NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK (NOEEN)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

6.10.26

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER	ENTITY REPRESENTED
Stacey Barquet	Early Care & Education Parent/Caregiver
Tomorow Fondal	Louisiana Department of Health Early Steps System Point of Entry
Thelma French	Early Care & Education Community (At Large)
Dr. Fateama Fulmore	NOLA Public Schools (NOLA-PS)
Dr. Shayla Guidry Hilaire	Child Find
Amy Hook-Poirier	Orleans Parish Ready Start Network
Sheraé Hunter	New Orleans City Council
Jonika Julian-Harris	Orleans Parish Lead Agency
VACANT	Head Start
Tonia Loria	Orleans Parish Child Care Resource & Referral Agency
Kate Mehok	Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4)
Joy Mitchell	Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
Angelique Morris Francois	CCAP B-3
Yolanda Motley	Early Head Start
Emmy O'Dwyer	Early Care & Education Community (At Large)
Amanda Peek	Early Care & Education Parent/Caregiver
Benita Plaisance	Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD)
Melanie Richardson	Family Child Care Providers
Jen Roberts	NOEEN Nonprofit Corporation Board of Directors
Monique B. Rouege	Early Childhood Education Fund (ECEF)
Meshawn Siddiq	City of New Orleans
Rochelle Wilcox	City Seats

NOEEN'S MISSION

To ensure an excellent start for every child in New Orleans by strengthening early childhood education and providing families access to high-quality early learning programs that help them realize their dreams for their children.

III. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion is to adopt the draft minutes from the:

- *May 13, 2026 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting*

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote

IV. COMMUNITY NETWORK UPDATES + CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCY (CNLA) UPDATES

May 13, 2026 to Present

CNLA UPDATES

SmartTeach

- The Spring SmartTeach checkpoint was held on May 31st. Providers received regular reminders regarding the checkpoint, targeted coaching support, and support opportunities via Office Hours held throughout the month.
- Over 89% of sites with publicly-funded children met the required “Satisfactory” benchmark, with over 84% of required sites meeting 100% assessment completion, the highest number to date. Roughly 9% of sites did not participate in the checkpoint.

Data Certification

- Draft performance profile informational metrics will be released by the LDOE in July. NOEEN will work with sites to certify metrics via the NOEEN Hub throughout the month.

ECHO Fund Grants

- 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.

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT UPDATES

May 13, 2026 to Present

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

2025–2026 UPDATES

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

2025-2026 Timeline

Feb 2026
Main Round Closes

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Feb 20: *Main round app closes for new applications*

Feb 23 - Feb 27: *Document Submission Period for incomplete applications 5pm*

Document review period begins

Mar 2026
Main Round Match Prep

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Mar 6: *Document Review period ends 5pm*
Main Round Application closed
Mar 9-10: *Incomplete Family Messages (Getting Ready for Open Enrollment)*
By Mar 13: *Priorities sent to providers*
Office Hours will be held
Mar 20: *Priorities due from providers*
Mar 27: *Preliminary Waitlist Feedback due*

Apr 2026
Main Round Results Released

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

BESE Allocations

April 1 – QCC's end

April 29 – Preliminary Rosters Available for Provider review (all funding sources)

April 30 *- Match results released* ***(EHS, HS, LA4, NSECD)***

May 2026
Open Enrollment Prep

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

May 4: *Deactivation Requests begin for declined seats*

May 22:*Registration Deadline*

Deactivation Requests begin families who missed registration deadline

May 30: *2025-2026 Open Enrollment Ends*

2025-2026 *application closes*

June 2026
Open Enrollment

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

June 1: *Open Enrollment begi (Early Head Start, Head Start, LA4, NSECD)*

TBD: Open Enrollment begins (City Seats, ECEF)

Summer In-person verification

FRIDAYS in JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

Last Placement Offers for 2025-2026

Rationale:

- Schools and funding sources have varying end of school year dates.
- The EC system must flip from 2025-20206 to 2026-2027 in preparation for 26-27 Open Enrollment in June.

As a result…

- **NSECD/LA4** last offer day will be **Monday, May 4th**
- **EHS/HS** last offer day will be **Monday, May 25th**
- **CS/ECEF** last offer day will be **Thursday, June 11th**

25-26 ENROLLMENT UPDATE AS OF June 8, 2026

Funding Source	Total Filled	Seats Offered	Total Allocation	Percentage of Seats Filled	Infants		1 Year Olds		2 Year Olds		3 Year Olds		4 Year Olds	
					Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats
CS	1000	0	1000	100%	122	0	229	0	330	0	319	0		
*ECEF	798	0	810	99%	96	0	174	0	226	7	314	6		
EHS	646	0	648	99%	87	1	238	0	323	1				
HS	918	0	933	99%							519	7	414	8
**LA4	1,262	0	1,276	99%									1,276	14
NSECD	372	0	374	99%							82	0	291	2
Total Seats	4,995	0	5,040	99%	304	1	641	0	879	8	1,243	13	1,982	23
*reduction in seat allocation 10/12/25 ** increase in seat allocation by Total of 36 seats *** available HS seats @ 1 grantee					*99% Filled*		*100% Filled*		*99% Filled*		*99% Filled*		*99% Filled*	

SY 2025-2026 Audit Results

LA4

The results of the monitoring revealed that there were no findings that need resolution.

ECEF

Desk Review:
Early Childhood Education Fund (ECEF) Program – finding of noncompliance in child eligibility determinations

Based on technical assistance provided by the LDOE to Agenda for Children during the monitoring event, a Corrective Action Plan to address this finding **will not** be required.

CITY SEATS

The audit results reflect a high level of compliance overall, with an **overall completion rate of 96.26%**. Out of the 107 records audited, 103 are marked as complete, while 4 files (3.74%) remain incomplete due to specific documentation deficiencies.

Documentation Deficiencies:
The analysis of the 4 incomplete files reveals the following specific reasons for non-compliance:

- **Birth Certificate:** 1 file is missing a Birth Certificate because the child is currently an unborn baby/pregnant mother case.
- **Eligibility Worksheet:** 2 files are missing eligibility worksheets documentation.
- **SNAP Documentation:** 1 file contains an outdated SNAP printout (dated 2021) which is no longer valid for the 2025-2026 audit.

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

2026–2027 UPDATES

26-27 ENROLLMENT UPDATE AS OF JUNE 8, 2026

Funding Source	Total Filled	Seats Offered	Total Allocation	Percentage of Seats Filled	Infants		1 Year Olds		2 Year Olds		3 Year Olds		4 Year Olds	
					Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Available Seats
EHS	484	6	**630**	77%	71	31	236	73	323	36				
HS	735	10	**959**	77%							431	99	528	115
NSECD	253	3	**347**	73%							64	12	283	79
LA4	532	25	**1280**	42%									1280	723
Total Seats	2004	44	**3205**	63%	71	31	236	73	323	36	495	111	2,080	906
					56% Filled		***69% Filled***		***89% Filled***		***78% Filled***		***56% Filled***	

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

EVENTS

June Events

Total Community Action
June 5, 2026
1416 S. Norman C Francis Pkwy
New Orleans, LA 70125
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Langston Hughes Academy
June 12, 2026
3519 Trafalgar St
New Orleans, LA 70119
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Fannie C. Williams Charter
June 26, 2026
11755 Dwyer Rd
New Orleans, LA 70128
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

July Events

Dorothy Height Charter
July 10, 2026
3501 Seine St
New Orleans, LA 70114
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Harmony Neighborhood
July 17, 2026
2514 Washington Ave
New Orleans, LA 70113
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Esperanza Academy
July 24, 2026
3121 Saint Bernard Ave
New Orleans, LA 70119
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

Late July & August Events

Dr. MLK, Jr. Elementary School
July 31, 2026
1617 Fats Domino Ave,
New Orleans, LA 70117
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

ReNEW Moton
August 7, 2026
8550 Curran Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70127
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING

READY START NETWORK (RSN) UPDATES

May 13, 2026 to Present

NOEEN STEERING COMMITTEE RETREAT

The NOEEN Steering Committee Retreat will take place on June 24, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Longue Vue House and Gardens Playhouse.

Steering Committee members will use this time to:

- Review the roles and responsibilities of a Ready Start Network as outlined by the Louisiana Department of Education
- Examine national and local Early Childhood Care and Education data
- Participate in data-driven network-level strategic planning for the onset of the 2026-2027 program year

Questions about the retreat can be directed to apoirier@agendaforchildren.org.

MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES

May 13, 2026 to Present

MILLAGE UPDATES

- Celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month by expanding supports for early childhood educators, recognizing educator well-being as essential to children's success.
- National research affirmed that the Tulane Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation model used by City Seats is among t*he most effective strategies* for improving classroom quality and supporting educators working with children exhibiting challenging behaviors.
- Completed more than 1,000 developmental screenings and shifted focus to connecting children and families to intervention services before kindergarten entry.

MILLAGE UPDATES

- Provided 2,072 cumulative hours of coaching and technical assistance to 55 center directors and 302 teachers, strengthening instructional quality across participating programs.
- Distributed Program Quality Grants to 37 City Seats centers to improve classroom environments and better serve children with diverse learning needs.
- Awarded $1,000 workforce retention stipends to 977 early childhood educators, helping stabilize the workforce serving New Orleans' youngest children.

MILLAGE UPDATES

- Convened statewide partners to strengthen emergency preparedness planning for child care providers ahead of hurricane season through the upcoming Child Care in Emergencies Forum.
- Advanced the Early Care and Education Facilities Initiative by increasing fully approved projects from seven to eight, moving additional child care improvements into construction.
- Prepared for the 2026–2027 program year, with 74 early learning centers applying to provide publicly funded seats, demonstrating continued demand and strong provider engagement across New Orleans.

MILLAGE UPDATES

- 2025 Budget was formally reduced to reflect the reduction in City revenue.
  - CNO: **-$1,339,195.65**
  - ECEF: **-$692,916** (State did not do a full 1:1 match)
- We received a final budget revision last week from the LDOE related to our ECEF budget revisions. We will update the 2025-2026 budget (ending June 30) and request a ratifying vote at the Annual Retreat so that the final fiscal year budget reflects intended actuals.
- “Absorbed” the ~$2M in reductions through: reductions in professional development, ECHO grants, Agenda personnel costs, facility partnerships, and seats that were not full for the entire program year (early months while seats were being filled).

CFR UPDATES:
2026-2027 SEAT ALLOCATIONS

2026-2027 ECEF and City Seats seat allocations for existing ECEF will be determined once BESE approves funding for 2026-2027 publicly-funded seats (possibly today) and an Official Notification of Allocation is issued by the LDOE.

- It is anticipated that this will occur by the end of June allowing NOEEN to make final allocation decisions, based on available funding with a focus on Continuity of Care, and notify sites in July 2026.

Any questions regarding the CFR process can be directed to Amy Hook-Poirier at apoirier@agendaforchildren.org.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

May 13, 2026 to Present

JUNE COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee met on June 2, 2026.

- 10 out of 11 members were present
  - 3 attendees were proxies
- Meeting topics included
  - 2025 - 2026 Enrollment
  - 2026 - 2027 Enrollment
  - Enrollment Resources
  - Audit Results
- Members discussed: verification processes, City Seats, and family experience.

The next meeting will be held on August 11, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

May 13, 2026 to Present

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 NOEEN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Motion is to approve the 2026-2027 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting Dates.

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote

Proposed 2026-2027 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting Dates (Every Third Wednesday of the Month from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)	
Meeting Date	**Venue**
August 19, 2026	*NOLA-PS*
September 16, 2026	*NOLA-PS*
October 21, 2026	*NOLA-PS*
November 18, 2026	*NOLA-PS*
December 16, 2026	*NOLA-PS*
January 20, 2027	*NOLA-PS*
March 17, 2027	*NOLA-PS*
April 21, 2027	*NOLA-PS*
May 19, 2027	*NOLA-PS*
June 16, 2027	*NOLA-PS*

FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

May 13, 2026 to Present

FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

The next FGW meeting has been scheduled:

Facilities Working Group Meeting
Monday, June 29 at 11am
Agenda for Children's Office
8300 Earhart Blvd, Suite 201

VII. OPEN FORUM

FUTURE MEETINGS

NOEEN Steering Committee Retreat
Wednesday, June 24
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Longue Vue Gardens Playhouse

NEW: July 2026 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 15
10:00 - 12:00
NOLA PS
The Steering Committee will review and approve 2026-2027 ECEF and City Seat seat allocations during this meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT