CLASS Observation Plan

August 2016

Agenda for CHILDREN

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

2015-2016 CLASS Observation Successes

NOEEN CLASS Observers completed observations in 98% of publicly funded toddler and preschool classroom in the network.

Contracted with Picard to complete CLASS observations in all French Immersion Pre-K classrooms in the network

CLASS Protocol

Information Gathering: Programs provide NOEEN with a list of all PK and Toddler classrooms in August 2016, including teacher names and emails. Programs wishing to perform their own observations inform NOEEN, but will still be double-coded by NOEEN staff.

Scheduling: In August, all CLASS observations are scheduled. Programs are randomly assigned to be observed in September, October, November or December. This determines their spring observations as well (September > January; October > February, etc.) Programs are notified of their month and are asked to notify NOEEN of any non-typical days (e.g. field trips or holidays).

Refusal of Entry: If a center turns an observer away twice, they are assigned 1's for that classroom. Refusals are costly and taxing on the tight timeline.

CLASS Protocol

4 cycles: each cycle consists of 20 minutes of observation followed by a 10 minute scoring period

Timing: observations conducted at start of instructional day (between 8:30 and 9:00 am)

Focus: Observers follow children throughout observation (except recess for Pre-K CLASS)

Interactions: Observations assess all adult-child interactions in a room, including assistant teachers, paraprofessionals, volunteers, et cetera.

2016-2017 CLASS Observation Plan

Certified Observers

- 16 Contracted Observers can cover all required network observations
- Two program partners, Total Community Action and Catholic Charities, will conduct their own observations
- NOEEN will contract with Picard to conduct observations in French Immersion classrooms

CLASS Coordinator oversees observation process

- Recruits and hires contracted observers
- Ensures scheduling and completion of observations in all required Network classrooms
- Supports and supervises contracted observers
- Assures accuracy of observations and of observers
- Provides oversight of observation data input in both the LDE Early Childhood Web Portal and in the *myTeachstone* online learning platform.

Ensuring Accuracy of Observations

All CLASS observers have either recently become **certified** or have completed their re-certification.

All CLASS observers complete a **calibration** once during each observation period to minimize drift.

All CLASS observers must be **double-coded** at least once during each observation period.

Enhanced Focus on Accuracy of Observations

CLASS Coordinator **reviews score sheets and notes** and provides observers with feedback to ensure ongoing improvement and accuracy in note-taking.

In-depth analysis of double codes to identify "problem" dimensions for individual contracted observer and Agency staff professional development.

Identification and provision of individualized **professional development activities** to improve practice and reliability.

Accountability & the Accuracy of Observations

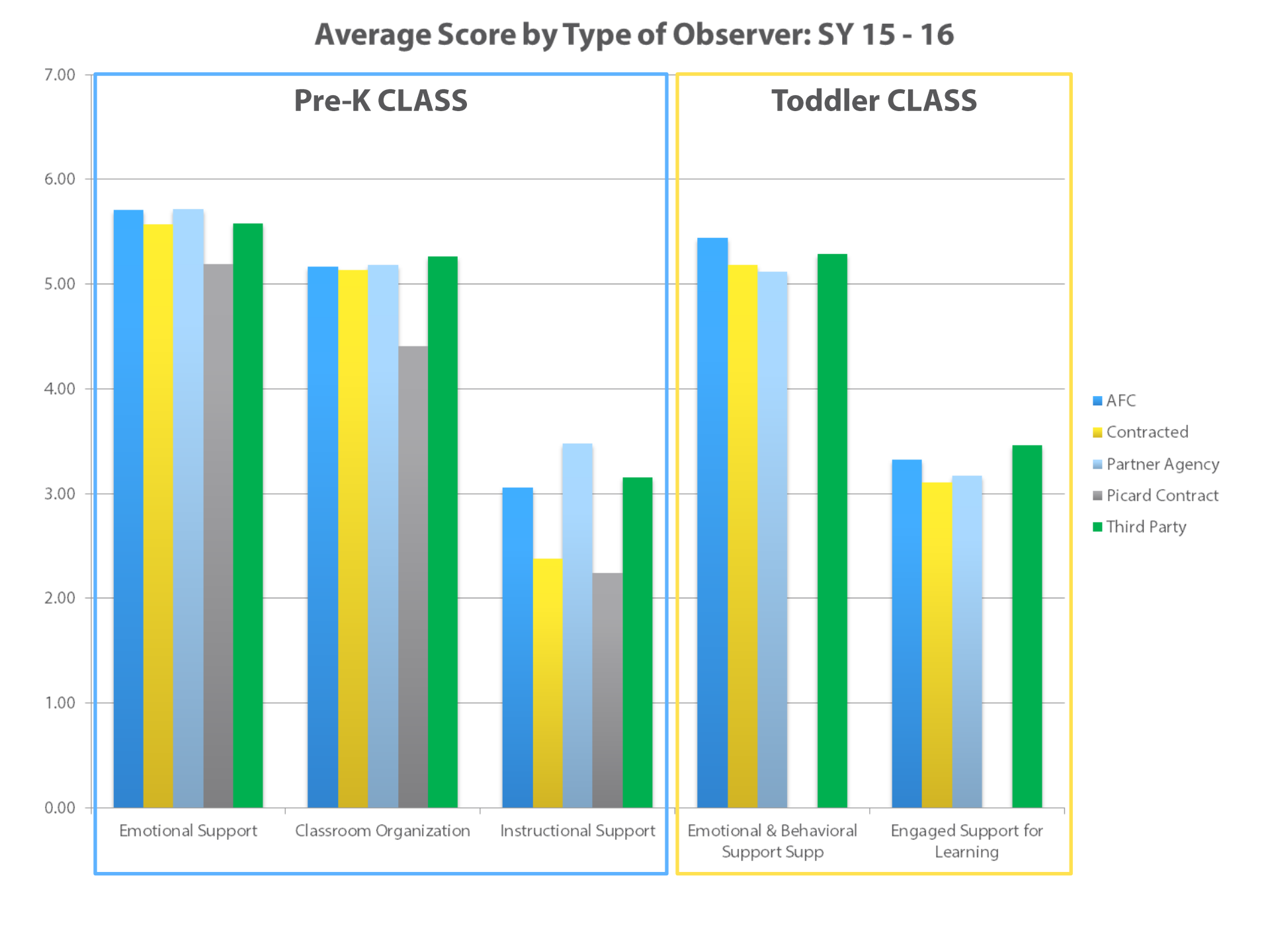
Bulletin 140 provides LDE's plan to ensure accurate local observations by comparing local observers' scores to the third party scores for the same classrooms in the same semester:

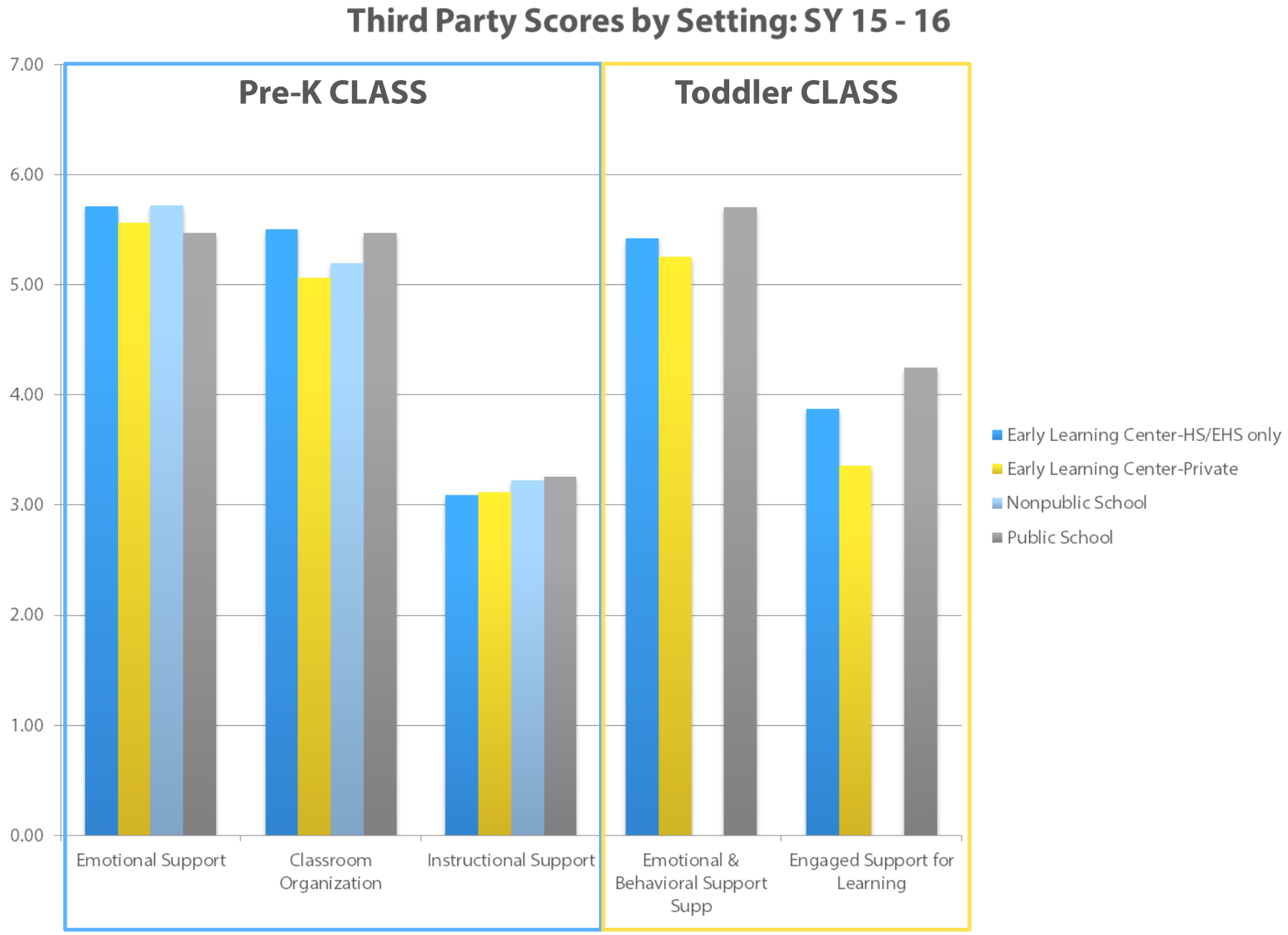
- If **>20%** of domain-level results differ by more than one point, local observer gets a warning.
- If **>33%** of domain-level results differ by more than one point, local observer gets shadow scored by another network observer in the next obs. period.
- If **50% or more** of domain-level results differ by more than one point, local observer cannot be hired in the next observation period.

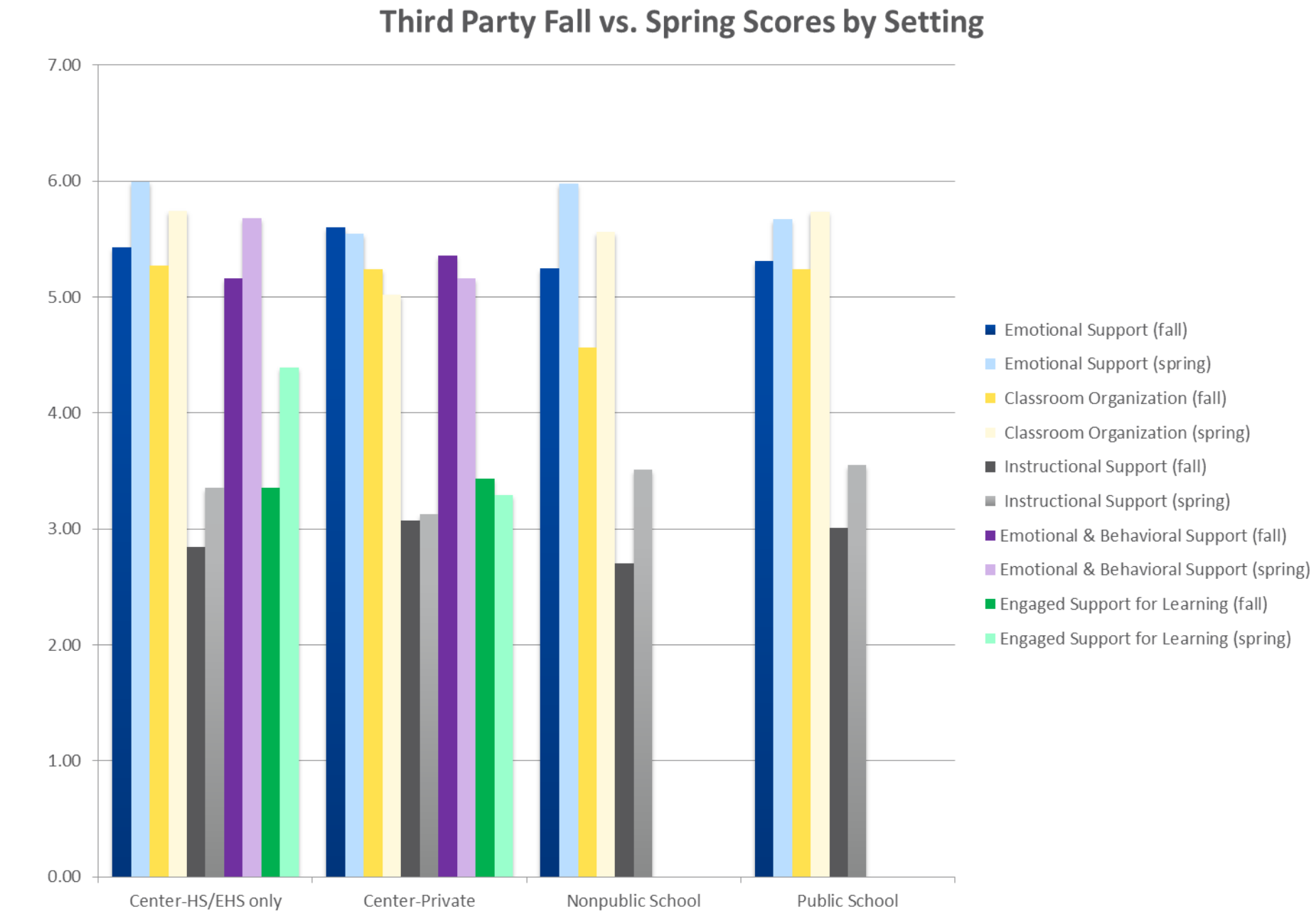
Replacement scores

- If the observation results conducted by community networks are consistently different by more than one point from observation results conducted by the department's third-party contractors, the department may replace **all of the community network's observation results for a publicly-funded site** with the results from the department's third-party contractors, including those results that do not differ by at least one point.

- If a local observer's domain-level score differs by more than one point from the 3rd party score, the 3rd party score will be used to calculate the performance score.


Average Score by Type of Observer: SY 15 - 16
Pre-K CLASS
Toddler CLASS
7.00
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
Emotional Support
Classroom Organization
Instructional Support
Emotional & Behavioral Support Supp
Engaged Support for Learning
AFC
Contracted
Partner Agency
Picard Contract
Third Party


Third Party Scores by Setting: SY 15 - 16
Pre-K CLASS
Toddler CLASS
7.00
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
Emotional Support
Classroom Organization
Instructional Support
Emotional & Behavioral Support Supp
Engaged Support for Learning
Early Learning Center-HS/EHS only
Early Learning Center-Private
Nonpublic School
Public School


Third Party Fall vs. Spring Scores by Setting
7.00
6.00
5.00
4.00
3.00
2.00
1.00
0.00
Center-HS/EHS only
Center-Private
Nonpublic School
Public School
Emotional Support (fall)
Emotional Support (spring)
Classroom Organization (fall)
Classroom Organization (spring)
Instructional Support (fall)
Instructional Support (spring)
Emotional & Behavioral Support (fall)
Emotional & Behavioral Support (spring)
Engaged Support for Learning (fall)
Engaged Support for Learning (spring)

New Orleans Early Education Network

August 22, 2016

Objectives

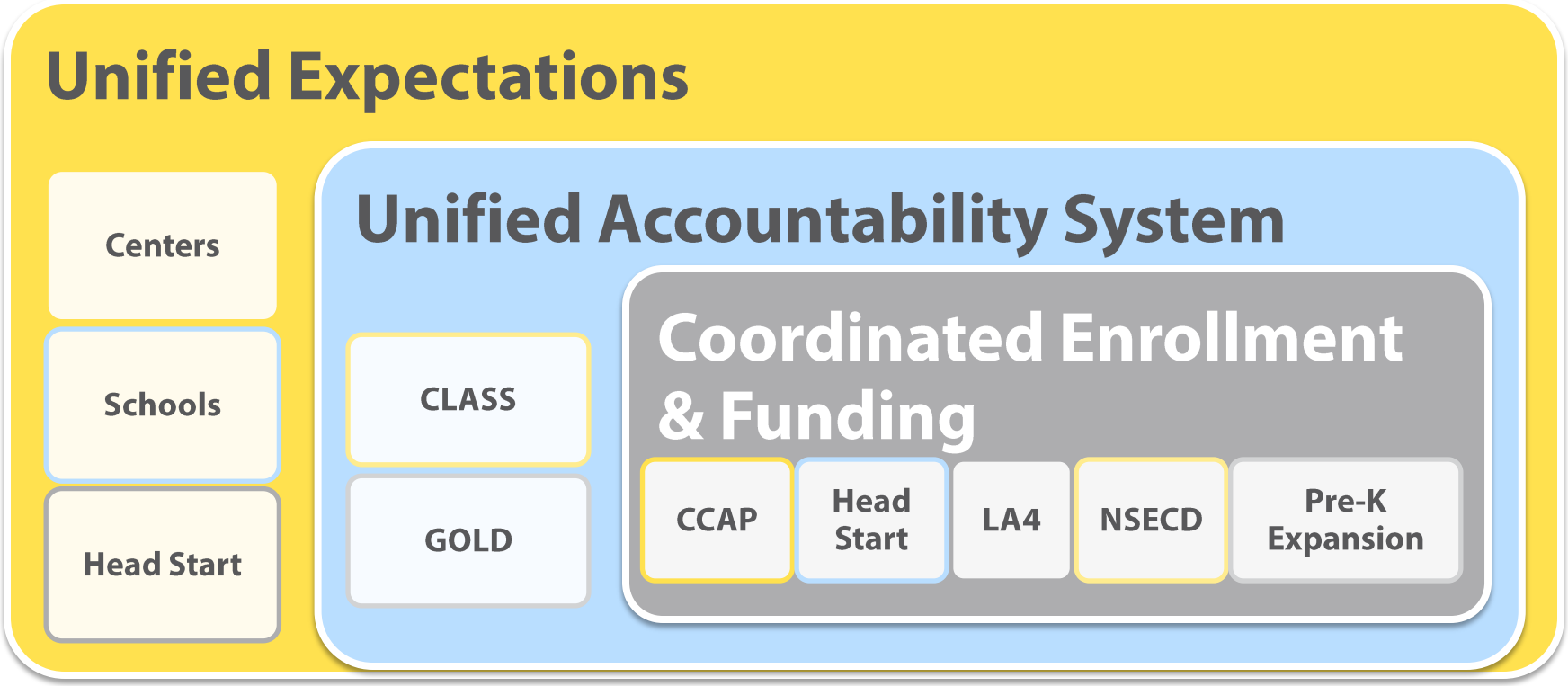
NOEEN Overview

2015-2016 Year in Review

Looking Ahead: 2016-17 DRAFT NOEEN Priorities

Early Childhood Education Reform in Louisiana

Vision: increase the number of children who arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.



What is the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN)?

NOEEN is the local early childhood community network working to ensure that every young child in New Orleans has access to a high-quality early care & education program.

Agenda for Children is the Lead Agency and supports:

Coordinated Observation & Supports

- My Teachstone
- Quality Assurance for observations
- Training & Coaching

Coordinated Enrollment & Information

- OneApp Birth to 4
- New Orleans Guide to Early Care & Education
- Public Outreach

Coordinated Funding

- Coordinated Funding Request Process
- Analyzing systemwide needs

Network Development

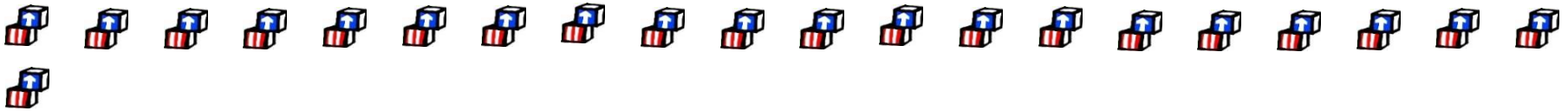
- NOEEN Steering Committee
- Strategic Planning
- Advocacy

NOEEN Partners & Steering Committee Members

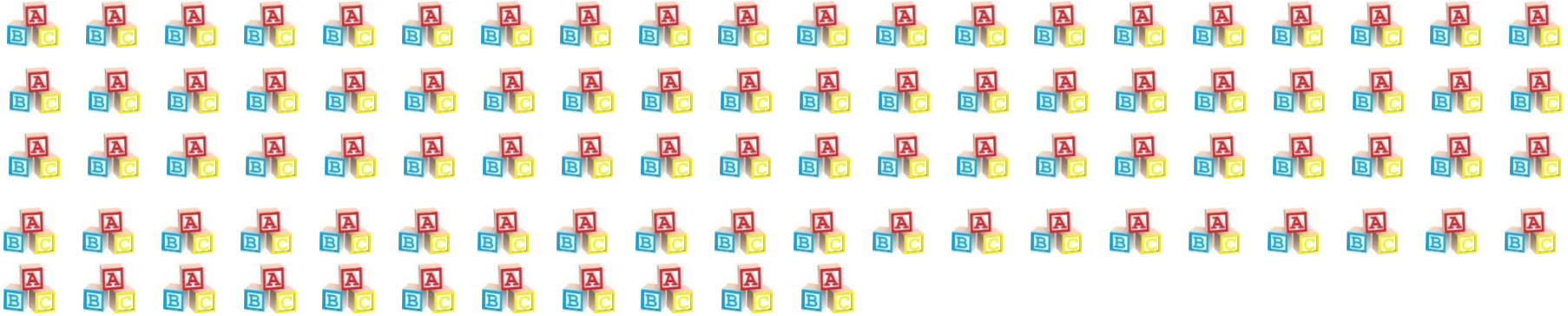
36 Public Schools | 921 PF Children | SC Rep: 2 Supts. + 1 CMO CEO

9 Non-Public Schools | 327 PF Children | SC Rep: 1 Archdiocese Asst. Supt.

21 Early Head Start & HS | 2,203 Children | SC: 2 CEOs + 1 EHS/CC Director



91 Type III Early Learning Centers | 921 PF Children | SC Rep: 2 Owner/Directors



Objectives

NOEEN Overview

2015-2016 Year in Review

Looking Ahead: 2016-17 DRAFT NOEEN Priorities

Coordinated Observations & Supports

For the first time ever, a common, reliable standard of quality teacher-child interactions can be measured and compared for all publicly-funded early childhood classrooms in New Orleans.

- CLASS Observations in Fall and Spring for all publicly funded early childhood classrooms
- 500+ Classroom Observations
- 98 % of classrooms observed by contracted observers
- My Teachstone for all teachers to provide focused, relevant professional development
- *Coaching with myTeachstone* training provided to interested administrators and coaches

Coordinated Enrollment & Information Campaign

For the first time ever, a family seeking free early care and education can choose from nearly all publicly-funded programs through a single eligibility verification and enrollment process.

- Over 5,000 early childhood seats in OneApp (all Early Head Start, Head Start, LA 4, NSECD, and PEG programs)
- NOEEN adopted Coordinated Enrollment Framework
- Online application and standardized eligibility verification process
- Processed more than more than 10,000 applications
- Guide to Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Catalog included detailed information on all publicly funded programs, including CCAP

Coordinated Funding

For the first time ever, public schools, nonpublic schools, and early learning centers were able to apply for all state-funded early childhood programs through a single, transparent application and evaluation process.

- Single timeline, application, and evaluation process for all providers seeking LA 4, NSECD, PEG, and CCAP funds
- Increased the number of free Pre-K 4 seats by over 250
- Facilitated the development of 8 new school-center partnerships through the Preschool Expansion Grant
- Partnered with Stand for Children to develop a cost estimate for the actual cost of early childhood education and what it would take to serve all children

Network Development

For the first time ever, early childhood programs have a representative public body dedicated to collective actions that are best for the entire system of early childhood care and education in New Orleans.

- 11-member NOEEN Steering Committee founded, representing all program types
- 6 NOEEN Steering Committee meetings
- Supported Agenda for Children in Learning Year by advising and making decisions for coordinated observations, enrollment, and funding
- Theory of Change

Objectives

NOEEN Overview

2015-2016 Year in Review

Looking Ahead: 2016-17 DRAFT NOEEN Priorities

Coordinated Observations & Supports DRAFT 2016-17 Priorities

- Complete CLASS observations for 100% of network classrooms in Fall and Spring.
- Maintain a corps of sixteen well-trained, reliable contracted CLASS observers for both observation periods.
- Develop and implement a plan to provide targeted resources to program partners in order to improve teacher-child quality interactions.

Coordinated Enrollment & Information Campaign DRAFT 2016-17 Priorities

- Conduct a comprehensive systemwide needs assessment based on 2016-17 coordinated enrollment data to inform the NOEEN coordinated funding request, and systemwide and individual programs' capacity and enrollment projections.
- Continue to improve the coordinated enrollment process, to ensure increased access and information for families and program partners.

Coordinated Funding
DRAFT 2016-17 Priorities

- Integrate allocated CCAP slots fully into the Coordinated Funding Request and Coordinated Enrollment processes (dependent on LDE).
- Advocate for and develop a plan to secure additional funding for additional infant, toddler, and three-year-old seats.

Network Development
DRAFT 2016-17 Priorities

- Develop a long-term strategic plan for the structure, governance, and funding of NOEEN and a proposed plan of action for coordinating, improving and expanding quality and access to publicly-funded early childhood care and education in New Orleans.

Coordinated Enrollment: A Year in Review

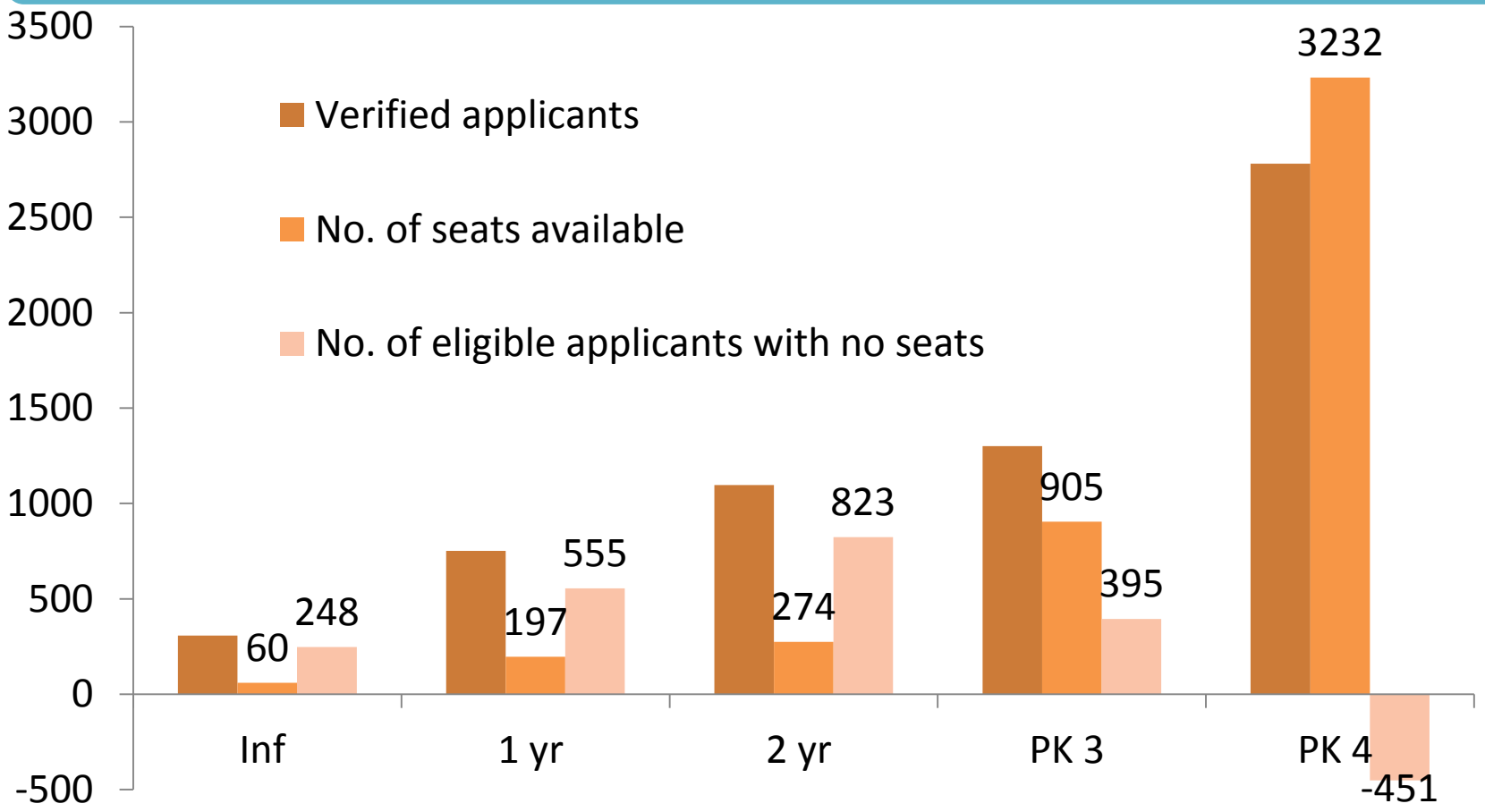
Thank you

Our first year of coordinated enrollment is behind us. You stayed with us through the deadlines and spreadsheets and were true partners in this process.

Together **we increased access to over 5,000 early childhood seats, processed more than 10,000 applications and verified programmatic eligibility for thousands of families**. As a network, we now better understand parent demand and can plan more effectively for meeting that demand.

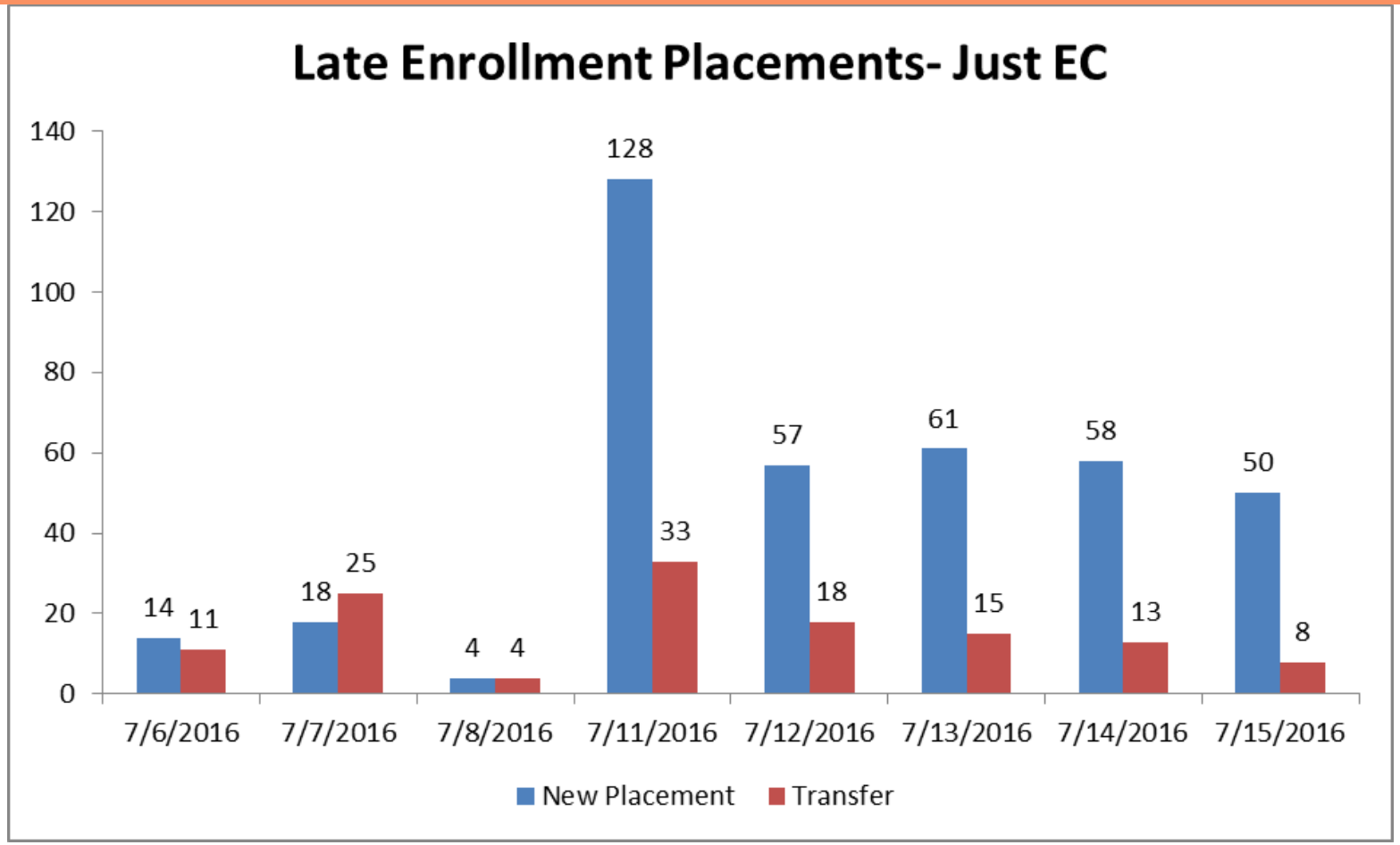
Snapshot of Demand MR and R2

Verified applicants compared to available seats



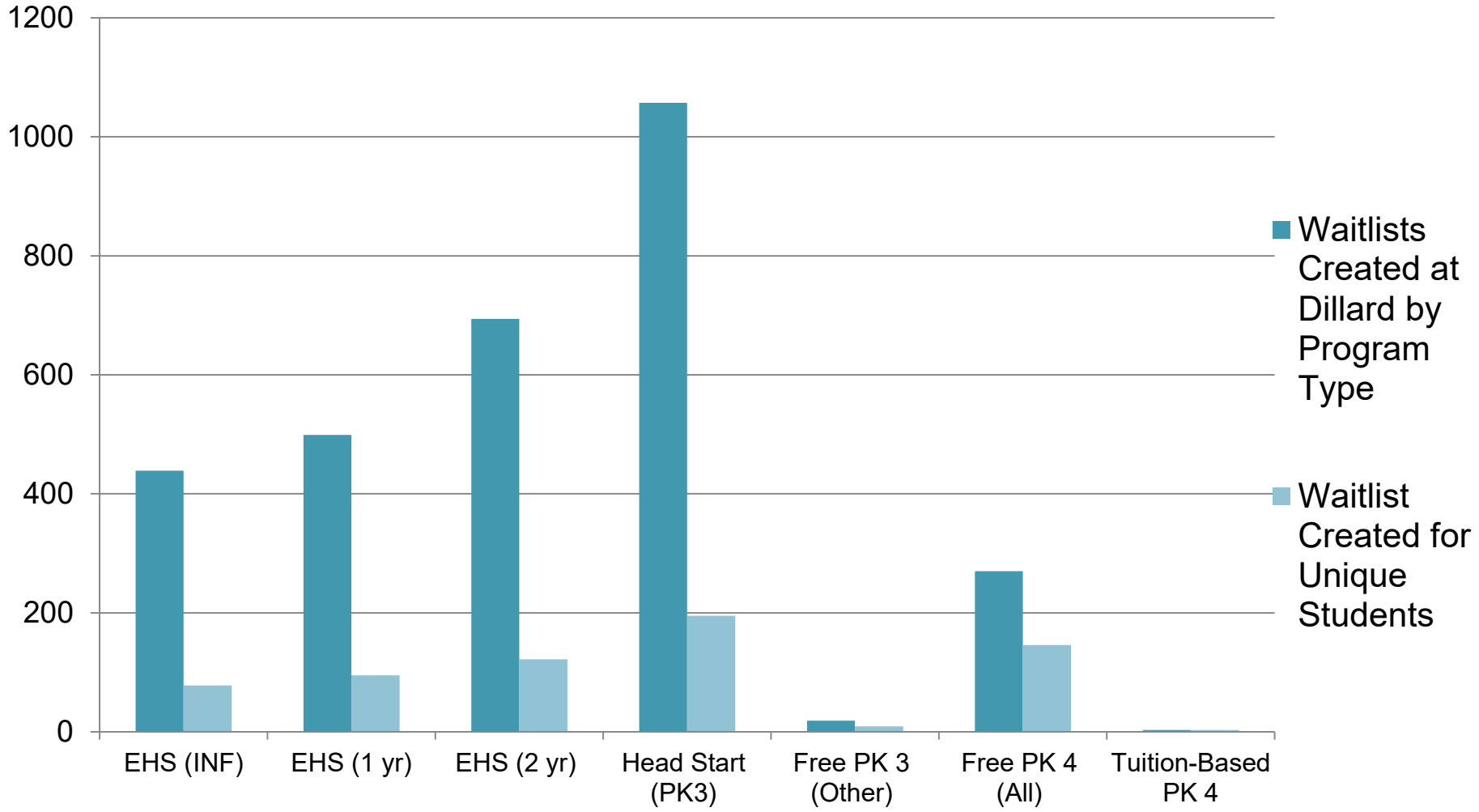
The number of verified applicants was considerably higher than the number of available seats for all ages except PK 4 where we did not receive enough valid applications when compared to the number of seats.

EC Late Enrollment Activity Dillard



- Early childhood placements and transfers before 7/11 are a result of waitlist offers.
- Late Enrollment began for early childhood at Dillard on 7/11; over 3,500 families came to Dillard to seek placements for infant through 12th grade.
- Many thanks to TCA and Kingsley House for helping us verify families all week at Late Enrollment.

EC Late Enrollment Activity Dillard



Demand for infant to PK 3 programs remained high through late enrollment. Many families came to add themselves to additional waitlists after not receiving a placement through Main Round or Round 2.

Snapshot Seat Availability: Inf to PK 4

Seat Availability: All Programs week of August 22nd

Age	Total seats	Filled	% filled	Open	% open
Inf	60	60	100%	0	0%
1 yr	197	194	98%	3	2%
2 yr	274	268	98%	6	2%
PK 3*	905	847	94%	35	4%
PK 4*	3232	2852	88%	382	12%

- Additional EHS seats have been added to the process at St. Paul the Apostle and at LSU's EHS CCAP partnership centers.
- The number of open PK 4 seats continues to decline; down from over 550 open seats at the beginning of August.
- Additionally several Head Start programs have converted PK 4 seats to PK 3 seats where demand is greater.
- Open seats continue to be filled through waitlist offers for all programs that have waitlists.

* HS seat availability does not include the St. Paul openings, those seats will be filled closer to the HS opening date.

Snapshot Seat Availability PK 4

Seat Availability: Late Enrollment

No. of PK 4 seats open	LA4	Head Start	NSECD	School/Center Partnership	Tuition	GT
Week ending 7/29	130	171	90	151	32	8
Week ending 8/5	92	178	113	135	16	8
Week ending 8/12	48	180	96	104	12	8
Week ending 8/19	38	154	81	96	7	8

Filling PK4 Seats

With over 350 PK4 seats still available, programs must work to recruit eligible families to enroll.

How EnrollNOLA and Agenda for Children are helping:

- PK4 Flyer and Preschool yard signs (for programs with >10 open seats)
- Waitlist calls
- Providing PK4 enrollment information at community meetings/events
- Contacting families who did not complete verification

Suggestions on how YOU can help:

- Head Start centers only: programs with PK3 waitlists can convert open PK4 seats to PK3 seats *(your grantee must approve)*
- Provide flyer and enrollment info to families *(even full programs need to do this!)*
- Train all staff members in recruitment and enrollment info
- Use your social and professional networks (existing phone lists, social media)
- Attend community events and provide program and enrollment info
- Reach out to other organizations in your area that come in contact with families, (schools, churches, housing developments)

Reflections

- We have learned a lot about the number of at risk infant to four year olds in New Orleans, which will enable us to more effectively match supply to that demand. This will be most challenging for infant to two year olds given limited availability of Early Head Start.
- As LDE moves forward with “allocated CCAP seats,” we must find a way to incorporate them into the OneApp process.
- We are still learning how to effectively communicate the intricacies of program requirements in our materials in a way that is both accurate and accessible to our families.
- We will explore ways to support our center partners, in acknowledgement of the work that accompanies coordinated enrollment (i.e. EPC score entry, target setting).

Looking Ahead: OneApp 2017-2018

Early Childhood Providers: Please join us to review the Coordinated Enrollment Framework to recommend revisions to the process for 2017-2018

Three meetings will be held at Agenda for Children to cover the following topics:

- **Topic: Application and verification process**
  - Develop strategies for spreading the word about the Main Round timeline, programs included, and where and how, to verify.
  - Review the verification process; what improvements can be made to streamline the process for programs and families.

  When: Tuesday August 30th 2 pm to 4 pm
- **Topic: Waitlist, transfers, mid-year placements, and discharges**
  - Review policies included in the 2016-2017 Coordinated Enrollment Framework to ensure they still best serve the network.

  When: Tuesday September 6th 2 pm to 4 pm
- **Topic: Revision wrap up for Framework for 2017-2018**

  When: Tuesday September 13th 2 pm to 4 pm

Tomorrow 12:30 to 1:30 LDOE will be at Agenda for the Coordinated Enrollment Self Assessment; come and share your thoughts on our progress so far!