

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission: Update on Legislative Recommendations

August 20, 2019

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Consideration of Report on Year 1 of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission
- V. Consideration of Updates on Priorities for Year 2 of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Adjournment

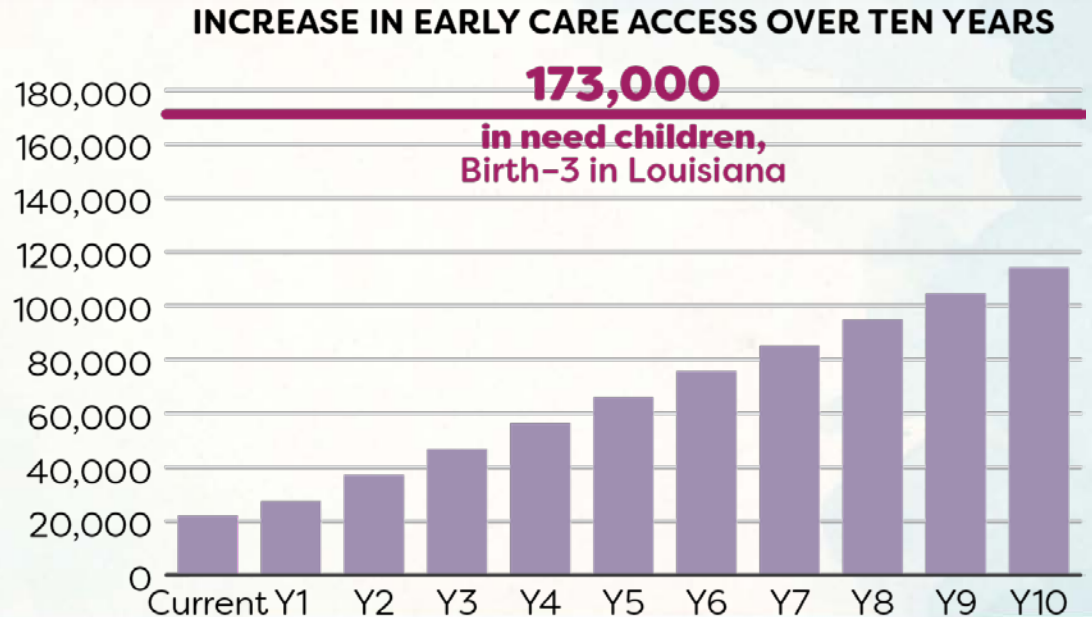


Consideration of Report on Year 1 of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

Year One Commission

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission is charged with establishing the vision of the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana, building on the work of Act 3 (2012).

In year one, the Commission recommended that BESE and the Legislature fund its [LA B to 3 comprehensive state plan](#) with an investment of \$85.8 million and an increase of nearly that amount annually over the next decade. State investment should launch this effort with expanded, combined funding (local, state, federal, philanthropy) thereafter.



Public Awareness

The Commission's recommendations were strongly supported by advocates and media outlets throughout the state.

[Louisiana finally has a plan to pump money into early childhood. So do it](#) (NOLA.com)

[Our Views: Our LA-4 success story, but start with kids earlier](#) (The Advocate)

[La. should focus on child care for youngest children](#) (American Press)

[Guest column: Louisiana lawmakers should get behind early childhood education](#) (Abbie Lieberman per The Advocate)

[Dr. Phillip Rozeman: Education is the elephant in the room](#) (Shreveport Times)

2018-2019 Legislative Session: Four Year Olds

This June, the Louisiana Legislature, for the first time in a decade, increased funding in the annual state budget for early childhood education, with an immediate impact on new and existing service.

Part of the early childhood allocation includes \$8.8 million to fill the void of an expiring federal grant that provides pre-kindergarten services to four-year-old children.

- These funds were allocated at June BESE, and communities are working to enroll 873 children.
- Funding allows for the maintenance of existing service levels for four year olds.

2018-2019 Legislative Session: LA B to 3 Service

\$8.9 million will fund more than 1,400 additional seats for children birth through age 3 currently on the waitlist for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Since June 19, 2019, LDOE removed approximately 1,400 children from the waiting list to begin processing their applications and funding services. As of the end of July, approximately 750 of those children have been authorized for service.

As of July 30th, an additional 552 children have been added to the waiting list.

2018-2019 Legislative Session: CCAP Rate Changes

\$2.3 million will support an important, modest increase in the CCAP rate. Louisiana will raise rates to at least the 25th percentile and, for the first time, create a separate infant rate that more closely represents the cost of care.

This change takes effect September 30, 2019.

Child Care Provider Type	Regular Care <i>Three to twelve years old</i>		Regular Care for Toddlers <i>One to three year old</i>		Regular Care for Infants <i>Up to 12 months</i>	
	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New
Type III Early Learning Center	\$21.50	\$22.00	\$22.50	\$23.75	\$22.50	\$25.00
Family Child Care Provider	\$15.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$16.00	\$18.00
In-Home Provider	\$14.50	\$17.50	\$15.50	\$17.50	\$15.50	\$17.50
School Child Care Center	\$15.00	\$16.50	\$16.00	\$16.50	\$16.00	\$16.50
Military Child Care Centers	\$21.50	\$22.00	\$22.50	\$23.75	\$22.50	\$25.00

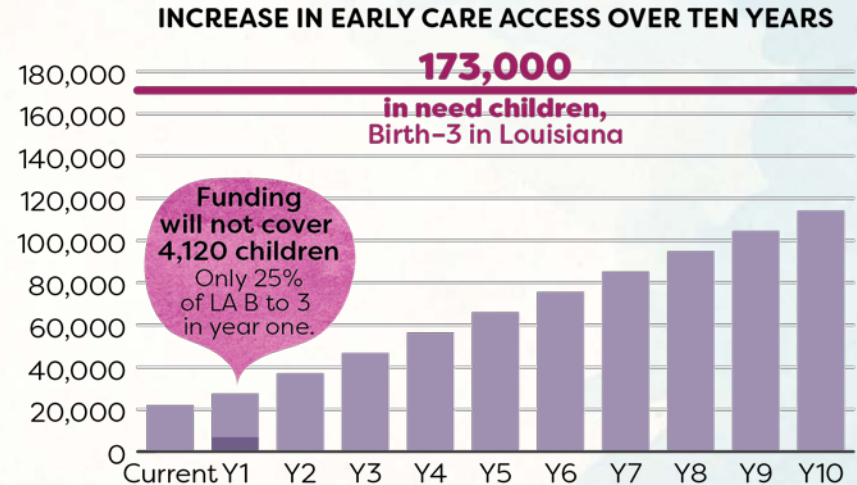
*Special needs rate are set at 26% higher than the base rate as allowed by Bulletin 139, Section 103

Limitations of Funding

While the funding addressed areas of need, there are gaps that have real impacts on Louisiana's families.

Funding did not cover:

- 75% of the Commission's Year One goal, meaning an additional 4,120 children birth to three did not receive services
- A rate increase that significantly expands affordable options for families
- Evidence-based, voluntary family support services for all families



Public Awareness and Collaboration

Public discourse around early childhood funding focused on expanding access to quality, including the Commission's LA B to 3 plan. However, funding secured did not fully address the Commission's recommendation.

- Have you had any opportunities to share about LA B to 3?
- What have you used to share LA B to 3? Are there resources that would be helpful to you?
- How has it been received? What questions were asked?
- What other opportunities to share LA B to 3 will come up over the course of this year?

Louisiana's Policy Institute for Children has partnered with a communications team to develop a toolkit for Commission members to use when talking about LA B-3.



Consideration of Updates on Priorities for Year 2 of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

Considerations for Year Two

The Commission [report](#) named four key areas for study in year two, to strengthen early childhood care and education in Louisiana, that will drive meeting activities.

Locally-driven decision making: The Commission will study the Ready Start pilots where (a) the community establishes a formal local governance structure for shared decision making, (b) continually measures the need for affordable access and available resources and services for children ages birth through four, (c) identifies and maximizes resources and (d) determines how future access and quality dollars should be spent.

Quality: The Commission will study promising practices in evidence-based programs that provide guidance and assist families on healthy development and positive adult-child relationships, particularly for infants and toddlers. Investments should be made in the most effective and impactful programs.

Affordability and Access: The Commission will study best practices, such as shared services, to maximize investments and ensure providers stay in business, while maintaining affordability for families.

Public Awareness and Collaboration: The Commission will identify opportunities for greater collaboration between and coordinated communication from stakeholder groups—state agencies, business and industry, workforce development, philanthropy—to sustain funding.

Considerations for Year Two

The four key areas for the Commission's study in year two, to strengthen early childhood care and education in Louisiana, will drive meeting activities.

Meeting date	Areas of Focus
August 20, 2019 12:00-3:00 pm	<u>Public Awareness and Collaboration</u> through stakeholder engagement <u>Affordability and Access</u> through increased efficiency, including shared services
September 19, 2019 12:00-3:00 pm	<u>Locally-driven decisions</u> through Ready Start Networks <u>Public Awareness and Collaboration</u> toolkit for LA B to 3
October 2019	No whole group meeting. Workgroup as needed.
November 18, 2019 12:00-3:00 pm	Identify funding to support families to access <u>quality</u> evidence-based programs Explore <u>quality</u> resources to support families in their homes
January 30, 2020 12:00-3:00 pm	<i>Review and vote on report appendix</i>

Early Learning Center Challenges

In September of 2018, the Commission heard from early childhood finance expert, Louise Stoney, who shared research and approaches on the industry challenges of early learning centers.

- *Stand-alone centers or homes* - Typically, a single director responsible for many conflicting tasks.
- *Lack of scale* - Small settings may not generate enough revenue to cover costs.
- *High overhead costs* - Direct services require low ratios for the health and safety of all children, resulting in high overhead as a percentage of overall costs, particularly at the youngest ages.
- *Price-sensitive families* - The cost of high quality care is often more than new parents can pay.



State-Sponsored Shared Services

The Department is leveraging its position to build supports that save early learning centers' time and money.

Cost Savings for Early Learning Centers through State Contracts: The Department has created a [website](#) to simplify the process for centers to take advantage of significant cost savings through state purchasing contracts on everything from milk to school buses.

- Since July, 44 centers have been certified as eligible for discounts.
- This fall, the Department of Administration will survey users of the website to identify necessary improvements and collect any reported data on cost savings.

Incubating Shared Services Pilots

The Department is incubating pilots that will build early learning center staffing capacity and deepen quality.

Substitute Teaching Pools: In August, the Department will launch a targeted pilot to explore substitute teaching support for early learning centers. Partner entities will recruit, screen, train, and dispatch substitute teachers to early learning centers participating in the pilot. Centers will compensate subs and maintain licensing compliance.

Shared Administrative Staff: This fall, the Department will launch a targeted pilot to explore shared staffing for early learning centers to help with administrative functions, as well as completion of Child and Adult Care Food Program paperwork.

Removing Policy Barriers: Pilots will help the Department to identify policies that inhibit collaboration between centers for future amendments.

Shared Resources

Two new online resource libraries launching in the Fall of 2019 will help early learning centers build administrative efficiency.

The Directors Toolbox will consolidate guidance from early childhood licensing, accountability, and guidance for funding programs onto one dashboard. New resources will include sample handbooks and budgets.

The Hiring Toolbox will provide customizable documents for centers to use for job postings, interview questions, hiring and training processes, screening protocols, job descriptions, and employee file checklists.

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Public Comment

Next Steps and Adjournment

Next meeting:

September 19, 2019

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.