metrics to be included in sites 2025 - 2026 Performance Profiles this July. Sites will have the opportunity to report corrections to these metrics alongside necessary documentation through the NOEEN Hub. Agenda for Children will then certify all data to the LDOE's designated portal by the end of July.
    - This process is being migrated to the NOEEN Hub to support consistency and ease of use for providers. This process was previously completed via the Alchemer survey software.

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 Spring 2026 SmartTeach assessment checkpoint was held on May 31.
- The network-level benchmark for "satisfactory" site-level checkpoint completion is 80%.
    - Over 89% of sites with publicly-funded children met this benchmark.
        - Previous rates include 90% (Spring 2025), 82% (Fall 2025), and 92% (Winter 2026)
    - Over 84% of sites completed the checkpoint at 100% completion, the highest rate to date
        - Previous rates include 80% (Spring 2025), 70% (Fall 2025), and 79% (Winter 2026)
    - Roughly 9% of sites did not participate in the checkpoint
        - Previous rates include 5% (Spring 2025), 10% (Fall 2025), and 6% (Winter 2026)
        - Targeted coaching was provided to sites that did not participate in the Winter Checkpoint to support assessment completion
- The NOEEN team has implemented the following strategies to support the completion of SmartTeach assessments since May 13, 2026:
    - Sent individualized notices to providers with reminders of historic compliance, resources, required action steps, recommended data maintenance, and upcoming checkpoint dates
    - 4 of 4 requested SmartTeach transfers were completed to support accurate site rosters in the platform

ECHO Fund Grants

- The NOEEN team has implemented the following strategies to support the ECHO Fund grant program since May 13, 2026:
    - The 2026 Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) SRTC ECHO Fund grant program is funded by School Readiness Tax Credit donations to Agenda for Children, as one of the state's CCR&R agencies. This year's SRTC ECHO Fund provided workforce retention funds for 224 child care programs across Agenda's 11-parish CCR&R service region, including 107 grants for providers in Orleans Parish.

- City Seats Program Quality Grants were distributed in mid-May to all 37 participating City Seats sites to support quality improvement measures, prioritizing supporting children with exceptionalities or concerns.
- ECEF Program Quality Grants will be distributed to participating early learning sites in June to support quality improvement measures, prioritizing supporting children with exceptionalities or concerns.

Upcoming Events

- The next NOEEN Monthly Provider Webinar will be held on July 9, 2026 at 11:30am (add to calendar). Providers will receive information regarding data certification and upcoming CLASS observations.