NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting

October 13, 2021

NOEEN New Orleans Early Education Network

Meeting Agenda
October 13, 2021

General Assembly - *Dr. K. Liederman*
- Welcome! Call to Order & Roll Call
- Action Item: Adoption of the Agenda

Ready Start Network Update – *J. Roberts*
- Information: NOEEN Staff Updates
- Information: Strategic Initiatives
  - Funding Opportunities & Updates
  - Working Group Updates
  - Parent Engagement & Representation
  - Ida, COVID, & Sector Recovery

Conversation: Network Recovery – *All*

Coordinated Funding – *A. Grainer*
- Information: 2021-2022 Public Funding
- Information: 2022-2023 LA4 & NSECD CFR

Coordinated Enrollment – *R. Latham*
- Information: Coordinated Enrollment & Information Campaign

Coordinated Observations – *A. Grainer*
- Information: CLASS Observations Fall 2021
- Information: Performance & Accountability

Housekeeping & Next Steps – *A. Grainer*
- Information: Upcoming Working Groups
- Information: 2021-2022 Calendar

General Assembly

Welcome!

Call to Order & Roll Call

Action Item: Adoption of the Agenda

Poll: When / how to return to in-person meetings

Ready Start Network
Initiatives Update

NOEEN Staff Updates

Strategic Initiatives

- Funding Opportunities & Updates
- Working Group Updates
- Parent Engagement & Representation
- Ida, COVID, & Sector Recovery

Ready Start Network
Initiatives Update

NOEEN Team Updates

Staff Additions & Transitions

Ready Start Network

Funding & Sector Investment

- *Upcoming / New Funding & Sector Investment*

Funding	Opportunity	Funder	Term
Hurricane Ida Recovery Grant	Direct relief aid for Ida recovery, delivered to over 250 impacted centers	Various	Oct. – Dec. 31, 2021
Ready Start Transform Grant	Will help RSNs create a transformative vision for achieving equitable access to high-quality early care and education.	LDOE	1 YR: 2021-2022

More on Ready Start Transform:

- Apply for up to $1 mil. For 2022. Letter of Intent due 10/22. Awardees notified January 2022.
- Applicants will be asked to:
  - Develop strategies that address barriers to access including, but not limited to:
    - A qualified, consistent, and adequately compensated workforce
    - Funding and sustainability at the local level for higher levels of quality
    - Alternative care programs that address the needs of all families
    - Wraparound supports for families & special needs services

Ready Start Network
Funding & Sector Investment

- *Ongoing Funding & Sector Investment*
  - NOEEN, NOLAPS, & Agenda are managing a number of grants to aid sector recovery:

Funding	Opportunity	Funder	Term
Community Recovery Grant	Improving enrollment, verification, and access.	LDOE	1 YR: 2021-2022
Supply Building & Capacity Grant	Invest in building long-term supply and capacity; community needs assessments.	LDOE	1 YR: 2021-2022
CLSD Quality & Literacy Supports	B-PK4 PD, coaching, curriculum investment, and other quality and literacy supports.	LDOE	3 YRS: 2020-2023
Systems-level Family Engagement	Focus groups, facilitated conversations to determine how to capture caregiver voice	Pritzker	6 Mos.: May – Dec 2021

Ready Start Network

Working Groups & Parent Engagement

- Strategic Initiatives, pt. III
  - *Working Group Updates*

Working Group	Update	Next Meeting
Advocacy Working Group	Working with leaders in the field to determine the best place for this work to live and thrive in Kenny's absence.	TBA
Enrollment Sub-Committee	Relaunching sub-committees with a focus on application, process overhauls based on historical and new feedback.	TBA

- *Parent Engagement & Representation*
  - Parent engagement work has launched! Facilitated focus groups will focus on determining how to ensure parent voice is reflected in EC decision-making and strategy.
  - Leading that work is Dr. Keisha Smith, who will speak more to the project.

Ready Start Network

Ida, COVID, & Sector Recovery

Current State of the Sector

Updates on the American Rescue Plan Act & EC Recovery

It's time for the next Lead Agency RFA!

2023-2024 City Seats Millage

- NOEEN will launch a new millage campaign to provide long-term, sustainable funding to City Seats programming.
- This will complement our work around supply building & access expansion.
- We anticipate the results of the millage to impact the 2023-2024 school year, i.e.: our standard CFR and funding advocacy processes will persist for the 2022-2023 school year.

Conversation

Ida, COVID, & Sector Recovery

Conversation: The state of the sector and providers' experiences.

Coordinated Funding

2021-2022 Public Funding Information

2022-2023 LA4 & NSECD CFR

Coordinated Funding

2021-2022 Public Funding Overview

In the 2021-2022 school year, NOEEN & NOLAPS will:

- Administer or support administration of ~$17.6 million in publicly-funded early learning;
- Serve over 2,600 economically disadvantaged New Orleans families;
- Support seat and programmatic funding at over 70 child care sites and schools.

Program	Number of Seats	Age Range	Funding Source	Total Allocation
LA4	1483	PK4	State & Federal	$6.8 million
NSECD	399	PK4	State	$1.8 million
B3 / PDG	373	B-3	State	$4.2 million
City Seats	400	B-3	City, State, Private	$4.8 million
Grand Total	**2655**	**B-PK4**	**City, State, Federal, & Private**	**$17.6 million**

Thank you for helping us be good stewards of these public dollars and the children they serve!

Coordinated Funding

2021-2022 LA4/NSECD Allocations

- NOEEN has received funding to offer roughly 1,882 publicly-funded Pre-K 4 seats in 21-22.

Program	Number of Seats	Age Range	Funding Source	Total Allocation
LA4	1483	PK4	State & Federal	$6.8 million
NSECD	399	PK4	State	$1.8 million
Grand Total	**1882**	**PK4**	**State & Federal**	**$8.6 million**

- Allocation health:

Funding	Target	Available Seats	Waitlist	Percentage Filled
LA4	1455	280	210	81%
NSECD	399	116	17	71%

  - 81% of LA4 seats are enrolled as of 10/11. 70% of NSECD seats are October 11.
    - Roughly 80% of LA4 programs have a waitlist of fewer than 10 students.
    - 80%+ of students on waitlists are on the waitlist of our 5 most popular schools.
    - i.e.: Supply is meeting demand.
    - Remaining seats remain available to schools seeking additional LA4 slots.

Coordinated Funding

2021-2022 Birth-to-Three Allocations

- NOEEN has received funding to offer roughly 773 publicly-funded birth-to-three seats in 21-22.

Program	Number of Seats	Age Range	Funding Source	Total Allocation
B3 / PDG	373	B-3	State	$4.2 million
City Seats	400	B-3	City, State, Private	$4.8 million
Grand Total	**773**	**B-3**	**City, State, & Private**	**$9 million**

- Allocation Health:

Funding	Target	Available Seats	Waitlist	Percentage Filled
City Seats	400	33	296	91%
B3 / PDG	364	251	77	31%

  - 91% of City Seats are enrolled as of 10/11. 31% of B3 / PDG seats are October 11.
    - All City Seats & B3 programs have waitlists
    - B3 was added as a new program late in the summer, meaning enrollment was interrupted by Ida. We expect enrollment to lift off in the next several weeks.
    - Remaining seats will re-enter the system in the next several weeks.

Coordinated Funding
Upcoming Funding Items

2022-2023 LA4 & NSECD CFR

- The 2022-2023 LA4 & NSECD CFR will launch in November 2021.

- The CFR is how any / all providers seeking to maintain or add LA4 / NSECD seats apply to do so.
  - The Steering Committee will review and recommend applicants by January 2022
  - LDOE will revise and make statewide recommendations in Winter 2022
  - BESE will approve final funding recommendations in April 2022.

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EVERY CHILD. EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY DAY.

Enrollment COVID Updates

As a reminder during the peak of COVID, NOLA-PS moved to online documentation collection to keep families safe. In person assistance is important for families and all three family resource centers are now open to help assist with verification and enrollment.

We continue to accept online document submissions for all Head Start eligible families.

NOLA-PS improved summer enrollment processes to address verification backlog occurring in the early weeks of enrollment. Currently families can complete the verification process in three or fewer days with assistance of our FRC school choice advisers.

NOLA-PS is targeting outreach efforts to re-engage families that completed the application, but did not submit documents. Targeted outreach efforts include text messages and emails.

Enrollment Main Round Updates

NOLA-PS will soon announce our main round enrollment dates next week.

Main round will begin November 1st and close January 21st.

New for the 2021-2022 main round enrollment cycle include:

- One unified enrollment system that now includes our joining schools Lake Forest, Ben Franklin High School and Lusher
- One application deadline for families (no early window deadline)
- Text-message capabilities for applicant communications
- Customized outreach notes function in SchoolForce for school choice advisers to provide specific feedback to individual families
- New school finder tool available to families (soft launch/feedback phase of development)

Enrollment System Enhancements

NOLA-PS is working on enhancements to improve the enrollment application process and experience for our early childhood families.

Early childhood specific improvements for families include

- Easier parent log-in and password reset process
- Accessibility features to provide accommodations for completing the application
- Features to make it easier to find information on the EnrollNOLA site
- Tools to explore and compare program choices
- Alignment to NOLA-PS through our branded logo, font, and color scheme

System improvements for program sites include

- An EPC score generation tool in SchoolForce
- Safeguards to ensure families complete the correct application based on the child's age
- Updates to outdated language or processes

NOLA-PS is partnering with Cetrix Development Solutions in this work. Enhancements will be deployed over the next several months.

Enrollment Process Enhancements

NOLA-PS/NOEEN were awarded a grant to undertake a massive enrollment application redesign to improve the user experience, functionality and enrollment overall.

We are making broad system enhancements and enrollment process enhancements to the early childhood verification process.

NOLA-PS will be working closely with the NOEEN enrollment subcommittee and early childhood families to get feedback to inform this enrollment redesign.

Our goal is to release the RFP in December, commence work in early April and launch the new application for the 2022 main round application cycle.

Coordinated Observations

CLASS Observations Fall 2021

- CLASS Observations are under way for the Fall 2021 season.
- At this time, we do not anticipate changes to standard CLASS protocol, but this could change pending LDOE's response to / the state of public health and related guidance.
- NOEEN is offering both in-person and virtual observations, per center preference. We are also offering an additional level of notice regarding when to expect observations to occur.
- NOEEN has been pushing LDOE on timelines, expectations, reporting, and reliability metrics regarding CLASS, and will continue to do so.

Performance & Accountability

- LDOE has not yet released its formal approach to performance reporting for 2020-2021 CLASS.

Housekeeping & Next Steps

Working Groups & Upcoming Meetings

- Quarterly Convening
- Parent representation
- Enrollment Sub-Committee
- Next Steering Committee

As a reminder, here is our meeting calendar for the 2021-2022 school year:

Scheduled Meetings

1. November 10, 2021
2. January 12, 2022
3. March 9, 2022
4. May 11, 2022

21-22 Bye-Months:

December
February
April

21-22 Recess:

June
July
August

21-22 Holidays:

Thanksgiving: 11/25
Christmas: 12/25
New Year's: 1/1
Mardi Gras: 3/1
Easter: 4/17

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