Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

September 12, 2018

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Louisiana Believes

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

Quarter 2 - 2018

Early Childhood Community Networks

Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department and Community Networks worked together to close out the 2017-2018 school year.

Supported Close Out of the 2017-2018 School Year:

- Teachers completed the third and final checkpoint for Teaching Strategies *GOLD®*.
- Lead agencies coordinated 5,239 local *CLASS*™ observations while programs reviewed scores and provided debriefs to sites.
- Lead agencies worked closely with the Department through office hours and supervisor collaborative events and teacher leader summit.

Completed Coordinated Enrollment Activities:

- Communities completed Coordinated Information Campaigns, providing information to families regarding enrollment.
- Communities participated in meetings with the Department to continue to improve their system for coordinating and supporting enrollment.

Early Childhood Community Networks

Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department and Community Networks began preparing for new changes that will be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year.

Next Steps for TS GOLD®:

- Based upon lessons learned from the GOLD® Abbreviated Pilot, the Department developed a plan for GOLD® implementation in 2018-2019.
- Users of GOLD® in 2018-2019 will be under one license but will continue to have the flexibility. .
- The Department released 2018-2019 GOLD Guidance over the summer to support sites in preparing for the new school year.

New Eligibility Guidelines for Pre-K Programs

- BESE aligned the "at-risk" definition for pre-K programs to K-12's "economically disadvantaged" definition through revisions to Bulletin 140 (reviewed by the ECCE Advisory Council in March 2018).
- This increases the income limit for school-based pre-K programs to Medicaid income limits.
- The Department provided guidance for programs that will implement this new change in August.

Supporting Teachers to be Successful

Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has increased the number of professional training opportunities available.

Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs:

- BESE approved three additional Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs, bringing the total to 21 programs statewide. These programs include coursework that counts towards an EC Ancillary Certificate while also embedding high-quality practice and coaching.
- The Department communicated the requirement that child care lead teachers attend BESE-approved Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs to complete CDA training as of July 1.
- A contract for a Statewide Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program was approved by BESE in April, and will launch a pilot in 2019.

Teacher Leader Summit:

- More than 600 early childhood leaders and teachers, representing every community network, attended professional development and collaborated with peers at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit.
- The Early Childhood track featured over 70 interactive sessions focusing on improvement efforts at the classroom, program, and community levels.

Supporting Teachers to be Successful

Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has increased access to instructional supports for child care teachers.

Child Care Curriculum Initiative:

- 165 sites participated in the 2018 Curriculum Initiative purchasing Tier I curriculum kits totaling $447,235.
- The Department announced the plan to continue supporting the Child Care Curriculum Initiative over the next year, providing ongoing financial support to child care programs seeking to expand their investment in high-quality instructional resources.

Early Childhood Leaders Fellowship:

- The Department competed in the Zaentz Early Ed Innovation Challenge at Harvard University in June, winning second place and grant funding to launch the Early Childhood Leaders Fellowship.
- The fellowship is expected to be piloted in 2019, and will provide instructional leadership training and support designed for child care directors working in Type III centers.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Grant

Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has continued to support families through the Child Care Assistance Program, and monitor the progress of the CCAP Waiting List.

CCDF Funding- Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018

- Louisiana received a one-time allotment of an additional $39 million in CCDF funds.
- Louisiana must use some of the funding to support quality in early childhood programs.
- In July 2018, the Department conducted a survey requesting the input of stakeholders on prioritizing the use of these one-time funds.
  - Top priority for funds was to assist with the wait list, followed by reimbursement for CCCBC, and assistance with scholarships for teachers and directors.
  - 700 responses were collected, with the majority of responses coming from child care providers.
- At least $27 million of these funds will help serve children on the CCAP waiting list.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) - Update on the Waiting List

- At the beginning of August, the Louisiana Department of Education Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) began the process of removing and serving 4,500 children from the CCAP waiting list.
- Newly eligible families from the waitlist began accessing child care using the new CCAP funding on September 4, 2018.

Supporting Child Care Centers

Key Activities in Quarter 2

A Licensing Task Force conducted a comprehensive review of Bulletin 137 resulting in revisions that were reviewed by the ECCE Advisory Council and BESE this spring.

- The ECCE Advisory Council met on May 17, 2018 to review several proposed updates to Bulletin 137, *Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations.*
- In June, BESE approved the revisions to Bulletin 137. These new changes are expected to become effective in October. The Department will conduct provider training prior to the effective date.

KEY REVISIONS OF BULLETIN 137
Establish consistent child/staff ratios and group sizes for all licensed early learning centers.
Align Director Requirements with the new Ancillary Teaching Certificate.
Ensure that video recordings are reviewed in response to investigations of specific complaints or incidents.
Allow flexibility for obtaining necessary approvals from Department of Health and Fire Marshal.
Align screen time to be more in line with new recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Establish consistent age requirements for staff to be a minimum of 17 years old.

Child Care Criminal Background Check

Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) changes in Bulletin 137 and 139 became effective March 1, 2018.

Components of a Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) – A CCCBC includes:

1. La. Bureau's criminal history record information (CHRI);
2. FBI CHRI;
3. National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR);
4. La. Sex Offender Registry;
5. A request for a search of the La. State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry (SCR); and
6. The following in each state in which the individual has resided in the past five years: state criminal repository, state sex offender registry, and state child abuse and neglect registry.

Based on a review of these results, the Department determines whether an individual is eligible or ineligible for child care purposes. The determination is good for five years.

The CCCBC team processed 14,000 CCCBC applications during April, May, and June. That number has consistently increased as our September 30th deadline approaches.

Child Care Development Fund State Plan

Key Activities in Quarter 2

The CCDF State Plan is a document that states use to demonstrate how they comply with regulations set forth by the Administration of Children and Families, Office of Child Care.

Components of the State Plan includes:

1. Promote Family Engagement Through Outreach and Consumer Education
2. Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families
3. Ensure Equal Access to Child Care for Low-Income Families
4. Establish Standards and Monitoring processes To Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
5. Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce
6. Support Continuous Quality Improvement
7. Ensure Grantee Accountability

In May 2018, the draft State Plan was presented to the ECCE Advisory Council and a public hearing was held. The State Plan will be in effect from 10/1/2018-9/30/2021 although amendments can be made.

Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Centers

Monitoring Change Over Time

There has been little change in the number early learning centers. The 2018 Star Ratings are based on the Performance Profile ratings.

	Type I	Type II	Type III
April 2018	289	194	1033
May 2018	283	192	1033
June 2018	284	193	1028

2018 Star Ratings:

0 star	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
16	76	303	386	136	5

Updated on the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

As legislated by Act 639, the Commission membership is comprised of voting and non-voting members that represent needed perspectives to guide this work.

Providers	Advocates	Government	Community
•Family Child Care •Type I or II centers •Type III centers •Head Start and Head Start Collaboration •Nonpublic school program participating in publicly funded early childhood initiatives •School superintendents •Public post-secondary educators	•Community Networks •Early Steps •Maternal Infant Health home visitation •Child advocacy and special education organizations •American Academy of Pediatrics •Early education and intervention researchers	•Governor's Office •House of Representatives •Senators •La. Dept. of Ed., special education and early education •Board of Regents •Louisiana Workforce Commission •Department of Economic Development •Department of Child and Family Services	•Parents of children in a publicly funded early childhood program •Business representatives •Municipality receiving Head Start funding

Commission Outcome

The 38 member Early Childhood Care and Education Commission shall study and make recommendations relative to establishing a vision for the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana, building on the work of Act 3 in 2012.

By the end of the Commission's work together, the goal is to produce a coherent set of recommendations related to:

- Access and Quality: What should be Louisiana's aim as it relates to serving children in high quality settings?
- Governance: How can local governance support enhanced funding and improvement statewide?
- Funding: What will these improvements cost Louisiana?

Commission Outcome

The 38 member Early Childhood Care and Education Commission shall study and make recommendations relative to establishing a vision for the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana, building on the work of Act 3 in 2012.

When conducting analysis and making recommendations relative to a vision and framework, the commission shall do all of the following:

1. Gather and analyze data and develop a plan focused on family access, affordability, and quality.
2. Determine best practices for the purpose of informing the continued development of local governing entities.
3. Determine a sustainable infrastructure to ensure quality programs including workforce and professional development, monitoring and assessment, coordinated enrollment, and data-informed decision making.
4. Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
5. Define a timeframe for achieving the vision and determine benchmarks for the intervening years.
6. Determine the amount of funding needed to achieve affordable access to quality care and education for all children from birth through age four and recommend policies that prioritize the allocation of future funding.

Proposed Work Plan for Commission

There will be five in-person meetings in 2018 led by Chairs and staffed with the LDE.

- Kick-Off: August 1, 2018
- Access to Quality: September 6, 2018
- Local Governance and Infrastructure: October 3, 2018
- Funding: November 5, 2018
- Plan Review of Vision, Recommendations, and Timeline: December 13, 2018

The recommendations will be developed by February 2019, prior to the legislative session.

Commission Reports

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will provide a report with recommendations for the legislature.

- Prior to 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature, the commission shall produce a report of its findings and recommendations.
- Reports will also be provided to governor, member of legislature, state superintendent, and BESE.
- The Department will keep the Advisory Council informed about key updates from the ECCE Commission.

The ECCE Advisory Council will regularly evaluate the implementation of the plan for early childhood care and education established by the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, and provide recommendations to support its implementation.

2018 Community Network Pilot

2018 Early Childhood Community Network Pilot

Because too few children were ready for Kindergarten, Louisiana's legislature passed RS 17:407.23 in 2012, creating Louisiana's Early Childhood Care and Education Network.

- To address these challenges, Louisiana's legislature amended RS 17:407.23, Louisiana's Early Childhood Care and Education Network, during the 2018 regular legislative session.
- On August 31, the Department released a Request for Applications (RFA) asking community networks to step forward and be part of a ground-breaking pilot. The Department will support them to drive improvement by:

  (a) allocating seats locally; and
  (b) providing development through coordinated local governance.
- Applications are due October 8; the Department will work with applicants to refine their applications for final submission November 12; and pilots will be approved December 12 by BESE. The work of these pilots will inform future policy.

2018 Early Childhood Community Network Pilot

Application Process and Timeline

Oct. 8, 2018	Applications are due to the Department.
Oct. 8-12, 2018	Applications are evaluated by the Department's Early Childhood Team, in consultation with key partners.
Oct. 15 - Nov. 12, 2018	• Feedback is provided to all applicants. Applicants chosen to continue on in the selection process will receive initial allocations to begin putting in place a local collaborative governing structure for shared decision-making. • Department and key partners provide guidance to pilot candidates as they work to improve and finalize their applications for full funding which must include plans and a budget to improve access and quality. • Guidance will be provided via meeting, webinars, and teleconferences.
Nov. 12, 2018	Revised, final applications are due to the Department. Applications will be evaluated by the Department's Early Childhood Team, in consultation with key partners. Applicants that do not demonstrate understanding and capacity to conduct the work will not be recommended for expanded funding but may continue to work to be admitted to the next pilot cohort.
Dec. 12, 2018	Pilots are approved by BESE.
Jan. 23, 2019	BESE approves expanded seat allocations for pilots, per the community's plan and 2019-2020 Coordinated Funding Request.