NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

MEMORANDUM

To: NOEEN Steering Committee

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

Date: August 18, 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.

- There are currently 170 sites to be observed within the network. Observations are projected to begin on August 26. These observations must be complete, with all scores to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) by December 15, 2026. The projected completion date for Fall 2026 observations is currently being calculated.
- On August 11, 2026, the LDOE launched their new Early Childhood Observation System (ECOS). All CLASS scores, CLASS information, and performance profile information will now be housed in the observation system, ECOS, rather than the previous EC Portal.

The CLASS team has implemented the following strategies to support observations since July 15, 2026:

- Collected updated site, teacher, and classroom information and availability to begin the process of scheduling observations for Fall 2026
- Updated local observation protocol to reflect the 2026 - 2027 observation protocol published by the LDOE on August 11, 2026
- Held annual Fall Observer Meeting to discuss updated policies, protocol and procedures
- Onboarded seven additional CLASS Observers to support timely observation completion
- Held monthly in-person office hours for observers to get real-time support from the NOEEN team

- Supported NOEEN providers integration into the LDOE's new early childhood observation system (ECOS) by creating in-depth guidance documents and hosting walkthrough webinars on August 17th, August 18th, and August 20th

Performance Profiles

According to Louisiana Bulletin 140, lead agencies are required to collect metrics to support the compilation of performance profiles.

The NOEEN team has implemented the following strategies to support the completion of performance profiles since July 15, 2026:

- Collected initial performance profile metrics alongside CLASSroom configurations for the 2026 - 2027 academic year. These metrics will be confirmed around October 1, to align with the LDOE's snapshot date for the academic year

SmartTeach Assessments

In accordance with Bulletin 140, all NOEEN providers must complete assessments with SmartTeach of publicly-funded children enrolled at their site, to be completed by mandated checkpoint dates. The Fall 2026 SmartTeach assessment checkpoint will be held on October 30, 2026.

The NOEEN team has implemented the following strategies to support the completion of SmartTeach assessments since July 15, 2026:

- Sent reminders to providers including resources, necessary data maintenance for the beginning of the academic year, and upcoming checkpoint dates
- 35 of 35 requested SmartTeach transfers were completed to support accurate site rosters in the platform.

Upcoming Events

NOEEN's Fall Provider Convening will be held on September 10, 2026 at the University of Holy Cross Moreau Center. Providers will receive information regarding annual lead agency requirements, the new Infant/Toddler 2nd Edition CLASS tool, and professional development.

The next NOEEN Monthly Provider Drop-In Office Hours will be held today at 1:00pm at the Agenda for Children offices.