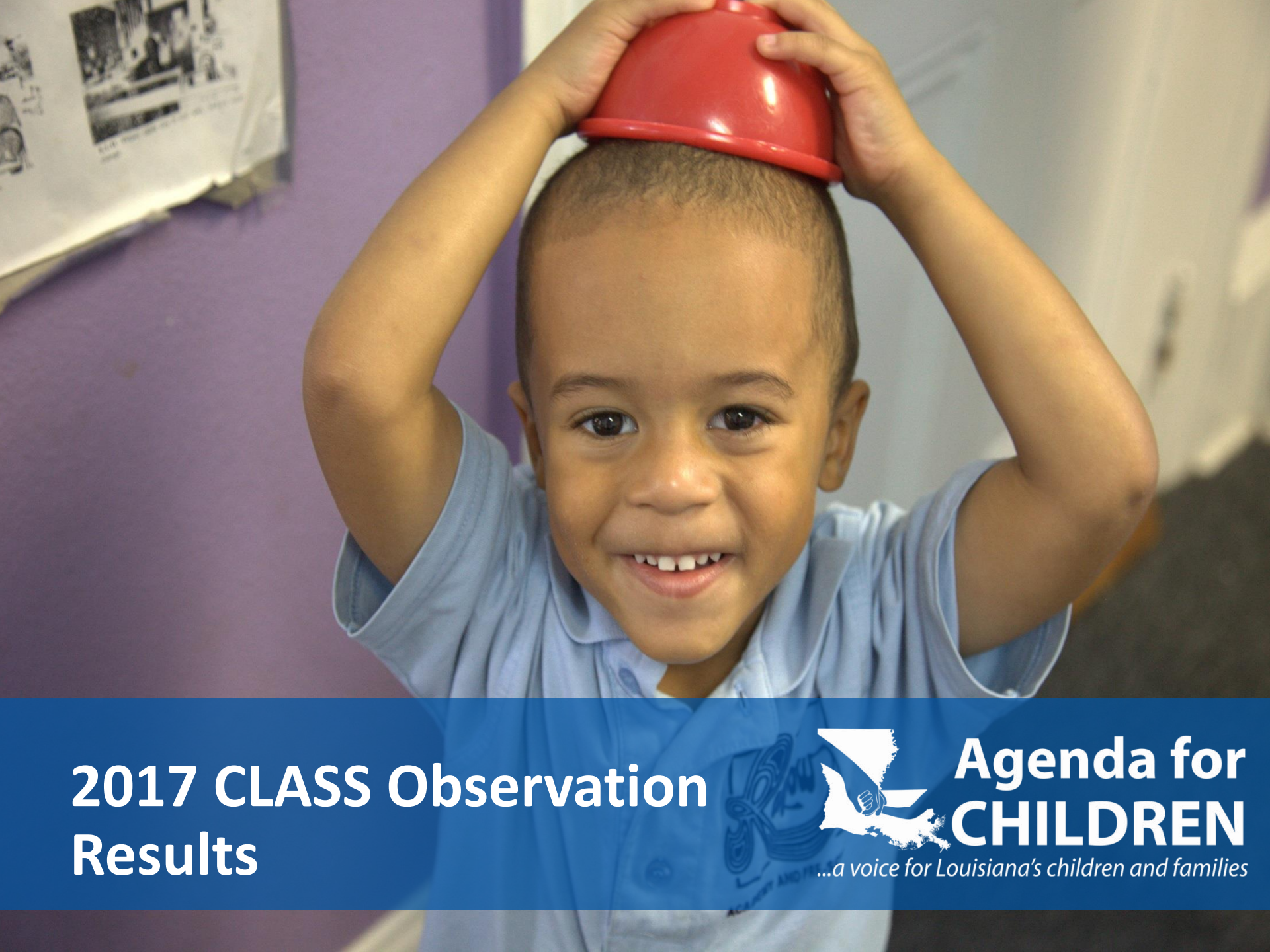


2017 CLASS Observation Results

Agenda for CHILDREN

...a voice for Louisiana's children and families

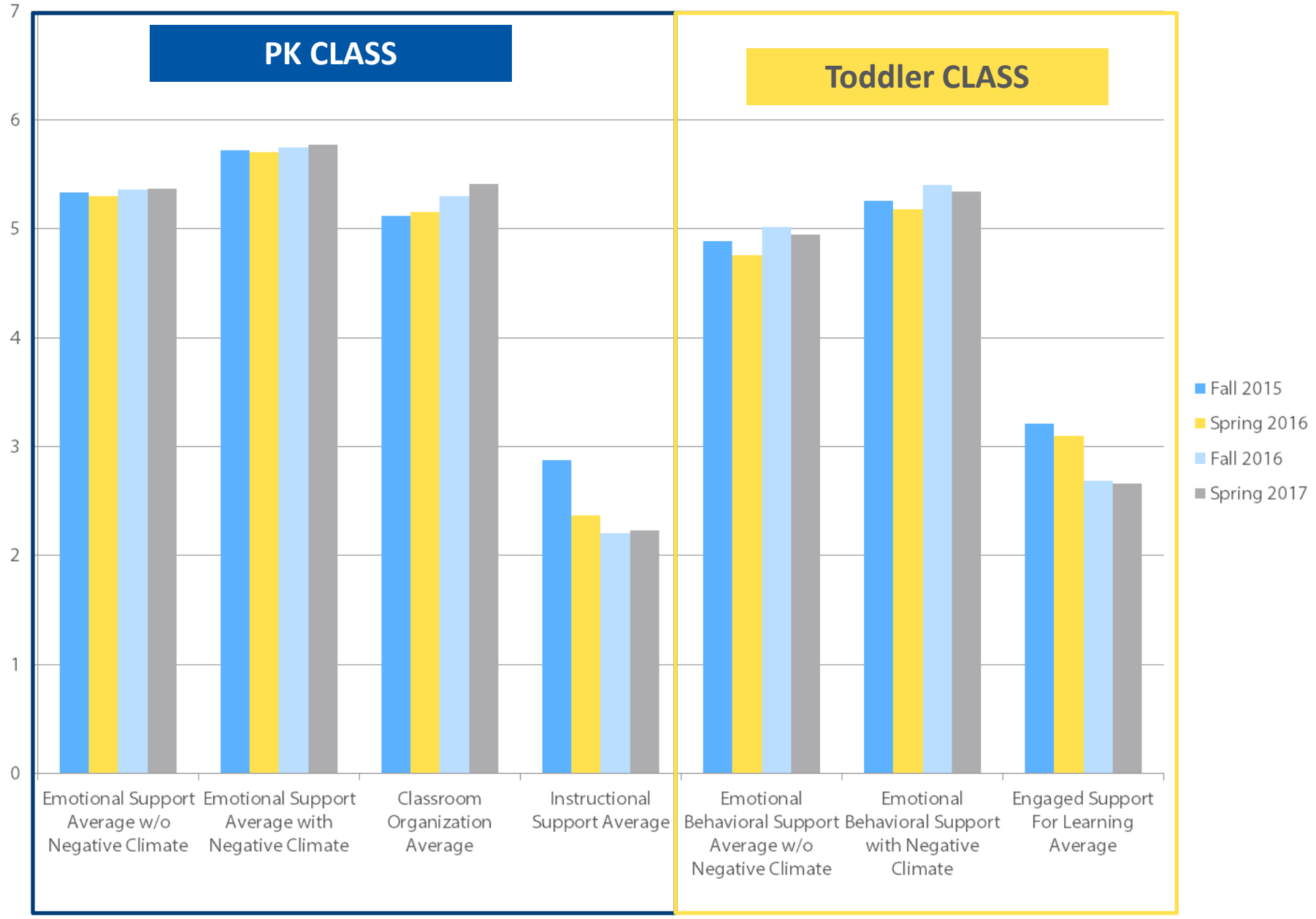
Agenda

- CLASS Observations Overview
- Observer Reliability
- LDE Changes to Support Observer Accuracy
- LDE Efforts to Harmonize Observation Protocol
- LDE Policy Shift to Support Significant Score Improvement
- NOEEN Efforts to Improve Observation Quality & Enhance Transparency
- What's next?

Observations by the Numbers

- **206** Toddler Classrooms
  - ✦ each received 2 local observations
  - ✦ **136** (66%) received both a Local and a Third Party Observation
- **314** PK Classrooms
  - ✦ each received 2 local observations
  - ✦ 215 (68%) received both a local and a Third Party Observation
- **1,391** CLASS observations performed in NOEEN classrooms in the 16-17 school year alone! That's 5,564 cycles.

Average Local NOEEN CLASS scores 2015 - 2017



Reliability Refresher

CLASS is scored on a 7-point scale.

- **What is considered reliable?** Observers must score within one point of the Master Code, 80% of the time, in order to pass the CLASS Observer certification test. The state refers to this as the "2-point band of reliability."
- **How are Third Party Observations used?** LDE is using Third Party observers (Picard) as a "check" on local observations. If the Picard score differs from the local score by more than one point on any domain, the Picard score replaces the local score for that domain.

LDE Standards for Local Observer Reliability vis a vis Picard

Update to Practice

Observers will be excluded from the accountability system if there are two consecutive semesters in which more than 50% of their scores* are replaced.

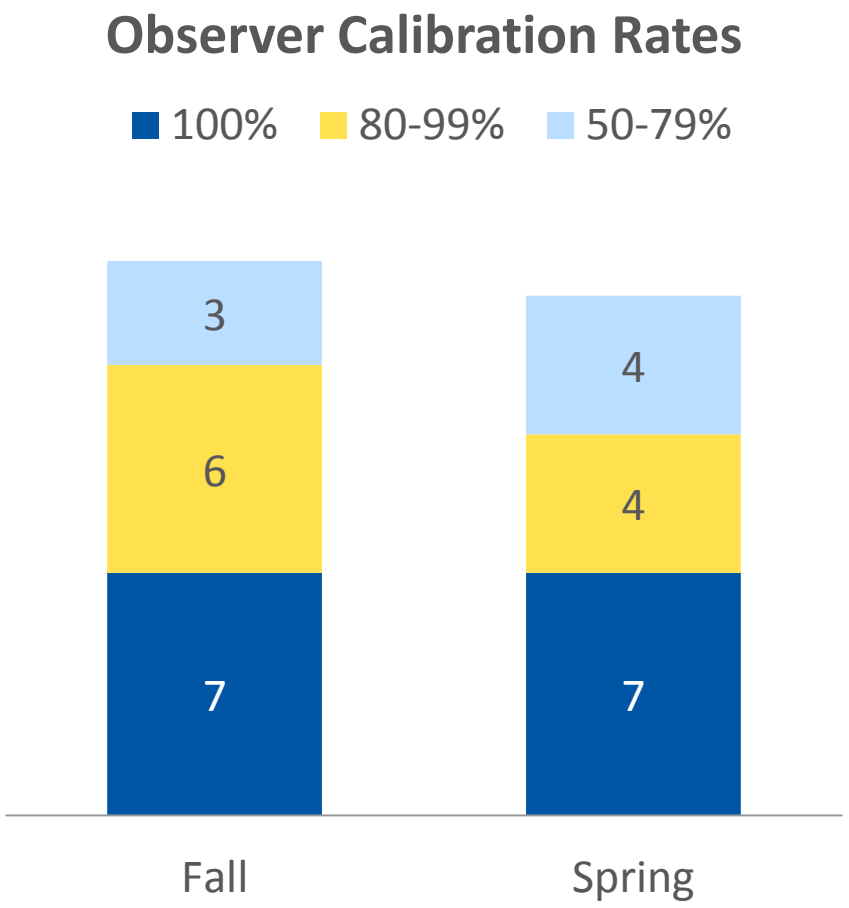
*for which there is a comparable 3rd Party score

Bulletin 140 authorizes-but does not require-the LDE to exclude observers after one semester in which more than 50% of their comparable domain-level scores are replaced.

Calibration Data

Per Bulletin 140, NOEEN observers calibrate twice a year-once each semester.

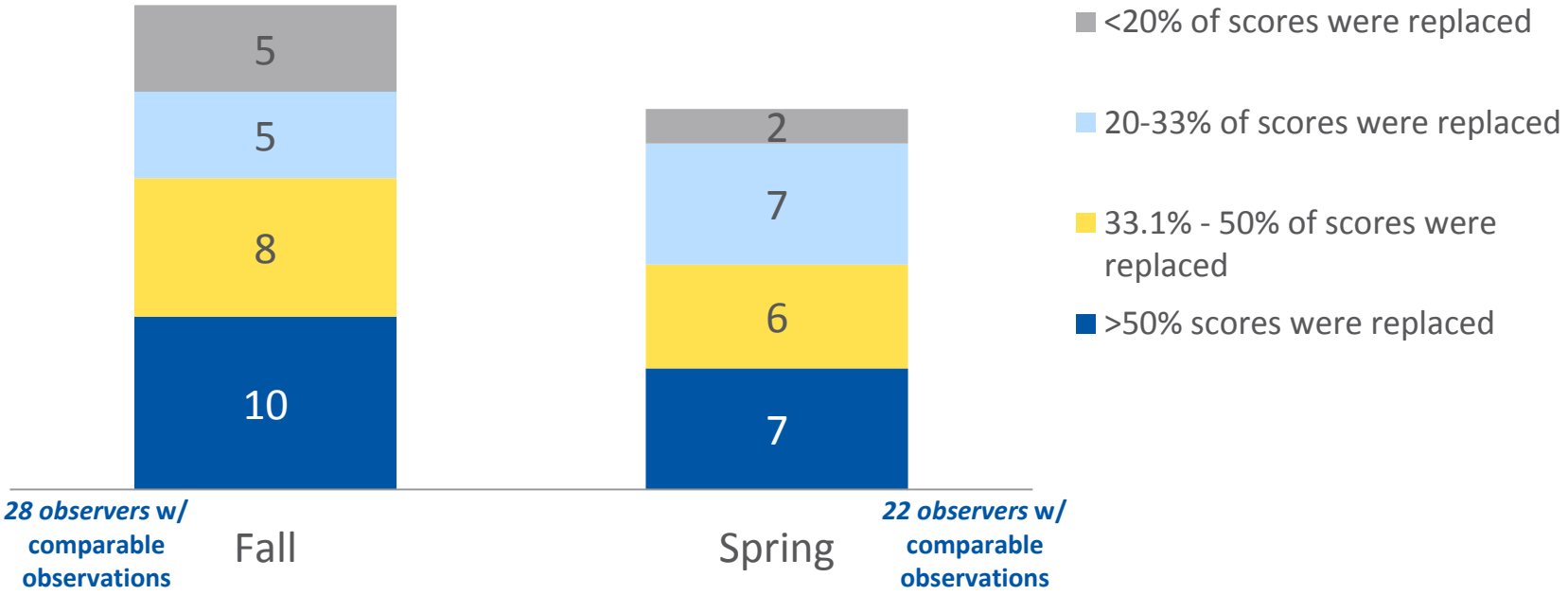
Most observers' calibration scores indicate high levels of reliability.



How Do NOEEN Observers Compare to Third Party Observers?

Replacement Rates for NOEEN Observers

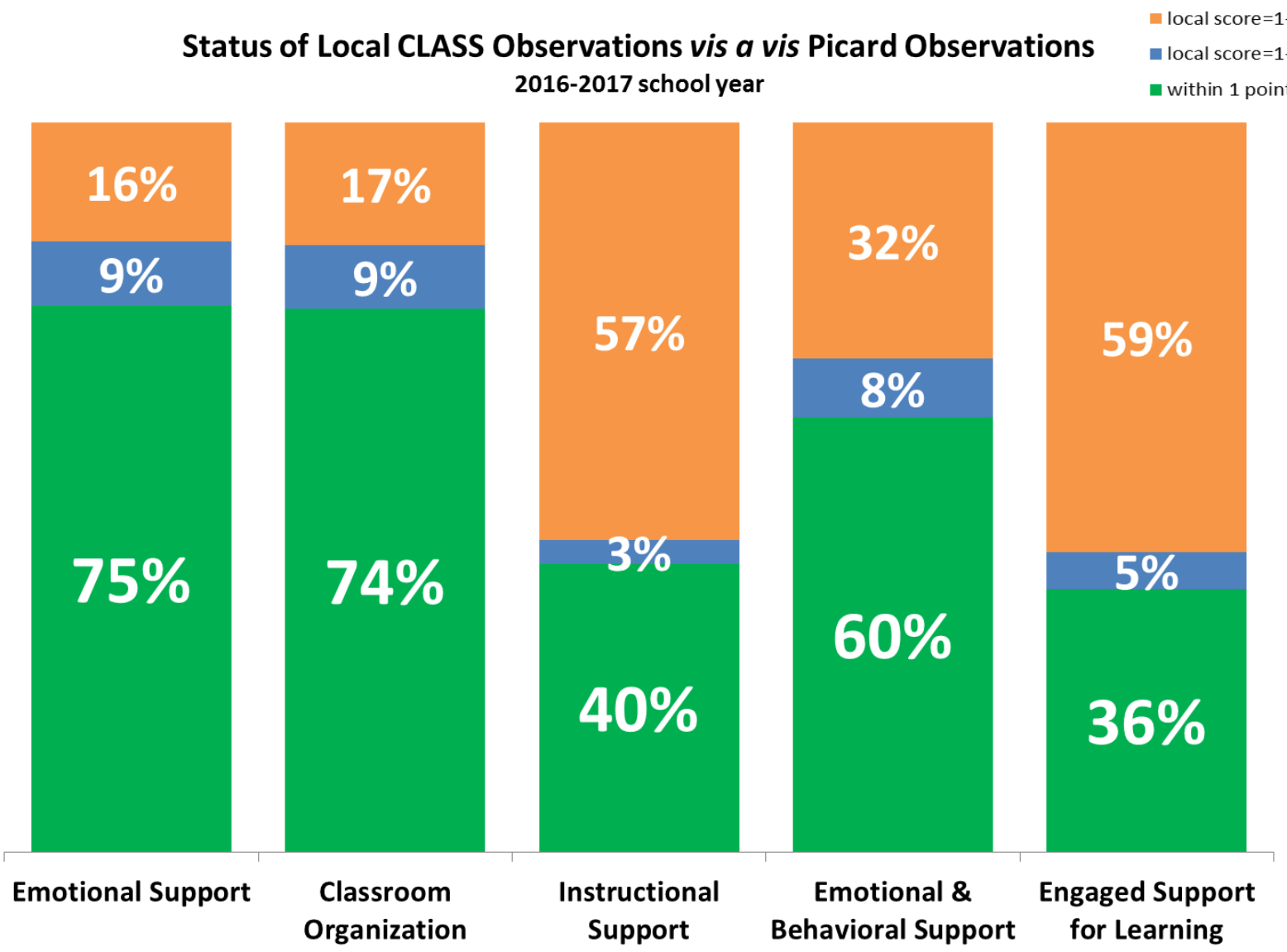
including contracted & partner observers



Two observers did not meet the state's threshold for continuing, meaning more than 50% of their domain-level scores were replaced in both fall and spring.

Status of Local CLASS Observations *vis a vis* Picard Observations

2016-2017 school year



PK

TODDLER

LDE Efforts to Support Observer Accuracy

Original Concern

There may be several months between when a Picard observation is conducted and when the local observation is conducted. Significant changes can occur during that time, including teacher turnover. In the past two years, lead agencies had to submit schedules to LDE for all observations in the beginning of the semester, reducing lead agencies' flexibility in scheduling.

Value

LDE should provide local networks with more flexibility so they can schedule local observations closer to Picard observations. Local observers should also have the opportunity to explain differences between Picard & local scores.

Changes in Practice

1. **Allow Lead Agencies to use just-in-time scheduling.** For example, if a third party observation takes place on September 15th, the Lead Agency could schedule an observation on September 16th.
2. **Allow local observers to explain potential causes for differences at the end of each semester.** For example, the lead teacher may have changed within the semester.

LDE Efforts to Harmonize Observer Protocol

- LDE is working with Lead Agencies to ensure that local observer protocol and third party observer protocols are the same.
- NOEEN will follow third party protocol in the 17-18 school year.

LDE Efforts to Support Significant Improvement

Original Concern

Under the original rules, local observers (and the program) would be "penalized" by having domains replaced if a Picard observation was conducted early in the semester and a classroom achieved 1+ point improvement on a domain by the time a local observation was conducted later in the semester.

Value

LDE wants to ensure there are no disincentives for significant improvement for leaders, teachers, or observers.

Changes in Practice

There will be allowances for significant improvement in scores within a semester. If significant improvement is validated, there will not be any consequences for local observers. Validation may come from an additional third party observation or verification from a program director.

NOEEN's Ongoing Efforts for Observation Improvement & Transparency

Professional Development for Observers

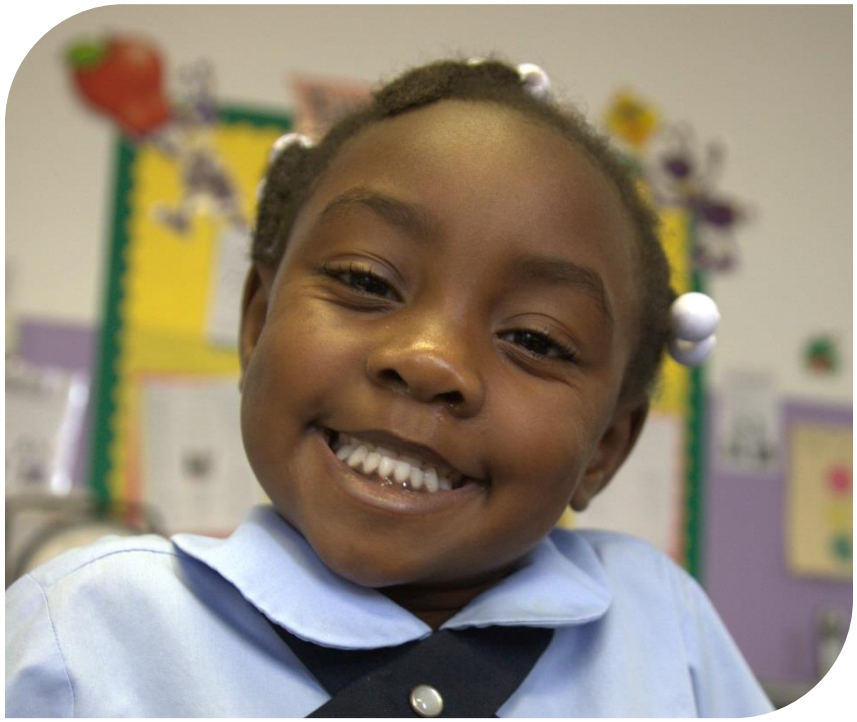
- Observer Professional Learning Community (PLC)
- Each observer is shadow scored at least once a semester
- myTeachstone Resources
- "Performance Profiles" for observers to help them identify strengths & opportunities for improvement

Quality Control & Transparency

- Instituting a clear process for programs to report possible breaches of protocol for local observations
- Reminding program leaders that they can conduct their own observations

Scheduling

- Possible adoption of just-in-time scheduling to reduce the amount of time between local & Picard observations



What's next?

Now that we are beyond the learning year and programs have a better sense of how their rating & School Readiness Tax Credits will be affected, we expect that:

More programs will choose to conduct their own observations.

- Agenda is offering additional CLASS observer trainings this summer and ongoing support for all observers.
- Agenda can remind programs of their right to perform their own observations, along with all of the quality control requirements (shadow-scoring, passing reliability tests and recalibration, etc.)

More programs will submit CLASS scores appeals to LDE.

- We will continue to inform programs of the reasons that scores can (and can't) be appealed. Many programs are under the misconception that they need to appeal if the Picard observation differs by more than a point.

1e. Application Procedure for Pregnant Mothers

Process

Families can apply for a seat for an unborn child using the Main Round application process if that child's estimated due date is on or before June 15th of the upcoming school year.

Rationale

Louisiana licensing requires that a child be at least 6 weeks old before attending an early childhood program. Children born on or before June 15th of a given year will be 6 weeks old by August 1st of that year. Currently no early childhood programs that participate in OneApp start their school year before August 1st, ensuring that all otherwise eligible infants assigned through Main Round can be served. Children with an estimated due date on or before June 15th of a given year who are born after that date will still be matched to programs and must be served by the assigned program.

3e. Infants and Waitlist After Main Round

Process

- Infants added to waitlists via Main Round will be six weeks old by August 1st of the upcoming school year (see Application Procedure for Pregnant Moms).
- Infants added to waitlists after Main Round, those added through Open Enrollment or Late Enrollment, must be 6 weeks old at the time they are added to waitlists.

Rationale

Requiring that infants added to waitlists after Main Round be at least 6 weeks old ensures that they can accept a waitlist offer when it is made and further ensures that a center will not have to hold a seat for an infant who cannot yet take a current year placement due to age.

Update on Coordinated Enrollment
June 13, 2017

Open Enrollment Activity

Seats filled since 4/24: Week ending 6/9/2017		
Program Name	Seats Filled	Seats Available
LA4	436	472
HS (PK 3 and PK 4)	273	171
NSECD	143	147
PEG	20	125
EHS	66	13
Gifted	3	6
Tuition	13	15
Total	**954**	**949**

Framework Addition for Pregnant Mothers

1e. Application Procedure for Pregnant Mothers

Process

Families can apply for a seat for an unborn child using the Main Round application process if that child's estimated due date is on or before June 15th of the upcoming school year.

Rationale

Louisiana licensing requires that a child be at least 6 weeks old before attending an early childhood program. Children born on or before June 15th of a given year will be 6 weeks old by August 1st of that year. Currently no early childhood programs that participate in OneApp start their school year before August 1st, ensuring that all otherwise eligible infants assigned through Main Round can be served. Children with an estimated due date on or before June 15th of a given year who are born after that date will still be matched to programs and must be served by the assigned program.

3e. Infants and Waitlist After Main Round

Process

Infants added to waitlists via Main Round will be six weeks old by August 1st of the upcoming school year (see Application Procedure for Pregnant Moms).

Infants added to waitlists after Main Round, those added through Open Enrollment or Late Enrollment, must be 6 weeks old at the time they are added to waitlists.

Rationale

Requiring that infants added to waitlists after Main Round be at least 6 weeks old ensures that they can accept a waitlist offer when it is made and further ensures that a center will not have to hold a seat for an infant who cannot yet take a current year placement due to age.

Open Enrollment Transitions to Late Enrollment

Open Enrollment ends

- June 28th - Open Enrollment ends for system maintenance

June/July FRC closures

- On June 30th only OPSB Family Resource Center will be open; Livingston and Crocker will be closed
- All FRCs will be closed July 3rd to July 7th and all will reopen on July 17th

Late Enrollment begins

- July 12th to 14th- Late Enrollment begins for K-8 and PK 3 and PK 4 programs, includes Head Start for PK 3 and PK 4
- July 10th to 14th - Families seeking EHS placements for 17/18 will be directed to open EHS centers in the community to complete EC eligibility check and be added to waitlists.
- Placements for 17/18 will continue for early childhood through out the school year until all seats are filled.

June/July waitlist offers

- Waitlist offers will continue week of July 3rd to 7th.
- Waitlist offers will pause the week of July 10th to 14th; offers will resume on July 19th once all new priority scores are added and properly ordered.

Framework Review Sessions

- Last August, we held 3 sessions to review the Coordinated Enrollment framework to see how we could improve the process. As a result of that collaboration we implemented radical changes to the process that have drastically improved the flow, including eliminating Round 2 in favor of the Open Enrollment process.

- Please plan to join us in August and September again this year as we prepare for year three of the Early Childhood Coordinated Enrollment process. Let's make this our best Main Round yet!

- We will work with Agenda to ensure that all early childhood providers are invited to attend these policy review sessions.

OneApp Important Dates

Date	Action
June 28th	• Open Enrollment Ends
Week of July 3rd	• Round 2 results available for family
Week of June 26	• Round 2 results available • Open Enrollment ends
July 10	Late Enrollment Dillard: High school only
July 11th	Late Enrollment Dillard: K-12
July 12th-14th	Late Enrollment Dillard: PK 3 -12

NOEEN Legislative Update
June 13, 2017

Agenda for CHILDREN
...a voice for Louisiana's children and families

Failed ECE-Related Bills

- HB 202 by M. Abraham – repeal of ECE tax credits
- HB 500 by A. Seabaugh – repeal of ECE tax credits
- HB 541 by S. Carter – use savings from early high school graduation to fund college scholarships for these students and the administration of the Child Care Assistance Program
- SB 122 by R. Ward – specifically adds childcare operators and employees to those who can be accused of the crime of cruelty to juveniles

Agenda for CHILDREN
...a voice for Louisiana's children and families

Passed ECE-Related Bills

HB/ SB	Bill. No.	Author	Short Title	Current Status
HB	557	A. Seabaugh	Provides for criminal background checks relative to early learning centers, school employees, registered family child care providers and in-home providers	Signed by the Speaker
HB	584	W. Leger	Creates a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood education in Louisiana	Sent to the Governor
SB	255	J.P. Morrell	Provides relative to health-related policies established by certain early learning centers.	Sent to the Governor
SB	172	J.P. Morrell	Terminates certain tax credits as of January 1, 2019.	Signed by the Speaker
SB	66	R. Barrow	Provides relative to the Children's Cabinet and the Child Poverty Prevention Council of Louisiana.	Sent to the Governor
HR	217	P. Smith	Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education take action relative to School Readiness Tax Credits with respect to the repeal of the Education Tax Credit	Enrolled
SR	209	J.P. Morrell	Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to take action relative to School Readiness Tax Credits with respect to the repeal of the Education Tax Credit.	Enrolled

Agenda for CHILDREN
...a voice for Louisiana's children and families

2017-18 NOEEN Steering Committee Members

Name	Funding Source and/or Program Type	Organization
Dr. Anthony Recasner, Chair	--	Agenda for Children
Kunjan Narechania	--	Recovery School District
Mary Garton	--	Orleans Parish School Board
Maria Blanco	Early Head Start	LSU Health Sciences Center
Dr. Keith Liederman	Head Start	Kingsley House
Thelma French	Head Start	Total Community Action
Kristi Givens	CCAP	Kids of Excellence
Carole Elliot	NSECD	Archdiocese of New Orleans
Joyce Ridgeway	Early Steps	Dept. of Health & Hospitals, Region 1
Kate Mehok	LA4	Crescent City Schools

2017-18 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting Calendar

All Meetings will be held from 11:30a-1:30p at the Agenda for Children Office (8300 Earhart Blvd., Suite 201) unless otherwise notified.

Meeting Date
Tuesday, August 29, 2017
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Tuesday, June 12, 2018