NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK (NOEEN)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 15, 2026

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:

- *June 24 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting*

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING

MILLAGE BUDGET

2026-2027 ECE Millage Budget Revision

- The NOEEN SC approved the draft 2026-2027 budget in August 2025 as required by the City. It totalled **$23,674,959.**
  - This follows the - $1,339,195.65 reduction from the 2025-2026 budget based on CNO FY2025 revenues.
- Due to 2025 and 2026 revenue projections, the anticipated budget for 2026-2027 has been adjusted to **$21,500,000** (reduction of 9.2% YOY).
  - State matching funds were reduced to $21,500,000 (reduction of 6.5% YOY).

- Priority funding was provided to seats (no change), wraparound supports (no change), and educator supports to prevent any interruption of services.

APPROVAL OF 26-27 BUDGET

Motion is to adopt the updated ECE Millage budget for the 2026-2027 program year.

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote

CEA #K22-756 Millage Funded City Seats Expansion - Year 4 (CNO 2026)
Program Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

CEA Category	Year 4 Budget (Approved 8.20.25)	Year 4 Budget (Revised 7.15.26)
Millage Administrative Cost and Evaluation	**$1,024,959**	**$1,024,959**
Student Enrollment and Programmatic Payment	**$12,000,000**	**$12,000,000**
Comprehensive Wraparound Services (City Seats)	**$2,500,000**	**$2,500,000**
Site-Based Practice-Based Coaching and Support	$385,309	$410,000
Mental Health Services	$543,540	$450,000
Family Engagement and Outreach	$30,000	$15,000
Caregiving Resources for Families	$8,609	$ -
Professional Development and Support for Directors & Educators - Programming/Training	$ -	$290,000
Medical, Social Work, and Disability Intervention, Services, and Referrals + Vision/Hearing Screenings + Transportation Support	$1,459,081	$1,162,000
Special Education Pilot (TBD) + ASQ Screening Materials	$ -	$80,000
City Seats Intensive Services Seat Bank	$ -	$62,250
Data Management Software	$63,461	$ -
Outreach Materials / Parental Engagement / Partner Convening Costs + Supplies	$10,000	$30,750
Family Navigation and Engagement Support	**$500,000**	**$500,000**
Coordinated Enrollment	**$1,000,000**	**$1,000,000**
Capacity Building to Expand Quality	**$6,650,000**	**$4,503,720**
Zoning/Permitting Support and Administration	$110,000	$124,500
Professional Development & Continuing Education (Coaching and Support) - all sites	$ -	$595,040
Facilities Grants, Technical Assistance, and Administration	$1,250,000	$250,000
Nontraditional Play Space Support	$210,926	$ -
Workforce Recruitment Support and Administration	$21,000	$25,000
Capacity Building Program Assessment & Accountability + Data Management Software	$132,842	$35,000
Education Pathways Development (High School, CDA, ECAC)	$300,000	$ -
Professional Development and Support for Directors & Educators - Programming/Training	$1,475,000	$400,000
26-27 City Seats ECHO Program Grants	$500,000	$500,000
26-27 City Seats ECHO Program Grants/Admin - Continuity Contingency Fund TBD	$ -	$500,000
Family Engagement and Outreach	$250,232	$25,000
Outreach Materials / Parental Engagement / Partner Convening Costs + Supplies		$20,500
Wage Enhancement Educator Stipends	$2,280,000	$1,880,000
Wage Enhancement Administration, Monitoring, and Support	$120,000	$120,000
ECHO Continuity Contingency Fund TBD *(25-26 Carryover due to 2025 CNO Late Payment)*		$28,679
TOTAL	**$23,674,959**	**$21,528,679**
		-$2,146,280

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ECEF & CITY SEATS
SEAT ALLOCATIONS

ECEF & CITY SEATS ALLOCATION UPDATES: FUNDING REDUCTION

$3,646,280

Total 26-27 **reduction** in funding
(versus 25-26 program year)

$2,146,280

Early Childhood Education Millage (↓**9%**)
City of New Orleans

$1,500,000

Early Childhood Education Fund (↓**7%**)
State of Louisiana Match

ECEF & CITY SEATS ALLOCATION UPDATES: APPROACHES TO FUNDING CUTS

December 2025

The NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee developed and approved a set of Publicly-Funded Seat Allocation Priorities to guide the 2026-2027 CFR process, anticipating that funding may increase, remain stable, or decrease.

June 2026

Funding for the 2026-2027 program year was confirmed. Combined revenue from the Early Childhood Education Millage and the Early Childhood Education Fund came in **$3.6 million below** the prior year's total.

TODAY

The NOEEN Steering Committee will review how the established priorities inform seat allocation decisions in response to this year's funding reduction.

The Steering Committee will then approve the 2026-2027 program year ECEF and City Seats sites.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 PUBLICLY-FUNDED SEAT ALLOCATION PRIORITIES

In December 2025, the NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee developed and approved the following **Publicly-Funded Seat Allocation Priorities** to guide the CFR process in various funding scenarios (numbered in order of the priority):

Reduction in Funding	Stable Funding	Increase in Funding
1. Current qualifying publicly-funded seat program participating providers (returning/existing providers) - Continuity of Program 2. Children currently in ECEF and City Seats (Continuity of Care)	1. Current qualifying publicly-funded seat program participating providers (returning/existing providers) - Continuity of Program 2. Children currently in ECEF and City Seats (Continuity of Care) 3. Continuity of Allocation for Existing Qualified providers 4. Children currently in Early Head Start Seats in Existing CS and ECEF programs (Continuity of Care of EHS) - if seats become open from sites no longer eligible OR new qualifying providers if seats become open from sites no longer eligible	1. Current qualifying publicly-funded seat program participating providers (returning/existing providers) - Continuity of Program 2. Children currently in ECEF and City Seats (Continuity of Care) 3. Continuity of Allocation for Existing Qualified providers 4. Children currently in Early Head Start Seats in Existing CS and ECEF programs (Continuity of Care) 5. Siblings of current ECEF and City Seats children 6. Children of teachers who work in any Type III center 7. Infants born between July and August 8. New qualifying providers

APPROACH TO FUNDING REDUCTIONS

The priorities the sub-committee voted on in December provided a priority framework for approaching funding reductions. Once the the actual amount of funding became known, it became clear that maintaining our commitment to children requires allocating a larger proportion of our resources to seats.

We can preserve access despite overall funding reductions and use the framework to inform 26-27 allocations by:

- **Reducing ECEF and City Seats spending on capacity building and quality improvements**
- **Maintaining** City Seats required seat funding ($12M for 1,000 seats)
- **Maintaining** ECEF spending for seats, allowing us to serve 810 children
- **Implementing priorities 1-7 as part of the overall allocation strategy.** Upon further analysis, these priorities can be achieved without new funding.

PROPOSED APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS: IMPLEMENTING PRIORITIES 1-7

Many of the CFR priorities approved in December 2025 are largely achievable by maintaining level funding for seats.

- Specifically, priorities 4-7 are enrollment and allocation priorities that shape which children receive priority and how seats are distributed across age groups at each site
    - e.g., the Early Head Start priority doesn't call for new seats. It requires that affected centers' allocations include enough three year-old seats to accommodate children aging up from Early Head Start at that site.

- By reducing non-seat spending and incorporating priorities 4-7 in the allocation process, the network can achieve seven out of eight priorities set by the Steering Committee in December 2025, **despite a $3.6M reduction in available funding**.

REMINDER: 2026-2027 PUBLICLY-FUNDED SEAT ALLOCATION PRIORITIES

- ✅ Current qualifying publicly-funded seat program participating providers (returning/existing providers) - Continuity of Program
- ✅ Children currently in ECEF and City Seats (Continuity of Care)
- ✅ Continuity of Allocation for Existing Qualified providers
- ✅ Children currently in Early Head Start Seats in Existing CS and ECEF programs (Continuity of Care)
- ✅ Siblings of current ECEF and City Seats children
- ✅ Children of teachers who work in any Type III center
- ✅ Infants born between July and August
- X New qualifying providers

ECEF & CITY SEATS ALLOCATION UPDATES

Returning City Seats and/or ECEF sites are eligible for seats in the 2026-2027 program year if they met the following criteria through the CFR process initiated in Fall 2025:

- **A 2024-2025 Performance Profile rating of Proficient or higher**
- **An overall CFR score of at least 1.0 out of 3.0 possible points**

Of the returning sites, 47 are eligible for ECEF and/or City Seats seat allocations for 2026-2027*, and one returning site was ineligible due to a Performance Profile rating of Approaching Proficient.

For a full list of qualified returning sites, see the “2026-2027 Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations” handout.

New Sites that were deemed “Eligible for seats if funding is available” via the CFR Seat Application process will not receive seats in 2026-2027 due to insufficient funding.

**These sites will be included in the NOLA-PS ECE Enrollment Application for the 2026-2027 program year.*

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2026-2027 CFR Seat Application Ratings and Scores

Application Ratings

As part of the 2026-2027 CFR Application scoring process conducted from November 2025 - February 2026, NOEEN utilized the following rating scale to determine which sites were most qualified to receive seats in the 2026-2027 program year in alignment with the allocation priorities set by NOEEN and only if funding is available.

Scoring Range	Rating	Outcome
0.99 or less	Unsatisfactory	**Returning Site** - Continuity of Care without Re-Enrollment Eligibility* **New Site** - Not eligible for seats
1.00 - 1.99	Meets Expectations	**Returning Site** - Continuity of Care, Re-Enrollment Eligibility, and eligible for additional seats **New Site** - Eligible for seats if funding is available for seats at new sites The allocation of additional seats will be based upon scoring, with those providers receiving the highest scores being the first eligible to receive additional seats, if available. The NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee and Steering Committee will evaluate provider scores and make decisions regarding allocations in the coming months.
2.00 - 3.0	Exceeds Expectations	

**The program can keep the same children it already has enrolled. It cannot add any new children for the 2026-2027 program year. If a child leaves, that seat goes away; it won't be filled by another child.*

[Language updated for clarity on 7/15/2026]

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 ECEF & CITY SEATS SITES

Recommended Motions

Motion is to approve **all qualified returning sites** to receive ECEF and/or City Seats for the 2026-2027 program year.

Please refer to the “2026-2027 Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations” handout for a list of all qualified Returning Sites is available as a handout.

- **Discussion**
- **Public Comment**
- **Vote**

ECEF & CITY SEATS ALLOCATION NEXT STEPS

Allocation notifications will be sent to qualifying returning providers during the week of July 20, 2026.

Allocation notifications will be sent via email.

Providers will be given information about how to schedule a meeting with the Access and Enrollment team should they have any questions about their 2026-2027 allocations.

RSN UPDATES

<<3:00>>

Member Questions or Comments?

Public Comment?*

**Public comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker. The chair may increase, decrease, or forgo time allotted to speakers, within time constraints.*

VII. OPEN FORUM

OPEN FORUM

<<3:00>>

Member Questions or Comments?

Public Comment?*

**Public comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker. The chair may increase, decrease, or forgo time allotted to speakers, within time constraints.*

FUTURE MEETINGS ('26 – '27)

Steering Committee Meetings

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- **August 19** @ NOLA-PS
- **September 16** @ NOLA-PS
- **October 21** @ NOLA-PS
- **November 18** @ NOLA-PS
- **December 16** @ TBA
- **January 20** @ TBA
- **March 17** @ TBA
- **April 21** @ TBA
- **May 19** @ TBA
- **June 16** @ TBA

Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee Meetings

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- **August 11** @ NOLA-PS
- **September 8** @ NOLA-PS
- **October 12** @ NOLA-PS
- **November 10** @ NOLA-PS
- **December 8** @ NOLA-PS
- **January 12** @ NOLA-PS
- **March 9** @ NOLA-PS
- **April 13** @ NOLA-PS
- **May 11** @ NOLA-PS
- **June 8** @ NOLA-PS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT