Meeting Agenda
March 17, 2021

General Assembly - Dr. Liederman
Call to Order & Roll Call
Action: Adoption of the Agenda
Action: Adoption of January Minutes

Ready Start Network Update – J. Roberts
Info: Strategic Initiatives

Coordinated Funding – A. Grainer, Dr. T
Info: City Seats Allocation Update
Info: LA4/NSECD Allocation Update
Info: Citywide Update

Coordinated Observations – A. Grainer
Info: 2020-2021 CLASS Update

Discussion
Steering Committee Advocacy Role
Enrollment Sub-Committees

Housekeeping & Next Steps – A. Grainer
General Assembly

- Call to Order & Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of January Minutes
Ready Start Network Initiatives Update

Updates from Jen Roberts, President of Agenda for Children

- General Ready Start Network Updates
- Strategic Initiatives & Fundraising
- Parent Involvement & Safe, Secure, Loved (SSL) Pilot
Coordinated Funding

- City Seats Allocation Update
- LA4 & NSECD Allocation Update
- Citywide Update
Coordinated Funding
City Seats Allocation Update

- As of March 15, **99% of City Seats are full.**
- Waitlists have also steadily grown, but are tracking behind typical demand.
  - This cannot be explained by increased supply alone.
  - 20-21 supply has roughly doubled, whereas last spring, total waitlists were 5x total supply
- While some fluctuation is expected, enrollment has stabilized since December.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Level</th>
<th>10/1 Target</th>
<th>Available Seats</th>
<th>Students on Waitlist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 YR</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 YR</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INF</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-1*</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>277</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>169</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Over-enrollment in early childhood grades is rare and typically occurs when a child’s discharge status is not accurately reflected in SchoolForce. This will be corrected with the individual site.*
Coordinated Funding
LA4/NSECD Allocation Update

- As of March 15, **83% seats in school-based PK4 programs are filled** citywide.
  - Enrollment has stayed comparatively static in PK4 programs.
  - In January, enrollment was at roughly 82%; in November, 81% enrollment.
  - It would be atypical to see a steady increase in enrollment at this time in the school year, so we can expect that enrollment will likely peak at 85% or lower for 20-21.

- Update on **2021-2022 Allocations**:
  - LDOE has affirmed we will not be penalized by low enrollment this year.
  - LDOE has promised to avoid partial allocations if at all possible.
  - Unless budgets grow (through stimulus or other funding), it is unlikely our LA4 or NSECD allocations will grow—either by existing or new program expansion.
  - **2021-2022 allocations will be finalized in April.**
Citywide, **86% of publicly-funded seats, on average, were filled as of March 15, 2021**, the same average enrollment as in January 2021.

- While the rollout of the vaccine lends hope for a healthier system outlook come summer, it is unlikely we will significantly close the gap before the end of the school year.
- Overall, enrollment is relatively stable across the board, with an encouraging increase in high-demand early grades (b-2).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>10/1 Target</th>
<th>Available Seats</th>
<th>Waitlist</th>
<th>% Full</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1032</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>1508</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<td>245</td>
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<td>414</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td><strong>4353</strong></td>
<td><strong>606</strong></td>
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Coordinated Observations
Spring 2021 CLASS Update

BESE permitted classes with sufficiently high Fall scores to waive their internal Spring observation.

- 386 classrooms were eligible for the waiver, or 76% of Fall classrooms.
- This leaves 188 classrooms to observe for Spring 2021.
- 33% of Spring observations are complete to date; we anticipate reaching 100% by April 21.

Other highlights:

- The lighter observation load has allowed NOEEN to:
  - Implement a staggered scheduling system, which has benefited NOEEN and centers.
  - Tighten internal systems.
  - Plan to launch a CLASS Spring Training series to improve practice.
- NOEEN is delighted to have been able to support our contracted observers, despite having fewer observations this semester, by offering a temporary relief compensation package.

We expect BESE to approve the final approach to 2020-2021 accountability in April.
Discussion

Advocacy & Steering Committee

- Discussion
  - Advocacy, policy, and the role of the Steering Committee

- American Rescue Plan Act: Benefits for Child Care Providers
  - Employee retention credit extended to Dec 2021 (refundable up to $5k / employee)
  - Paid Leave credits extended through Sep 2021 (Up to $12k / employee)
  - $7 bil for the Paycheck Protection Program (application closes Mar 31)
  - $15 bil for EIDL (eligible if located in low-income area; experienced >30% revenue loss)
  - $773 mil for LA child care; $297 mil in CCDBG; $475 mil for “child care stabilization fund”
  - $1 bil for Head Start; $250 mil for special education programs for infants and toddlers
  - Increases total child care funding by $130 mil / year; waives state match funds for 21-22.
Agenda

• Committee Process Overview – 5 minutes
• Committee reports (recap of each subcommittee’s recommendations) - 10 minutes
• Problem Statements & Exploration of next steps – 20 minutes
• Close out / final thoughts – 5 minutes
What, When and Who

• **What** are the Enrollment Sub-Committees?
  • Sub-Committees launched last year but were stalled by COVID-19.
  • It had been NOEEN’s intention to revive the Sub-Committees this year. The issue was forced when enrollment became a hot topic at our January meeting.

• **When** will Enrollment Sub-Committees meet?
  • For this school year (2020-2021), Sub-Committees will meet in May and June.
  • Beginning next school year (2021-2022), Sub-Committees will meet quarterly.

• **Who** should be on the Sub-Committees?
  • If you have big ideas or major concerns about enrollment, consider attending.
  • Please only attend if you are able to do so consistently. Delegates are welcome.
  • We originally had two Sub-Committees: (Early/) Head Start and School-Based (LA4, NSECD). We are open to discussing a different division based on center needs.
Categorizing Challenges and Solutions

- Comms / Public Info
- Enhance Tech
- Equip Partners to Help
- Adjust or Develop new Policy
LA4 / NSCED & Community

- Communication / Public Information
  - Be proactive about persistent myths / FAQs
    - Clarify waitlist process & that waitlists reset each year
    - Clarify who they need to verify with (LA4 & HS, or just HS, etc)
  - Help families figure out where they can families go for help
- Adjust or Adopt New Policy
  - Study why some families are split into different schools/centers
- Equip Partners to Help
  - Increase the number / types of partners families can go to for support
  - Develop partnerships between center types to help connect families to someone who can help them
  - Partners lack waitlist visibility / seat availability
  - Expand ability programs to complete their own verification (LA4 & NSECD)
- Enhance Technology
  - Applications, generally need to be tailored to EC families
  - Help make it easier for families to edit, update, cancel applications / waitlists
  - Improve the way families choose and rank choices in the application
  - Families & partners would benefit from usable waitlist information, seat availability, and program information
Proposals from 2019-20 LA4/Tuition Working Group

LA 4 / Tuition Working Group developed some recommendations for us to consider and draft new policy on

We will draft language and study implications of those for which there is data available.

- Guarantees for ALL continuing students, but all schools must offer at least equal number of sections PK → K.
- Rename programs to “Name of Program (PAID), and (Free)” for example: “Tubman PK4 (Paid),” “Tubman PK4 (Free)”
- Put all kids on the same number of waitlists (recommendation is 3).
- Study the Students with Disabilities priority, its impact on placements, and adjusting the priority to a metric such as the citywide students with disabilities average for LA4 programs
- Include in policy that tuition programs can enforce their tuition payment plans.
Head Starts

- **Communications / Public Campaign information**
  - Equity of information mediums that hit every generation and technological skill
  - Help parents understand OneApp (EC vs big kid school)

- **Adjust or Develop New Policy**
  - Transfers between Head Start programs without the need to go back onto the waitlist – next step (what kids fall into these categories)
  - Codify a standard in-take policy for families experiencing homelessness and Head Start
  - HS interest in the ability to get information on over-income parents who may be interested in Head Start

- **Equip Partners to Help**
  - Technology gaps for families (It should be “okay” for families to opt out of working with technology)
  - Early Childhood Access is still to a lot of low-income families, not enough invested in helping families navigate the process

- **Enhance Technology**
  - Ensure families who applied to both LA4 & Head Start get routed to HS for verification
  - Improve the ways documents are collected via the system
  - Explore online scheduling tools for verification appointments
  - Continue to invest in automating EPC score calculation
  - Equip centers with the tools needed to fix challenges e.g. password change, ability to do an email change, eliminate duplicate applications
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>HS</th>
<th>LA4 / NSECD</th>
<th>Next Step</th>
<th>Grouping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAQ: Waitlist Resets annually, Verification Process, Where can I get help / talk to someone, Help parents understand OneApp (EC vs K12)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Develop list of FAQs, prioritize, and identify effective methods to distribute each</td>
<td>Comms / Public Info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity of information mediums that hit every generation and technological skill</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Study our comms strategy and analyze to ensure it reaches all of our target populations</td>
<td>Comms / Public Info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study why some families are split into different schools / centers</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Data: Identify families who are split up and categories they fall into</td>
<td>Adjust or develop new policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the number types of partners families can go to for support</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Identify orgs / locations to train on &quot;OneApp 101&quot; &amp; identify a champion in each</td>
<td>Equip Partners to help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop partnerships between center types to help connect families to someone who can help them</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Equip Partners to help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners lack waitlist visibility seat availability</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Develop scope of work</td>
<td>Equip Partners to help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand ability programs to complete their own verification (LA4 &amp; NSECD)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Explore policy limitations and guardrails re: monitoring</td>
<td>Equip Partners to help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications, generally need to be tailored to EC families</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Review the application with the subcommittees to identify Enhance Technology language tweaks and adjustments</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help make it easier for families to edit, update, cancel applications / waitlists</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Review the application with the subcommittees to identify Enhance Technology language tweaks and adjustments</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the way families choose and rank choices in the application</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Discuss options and determine any cost associated</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families &amp; partners would benefit from usable waitlist information, seat availability, and program information</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Develop scope of work</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers between Head Start programs without the need to go back onto the waitlist</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Identify systems to be put in place to effect this and technical system changes needed</td>
<td>Adjust or develop new policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Codify a standard in-take policy for families experiencing homelessness who present at Head Start</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Collect procedures from Head Starts, vet with subcommittee, and standardize</td>
<td>Adjust or develop new policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS interest in the ability to get information on over-income parents who may be interested in Head Start</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Explore policy limitations, and what questions we may need to adjust in the application</td>
<td>Adjust or develop new policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It should be “okay” for families to opt out of working with technology</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Journey map family experience</td>
<td>Equip Partners to help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invested in helping families navigate the process</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Journey map family experience</td>
<td>Equip Partners to help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure families who applied to both LA4 &amp; Head Start get routed to HS for verification</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Explore policy, procedures, and systems</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the ways documents are collected via the system</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Develop scope of work</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
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<td>Explore online scheduling tools for verification appointments</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Gather technical requirements and interest</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continue to invest in upgrading our automated EPC score calculation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Develop scope of work</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equip centers with the tools needed to fix challenges e.g. password change, ability to do an email change, eliminate duplicate applications</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Identify challenges, propose solutions, develop scope of work</td>
<td>Enhance Technology</td>
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</table>
NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EVERY CHILD. EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY DAY.
Our next and FINAL regularly-scheduled meeting will take place May 19, 2021. We expect to have substantial updates on all initiatives at our May meeting.

*Agenda for Children offices will be closed Good Friday, April 2.*

1. October 21, 2020
2. November 18, 2020
3. January 20, 2021
4. March 17, 2021
5. May 19, 2021

*No meetings:*

- December
- February
- April

*Recess:*

- June - August
Thank You!