NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK (NOEEN)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 16, 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

ACTION ITEM: ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion is to adopt the draft minutes from the August 19, 2026 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting

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

**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.*

IV. COMMUNITY NETWORK UPDATES + CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCY (CNLA) UPDATES

August 19, 2026 to Present

LEAD AGENCY UPDATES

CNLA UPDATES

CLASS Observations

- 138 of 613 required observations to be conducted by NOEEN completed as of September 15, 2026. The projected completion date is November 16, 2026.

SmartTeach

- SmartTeach assessments must be completed on October 30, rather than October 31, as mandated by the LDOE.

ECHO Fund Grants

- This September, the 2026 PDG Family Summit ECHO Fund launched. This Orleans-exclusive grant is designed to support child care providers 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. Applications are currently in review.

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT UPDATES

August 19, 2026 to Present

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

2026–2027 UPDATES

26-27 ENROLLMENT UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 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	991	4	1000	99%	84	2	202	2	335	1	379	0		
*ECEF	743	13	807	92%	83	17	150	3	249	13	325	18		
EHS	634	5	644	98%	78	0	225	1	341	4				
HS	838	6	940	89%							492	41	448	55
LA4	1,175	17	1,280	92%									1,280	88
NSECD	338	3	352	96%							73	0	279	11
Total Seats	**4,719**	**48**	**5,023**	**94%**	**246**	**19**	**577**	**6**	**925**	**18**	**1,269**	**59**	**2,007**	**154**
* Hoffman and seats given back – numbers slightly off					***92% Filled***		***99% Filled***		***98% Filled***		***95% Filled***		***92% 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

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING

READY START NETWORK (RSN) UPDATES

August 19, 2026 to Present

READY START NETWORK UPDATES

The Louisiana Department of Education's 2027 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year nomination portal is now open.

The Department is requesting that all members of Early Childhood Community and Ready Start Networks and the field at large submit nominations for teacher and leader of the year

Potential nominees may include teachers and leaders who are active and engaged within your network; consistently participate in coaching and professional learning opportunities; demonstrate a willingness to learn, grow, and strengthen their practice; apply feedback and new learning within their program or classroom; demonstrate a strong commitment to providing high-quality early childhood experiences; stand out through their dedication to children, families, and their early childhood program.

Nominations are open now through October 6 and can be submitted using this link.

MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES

August 19, 2026 to Present

2027 CNO BUDGET

AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

CEA #K22-756 Millage Funded City Seats Expansion - Year 5 (CNO 2027)
Program Year July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028

CEA Category	Year 5 Budget (proposed 9.15.26)
Millage Administrative Cost and Evaluation	**$1,024,959**
Student Enrollment and Programmatic Payment	**$12,120,000**
Comprehensive Wraparound Services	$2,500,000
Site-Based Practice-Based Coaching and Support	$570,000
Mental Health Services	$330,000
Family Engagement and Outreach	$50,000
Professional Development and Support for Directors & Educators - Programming/Training	$300,000
Medical, Social Work, and Disability Intervention, Services, and Referrals + Vision/Hearing Screenings + Transportation Support	$1,100,000
ASQ Screening Materials	$2,500
Data System (Enrollment/Attendance Monitoring)	$70,000
City Seats Intensive Services Seat Bank / Special Education Supports	$65,500
Partner Convening Costs + Supplies	$12,000
Family Navigation and Engagement Support	$500,000
Coordinated Enrollment	**$1,000,000**
Capacity Building to Expand Quality	$4,355,041
Zoning/Permitting Support and Administration	$130,000
Professional Development & Continuing Education (Coaching and Support, all sites)	$530,000
Facilities Grants, Technical Assistance, and Administration	$845,000
Professional Development and Support for Directors & Educators - Programming/Training	$350,000
27-28 City Seats ECHO Program Grants	$500,000
Wage Enhancement Educator Stipends	$1,880,000
Wage Enhancement Administration, Monitoring, and Support	$120,041
TOTAL	**$21,500,000**

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF CNO BUDGET

Motion is to approve the proposed 2027-2028 Millage Budget.

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

**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.*

V. SUBCOMMITTEE + WORKING GROUP REPORTS

COORDINATED FUNDING REQUEST (CFR) WORKING GROUP

August 19, 2026 to Present

COORDINATED FUNDING REQUEST WORKING GROUP

The Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Working Group was held on September 1, 2026.

19 providers met and developed recommendations for the 2027-2028 CFR Process, ensuring that the process continues to be:

- Responsive
- Impartial
- Transparent

COORDINATED FUNDING REQUEST WORKING GROUP

The Working Group created preliminary recommendations in the following categories: Overall Feedback, CFR Scoring, CFR Seat Allocation Priorities, ECEF and City Seats Administration, and other recommendations.

- A list of all preliminary recommendations was included with the September NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee meeting materials, are included with today's Steering Committee materials, and will also be available on the NOEEN website.
- During the September meeting, the Subcommittee reviewed the overall feedback and the recommendations from the Working Group related to the CFR Scoring Process.
- Recommendations from the other categories will be reviewed in subsequent Subcommittee meetings.

These preliminary recommendations are currently under final review by the Working Group members and final recommendations will be shared at the October NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee and Steering Committee meetings.

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

August 19, 2026 to Present

SEPTEMBER COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee met on September 8, 2026. The topic of the meeting was the 2027-2028 Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Framework Development

- 9 out of 11 members were present
  - 2 attendees were proxies

- 24 members of the public were in attendance
  - 6 made public comment related to the Coordinated Funding Request Process

2027-2028 CFR PROCESS DEVELOPMENT: OVERVIEW

Each fall the annual development of the annual NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Process begins.

This process begins with the following activities:

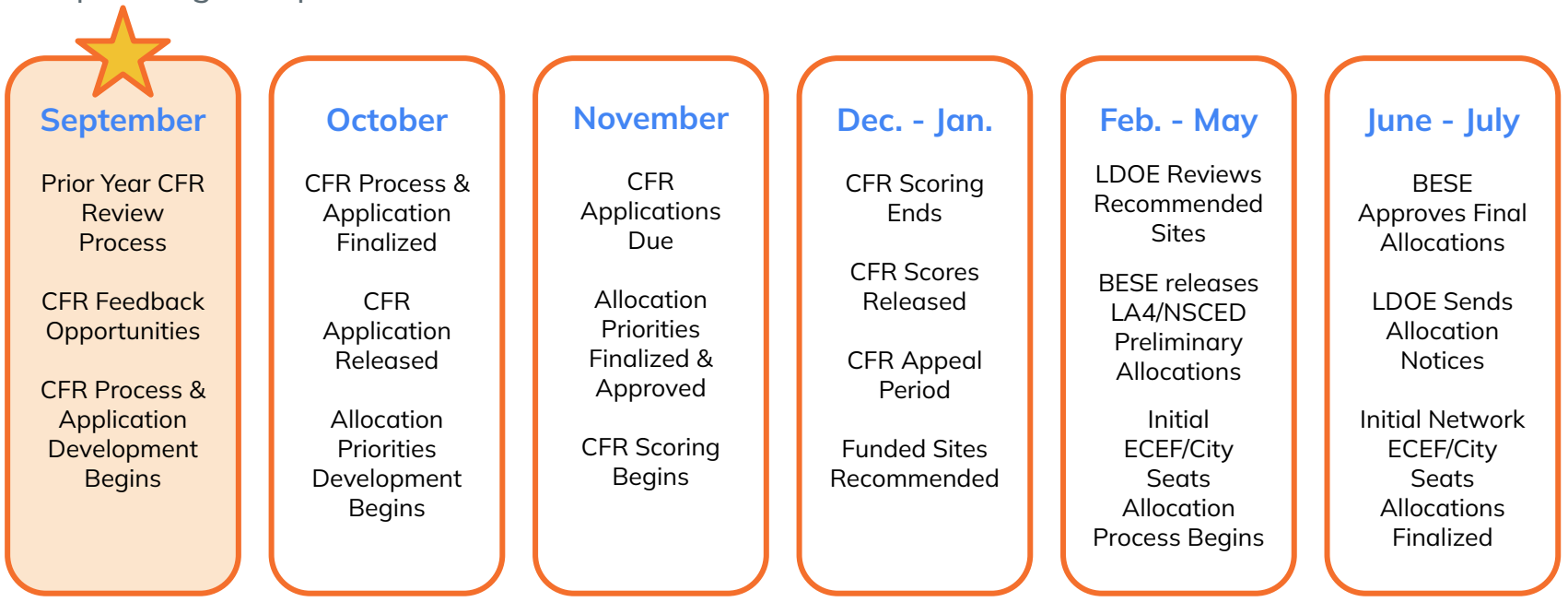
- The implementation of the CFR Working Group and resulting CFR recommendations
- The review of the prior year's CFR process and application
- The development of a CFR process framework and application for the current program year, focused on access for the following program year.

This year's CFR process will determine which sites are eligible to receive publicly funded seats during the 2027-2028 program year.

2027-2028 CFR PROCESS DEVELOPMENT: TIMELINE

The Coordinated Funding Request begins each fall for the following program year.

The CFR Process that is being developed now is for the 2027-2028 program year. This process begins by implementing opportunities for providers and stakeholders to provide feedback about the former and upcoming CFR process.



Final allocations for LA4 and NSECD are contingent upon state funding and approvals. ECEF and City Seats allocations are contingent upon local funding and NOEEN approval.

2027-2028 CFR PROCESS DEVELOPMENT: COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE ROLE

The Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee is tasked with developing the framework for the 2027-2028 Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Process.

During the September meeting, subcommittee members completed the following activities to develop the framework:

- Reviewed the 2026-2027 CFR Process and proposed changes to the 2027-2028 CFR Process.
- Reviewed the 2026-2027 CFR Seat Application Rubric and proposed changes to the 2027-2028 CFR Seat Application Rubric.

The Subcommittee also reviewed recommendations from the 2027-2028 CFR Working Group and will continue to do so at each stage within the development of the 2027-2028 CFR Process framework.

SEPTEMBER COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

As part of, and in addition to, discussion related to the development of the CFR Framework, members discussed:

- anticipated funding changes,
- previously established priorities based on various funding scenarios,
- projected timelines, funding advocacy efforts,
- LA4/NSECD communication,
- and scoring priorities for the upcoming CFR.

The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2026.* During this meeting, the subcommittee will

- vote on the proposed changes to the 2027-2028 CFR Application Process and Rubric
- begin developing allocation priorities for the 2027-2028 program year

**Note: Meetings will now be held on Wednesdays to support member attendance.*

VII. OPEN FORUM

OPEN FORUM

- 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.

- **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. *NOW ON WEDNESDAYS!*

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT