NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

MEMORANDUM

To: NOEEN Steering Committee

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

Date: September 15, 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 170 sites to be observed within the network
- The CLASS team has conducted 138 of 613 required observations to be conducted by NOEEN-Contracted Observers. 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 November 16, 2026.

The CLASS team has implemented the following strategies to support observations since August 19, 2026:

- Held monthly in-person office hours for observers to get real-time support from the NOEEN team
- Completed 38 double coded observations in compliance with LDOE requirements, 3 of which were conducted alongside the Senior Manager of Observation Quality for additional quality feedback for new observers.
- Completed 19 calibrations to support accurate scoring

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 August 19, 2026:

- Sent individualized notices to providers with reminders of historic compliance, resources, necessary data maintenance for the beginning of the academic year, and upcoming checkpoint dates
- 61 of 61 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 August 19, 2026:

- This September, ECHO Fund launched the 2026 PDG Family Summit ECHO Fund that is designed to support child care providers in Orleans Parish in planning and hosting a Family Summit that will strengthen partnerships between families, educators, and community networks. The grant includes up to $5000 for the Family Summit event and up to $3000 for materials/resources for families.
- The ECHO Fund will offer other grant opportunities during the 2026–2027 Program Year. Additional ECHO Fund opportunities will provide targeted support for early learning programs, educators, and administrators with a focus on strengthening program quality, supporting workforce retention, advancing professional development, and enhancing family resources. Further information on eligibility and application will be shared through the year.

Upcoming Events

The next NOEEN Monthly Provider Webinar will be held on October 1, 2026 (calendar invite). Providers will receive information regarding:

- Child Count
- SmartTeach Assessments
- CLASS Observations

The next NOEEN Monthly Provider Drop-In Office Hours will be held on Wednesday, October 21 at 1 p.m. at the Agenda for Children Offices at 8300 Earhart Blvd.