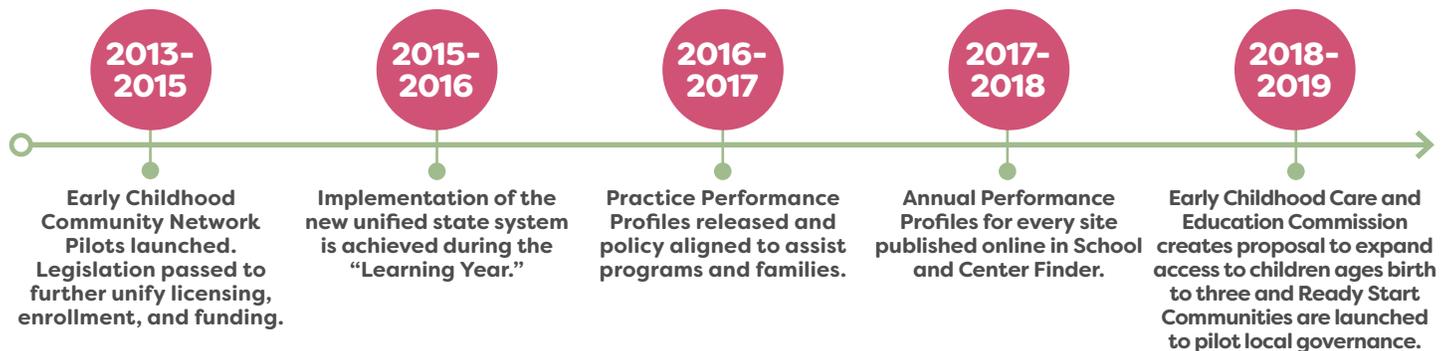




HOW DOES THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Louisiana has established a strong statewide Early Childhood Care and Education Network of all publicly-funded child care, Head Start, and pre-K sites. The network offers:

- 1. Community-based Local Leadership**
Communities collaborate to coordinate across programs making key decisions that engage and inform families and measuring service, demands, and gaps to ensure increased access.
- 2. Unified Quality Rating System**
All publicly-funded sites receive a Performance Profile with a rating based on CLASS® observations and informational metrics on best practices.
- 3. Workforce Support and Preparation**
The Department has established expectations for aligned preparation and training that supports high-quality teacher-child interactions.
- 4. High-Quality Instructional Tools**
Early childhood sites are equipped with expertly reviewed instructional tools, including standards, curriculum, and assessment.



In 2015-2016, only 6 of 10 publicly-funded early care and education programs were rated as Proficient or above.



This number grew to **more than 8 out of 10 in 2017-2018**, which amounts to more than 52,000 children being offered high-quality, publicly-funded early care and education in Louisiana today.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE?

In 2019-2020, the Department is:

- Developing initiatives to expand birth to 3 access.
- Expanding focus on youngest learners with the addition of Infant CLASS® observations.
- Establishing local governance through new Ready Start Networks.
- Incorporating Family Child Care providers into the statewide Early Childhood Network.
- Increasing professionalism for early childhood workforce through new credential requirements and fellowship opportunities.

WHO TO CONTACT?
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