NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK (NOEEN)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 19, 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 July 15, 2026 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting.

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote

IV. COMMUNITY NETWORK UPDATES + CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCY (CNLA) UPDATES

July 15, 2026 to Present

LEAD AGENCY UPDATES

CNLA UPDATES

CLASS Observations

- CLASS Observations are scheduled to begin August 26.
- The LDOE launched their new **early childhood observation system (ECOS)** on August 11.

Events

- NOEEN is hosting ECOS walkthrough webinars this week to support providers in account creation.
- The Fall NOEEN Provider Convening will be held on September 10 at UHC's Moreau Center.
- Agenda for Children Provider Drop-In Office Hours will resume this afternoon.

CNLA 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.*

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT UPDATES

July 15, 2026 to Present

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

2026–2027 UPDATES

26-27 ENROLLMENT UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 17, 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	919	13	1000	92%	124	22	183	12	312	5	381	4		
*ECEF	680	10	819	83%	92	40	141	14	235	17	346	41		
EHS	619	4	637	97%	78	0	218	2	341	12				
HS	796	17	929	86%							487	66	448	56
LA4	1,073	13	1280	84%									1280	207
NSECD	323	5	352	92%							68	0	284	24
Total Seats	4,410	62	5,050	87%	298	62	560	28	892	34	1,275	111	2,025	287
					79% Filled		*95% Filled*		*96% Filled*		*91% Filled*		*86% Filled*	

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

2026-2027 Timeline

Sept 2026

Open Enrollment Fall Edition

Ongoing 26-27 verifications placements

Sept 1: *Begin Avela discussion*

Sept 4: *LA4 audit*

Sept 15: *EC School Exploration prep begins*

Sept 15: *Review LA4 open seats for decisions*

Oct 2026

27-28 Application Prep

Ongoing 26-27 verifications placements

Oct 15: *Avela changes finalized*

Oct 15: *EC School Exploration meetings begin*

Nov 2026

Main Round Prep

Ongoing 26-27 verifications placements

Media Campaign begins

EC Mighty Minutes for Families of Tiny Tots

Dec 2026

Main Round Prep

Ongoing 26-27 verifications placements

Staff refresher training

December 1

Guarantees uploaded

December 8

EC Mighty Minutes for Providers of Tiny Tots

December 10

Guarantee Office Hours

EC Mighty Minutes for Families of Tiny Tots

Jan 2027

Main Round Launch

Ongoing 26-27 verifications placements

In person verifications begin

Jan 4: *Main Round Application Opens*

Verifications begin

Jan 9: *EC School Exploration Fair*

Jan 15: *Discrepancy report due from providers*

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

2026-2027 Timeline

Feb 2027
Main Round Closes

Ongoing 26-27 verifications /placements

Feb 19: *Main round app closes for new applications*

Feb 22 - Feb 26: *Document Submission Period for incomplete applications 5pm*

Document review period begins

Mar 2027
Main Round Match Prep

Ongoing 26-27 verifications /placements

Mar 12: *Document Review period ends 5pm Main Round Application closed*

Mar 12: *Incomplete Family Messages (Getting Ready for Open Enrollment)*

By Mar 13: *Priorities confirmed by NOLA-PS*

Office Hours will be held

Mar 19: *Final guarantee review due*

Apr 2027
Main Round Results Released

Ongoing 26-27 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 2027
Open Enrollment Prep

Ongoing 26-27 verifications/ placements

May 3: *Deactivation Requests begin for declined seats*

May 21:*Registration Deadline*

Deactivation Requests begin families who missed registration deadline

May 31: *2025-2026 Open Enrollment Ends*

2026-2027 *application closes*

June 2027
Open Enrollment

Ongoing 26-27 verification/ placements

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

TBD: Open Enrollment begins (City Seats, ECEF)

Summer In-person verifications

TUESDAYS in JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

Open Enrollment Placement

June 1, 2026

- New Placement Offers – EHS, HS, LA4, NSECD, PK4PF, PK4T2, T(LA) & T(OR)
  - Daily Offers: June 1st – 12th offers were made daily
  - Standard Offer Cadence: Resumed Monday, June 15th

July/August 2026

- New Placement Offers – CS, ECEF
  - Daily Offers: July 21st - August 7th offers were made daily
  - Standard Offer Cadence: Resumed Monday, August 10th

Standard Offers Cadence: offers are made on Mondays & Thursdays (families have 3 business days to accept/decline an offer)

Waitlist Management

September 1, 2026

Avela will remove school choices from applications of students with accepted seats.

- This change is meant to help reduce waitlists and give students a better chance of securing a placement.
- Communication to families (email & text) will be sent via Avela, in addition to messaging on the Early Childhood website.
- We encourage families to use the Seat Availability Chart to make informed decisions based on waitlist length and available seats.

Waitlist Management

Students with Placements

- Students with a placement in their first-choice center/school will be removed from all waitlist.
- Students with placements in their second through eight-choice center/school will remain waitlisted for their eligible, highest ranked center/school.

Students without Placements

- Students will remain waitlisted for all their school choices until they accept a placement

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

EVENTS

August Events

ReNEW Moton

August 7, 2026

8550 Curran Blvd

New Orleans, LA 70127

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

1:00 PM cutoff so we can finish everyone who made it before 1 by 1:30 PM – out of respect for host location

Total Community Action

August 21, 2026

1416 S Norman C Francis Pkwy

New Orleans, LA 70125

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Mahalia Jackson Elementary School

August 14, 2026

2405 Mahalia Jackson Ave

New Orleans, LA 70113

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

1:00 PM cutoff so we can finish everyone who made it before 1 by 1:30 PM – out of respect for host location

KIPP East

August 28, 2026

6519 Virgilian St,

New Orleans, LA 70126

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

1:00 PM cutoff so we can finish everyone who made it before 1 by 1:30 PM – out of respect for host location

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

WE WOULD LIKE TO HOST AN EARLY LEARNING VERIFICATION EVENT AT YOUR SITE!

Are you interested in providing essential support to families in your community? The NOLA-PS Early Learning & Childcare Team is looking to partner with local centers and schools to host Early Learning Verification events.

Host an In-person Event

INTERESTED?

Contact us today by sending an email to hkelly@nolapublicschools.com (with the subject line (“Host Verification Event”) to learn more and schedule an event at your site.

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COORDINATED ENROLLMENT UPDATES

<<3:00>>

Member Questions or Comments?

Public Comment?*

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READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING

READY START NETWORK (RSN) UPDATES

July 15, 2026 to Present

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

2026-2027 CFR SEAT ALLOCATIONS

Activities to Date

ECEF & CITY SEATS ALLOCATION ACTIVITIES TO DATE

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.

July 2026
The NOEEN Steering Committee reviewed how the established priorities informed seat allocation decisions in response to this year's funding reduction and then approved the 2026-2027 program year ECEF and City Seats sites.

August 2026
The NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee reviewed and approved 2026-2027 CFR reallocation strategies for unfilled seats.

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
- New qualifying providers

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

2026-2027 CFR SEAT ALLOCATIONS

Reallocation of Unfilled Seats

2026-2027 CFR SEAT REALLOCATIONS: LDOE REQUIREMENTS & CFR SEAT REALLOCATION PROCESS

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) requires that all City Seats and ECEF Seats allocated for the 2026-2027 program year are filled by September 15, 2026.

NEW - CFR Seat Reallocation Process: In response to the LDOE requirement, a reallocation process was created to ensure that all allocated seats are filled by this date.

As part of this process, providers who received ECEF and/or City Seats were notified that all 2026-2027 ECEF or City Seats not filled by September 15, 2026 are subject to reallocation to other sites. This notification was included in their 2026-2027 Allocation Letter distributed on July 22, 2026.

NEW - Change of Allocation Request Form: Providers who wanted to change their 2026-2027 allocations were required to complete a "Change of Allocation Request Form." These forms were sent out on Thursday, July 30 and had to be returned by Tuesday, August 4 by 5:00 p.m.

2026-2027 CFR SEAT REALLOCATIONS: ALLOCATION CHANGES TO DATE

Since original seat allocations went out on July 22, 2026, the total number of allocated seats has decreased for two reasons: providers decreased their allocations from their original requests (via Change of Allocation Forms), and one provider's unexpected permanent closure on July 31, 2026.

Further reductions are likely. Providers have until September 15 to fill their allocated seats; any seats still unfilled after that deadline will be subject to additional reallocation.

Given this deadline and the reductions already underway, we need a strategy now for reallocating seats for the 2026-2027 program year.

2026-2027 CFR SEAT REALLOCATIONS: NOEEN COORDINATED SUBCOMMITTEE ROLE

During the August Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee, the Subcommittee reviewed and approved reallocation strategies for the 2026-2027 program year.

The initial seat allocations included the implementation of 7 out of the 8 total 2026-2027 Publicly-Funded Seat Allocation Priorities developed by the NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee in December 2025. The remaining priority, Priority 8, is **allocating seats to new providers**.

In alignment with the priorities set forth by the Subcommittee, and based on the funding available, the Subcommittee approved the following reallocation strategies:

- Unallocated/returned ECEF and City seats will be allocated to the 3 new providers who have the highest 2026-2027 CFR Seat Application scores.
    - These providers will receive a matched allocation of City and ECEF seats for the 2026-2027 program.
- As of September 15, any unfilled seats will be used at the seat administrator's discretion to accomplish priorities such as sibling unification, target changes based on demand, and reallocation of funding to quality initiatives (for ECEF seats only).

2026-2027 CFR SEAT REALLOCATIONS: NOEEN STEERING COMMITTEE ROLE

The NOEEN Steering Committee is tasked with approving 2026-2027 Sites for Reallocation of ECEF and City Seats Unfilled Seats.

The following new providers have the highest CFR Seat Application Scores and therefore are recommended for reallocation of ECEF and City Seats unfilled seats.

Recommended Site	26/27 CFR Seat Application Score
JumpStart Child Development Center	2.50
Future Scholars Academy	2.21
Holy Anointed House of Prayer Early Learning Center	2.21

2026-2027 CFR SEAT REALLOCATIONS: NOEEN STEERING COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM

Approval of 2026-2027 Sites for Reallocation of ECEF and City Seats Unfilled Seats

Suggested Motion: Motion is to approve the recommended sites for reallocation of ECEF and City Seats unfilled seats for the 2026-2027 program year.

- ➢ Discussion
- ➢ Public Comment
- ➢ Vote

**Only seat funding from ECEF seats can be reallocated because a total of 1,000 City Seats must be allocated and enrolled during the 2026-2027 program year.*

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES

July 15, 2026 to Present

MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES

- ECE Leaders Exchange (10-member cohort) wrapped its final session in June, with participants presenting leadership growth plans; a new cohort starts Fall 2026.
- 47 educators received scholarships to attend FrogStreet Splash conference (July 30–Aug 1, Grapevine, TX).
- One on-site PD workshop for 11 participants, plus the 3-day "Every Moment Matters" conference (30+ educators).
- Wage Enhancement Round 11 completed, $1,000 stipends to 965 educators (covering March–May 2026 work), bringing the year's cumulative total to $2,280,000 across ~1,056 educators.
- Three facility grant agreements signed in July: Cream of the Crop ($50K Facility Improvement), Open Minds Open Hearts Daycare ($75K Expansion), Future Scholars Academy ($75K Expansion).
- ~60 hours of direct technical assistance provided to providers in July on siting, zoning, permitting, and facilities-grant applications.
    - Cumulative facilities progress to date: 4 completed, 9 under construction, 12 in permitting/bid solicitation, 7 in technical assistance/design — out of 32 total conditionally/confirmed awarded projects ($3.225M total).

V. SUBCOMMITTEE + WORKING GROUP REPORTS

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

July 15, 2026 to Present

AUGUST COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee met on August 11, 2026.

- 10 out of 11 members were present
  - 4 attendees were proxies
- Meeting topics included
  - 2026 - 2027 Enrollment
  - Enrollment Resources
  - 2026-2027 CFR Seat Allocations
- Members discussed: inclusion of Spanish-speaking families, discussed new Louisiana Department of Education requirements and their impact, family requirements, and continuity of care.

The next meeting will be held on September 8, 2026.

VII. OPEN FORUM

OPEN FORUM

<<3:00>>

Member Questions or Comments?

Public Comment?*

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FUTURE MEETINGS ('26 – '27)

Steering Committee Meetings

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- **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.

- **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