



# Let's Talk:

## Supporting Families' Early Learning Decision-Making

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# Speakers



**Danielle**  
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**Kaye**  
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**Lindsey**  
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**Nasha**  
Patel



# Supporting Families' Early Learning Decision-Making

## An Overview of the Universal Pre-K Application Process in Durham, NC

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Danielle Johnson, MPH, M.Ed.  
Director of Early Childhood Systems, Durham's Partnership for Children

# A Community Collaborative Approach

- The Universal Pre-K Application process is woven into the existing 0-5 early childhood education system in Durham County.
  - The process was designed to provide families with a “one-stop” “no wrong door” experience.
  - Community Partners Include: Dept. of Social Services, Child Care Services Association, Head Start, Durham Public Schools, Book Harvest, East Durham Children’s Initiative, County Library.
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# Program Options

- Durham Public Schools Pre-Kindergarten Program
  - Durham Public Schools The Whitted School
  - Durham Head Start
  - Durham's Partnership for Children/NC Pre-K
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# Child Eligibility and Placement

- Each application will be reviewed and scored by the three program agencies. Eligibility requirements vary by program. This information is shared with families during time of application.
  - As applications are completed, a developmental screening is scheduled for the child.
  - A shared process to select and assign children is used amongst the collaborating programs. It is our intent to notify all families no later than mid-July, 2018 about their child's placement for the 2018-2019 school year.
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# Program Recruitment and Parent Awareness

Recruitment and Outreach Efforts Include:

- Canvassing the community and flyer distribution
  - Attending County wide functions
  - Targeting parent meetings
  - Utilizing community stakeholder relationships
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# UPK and Other Resources

<http://dpfc.net/our-work/ncpk/>

<https://www.dpsnc.net/domain/108>

<http://www.childcareservices.org/fs/finding/additional-resources/>

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# **Supporting Families Early Learning Decision-Making**

*The Transformation of Early Childhood in Louisiana*



# The Challenge for Louisiana in 2012

*At-risk children who participate in high quality early childhood education are more likely to enter kindergarten ready and succeed in school and beyond. But there are too many children in Louisiana who do not have the opportunity to participate.*

- **Children do not have equal access to high quality programs.**  
Quality and availability of programs varies across the state.
- **Families do not have clear, comparable information on the quality of programs.**  
Programs have different standards and measures of success which makes it difficult for families to compare the quality of programs.
- **Providers are held to different standards.**  
Different regulations and accountability create a range of quality.

# The Work Continues in 2018

*Community networks of publicly-funded providers are the drivers for universal standards for programs and informed choice for families.*

- Louisiana requires early childhood programs that take public funding to meet **universal higher standards** – regardless of program type – with a **focus on outcomes** rather than inputs.
- At the same time, Louisiana seeks to infuse informed **choice** into the system – for families, providers and communities.
- To achieve this, Louisiana has established **local networks** in every community and **centralized state oversight** under the State Board.



# **Vision, Framework, and Implementation**

# Vision for Kindergarten Readiness

*Louisiana, through community networks, will unify the early childhood system – birth to pre-K – to prepare all children for kindergarten.*

**Shared high standards for what children should learn and what excellent teaching looks like.**

**Teachers are excellent at interacting with children and guiding learning.**

**Expectations for health, safety, and learning are consistent with adequate funding levels for programs that serve children well.**

**Families can easily enroll and choose the best option for their children.**



# A Framework of Five Essential Elements

*Louisiana has passed laws and policies to unify early childhood and improve outcomes.*

## **1. An Early Childhood Network in Every Community**

- Parishes voluntarily established unified local early childhood networks with all publicly-funded child care, Head Start and Pre-K sites
- Networks account for every birth-to-age-5 at-risk child, provide 2 *CLASS* observations per classroom, and implement coordinated enrollment and request for funding

## **2. Unified Rating System Connected to Licensure**

- Unified rating system helps families choose the best option by providing information about the quality of experiences their children are likely to receive
  - *Rating that relates to positive child outcomes based on CLASS observations*
  - *Information on classroom best practices (e.g., use of curriculum, credentialing of teachers)*

## **3. Coordinated Enrollment and Funding to Empower Family Choice**

- Communities are building local enrollment systems that coordinate information, eligibility and applications and match families with their highest ranked preference

## **4. Teacher Preparation and Support**

- Louisiana has established a new Ancillary Teaching Certificate as a minimum expectation for child care teacher that will articulate to a Birth-to-K BA program
- CCDF Quality Investments aligned to *CLASS* observations are available for every classroom

## **5. Centralized Oversight at the State Level**

# Early Childhood Laws and Policies Since 2012

*Laws and policies passed since 2012 establish a unified early childhood system.*

## **Louisiana has passed laws that:**

- Unify all public programs and require rating system indicative of child outcomes;
- Require local coordination of enrollment to increase access for families;
- Create an educational expectation as a condition of licensing;
- Establish a 30 member Advisory Council to review all early childhood policies; and
- Transition all state child care and Head Start functions under the State Board.

## **The State Board of Education has passed policies that:**

- Establish local community networks;
- Establish unified rating system with incentives for improvement and consequences for unsatisfactory performance;
- Set unified expectations for enrollment;
- Establish unified health, safety and academic expectations for licensing;
- Establish new child care teaching certificate that will be required by 2019; and
- Help level the playing field by increasing child care assistance rates, bonuses and eligibility.

# Implementation Timeline

*Local communities have led the way in implementation.*

2013-2014

13 Early Childhood Community Network Pilots launched

2014-2015

16 additional Community Network Pilots launched  
Legislation was passed to further unify licensing, enrollment, and funding

2015 - 2016

All communities put Early Childhood Community Network in place  
Statewide implementation was achieved through a Learning Year

2016-2017

Roll-out of Practice Performance Profiles based on the Learning Year  
Alignment of supports, funding and tax credits to support programs and engage families





# **Community Networks As Change Agents**

# An Early Childhood Network In Every Community

*Louisiana has a unified network of child care, Head Start and Pre-K in every community.*

## Community Networks:

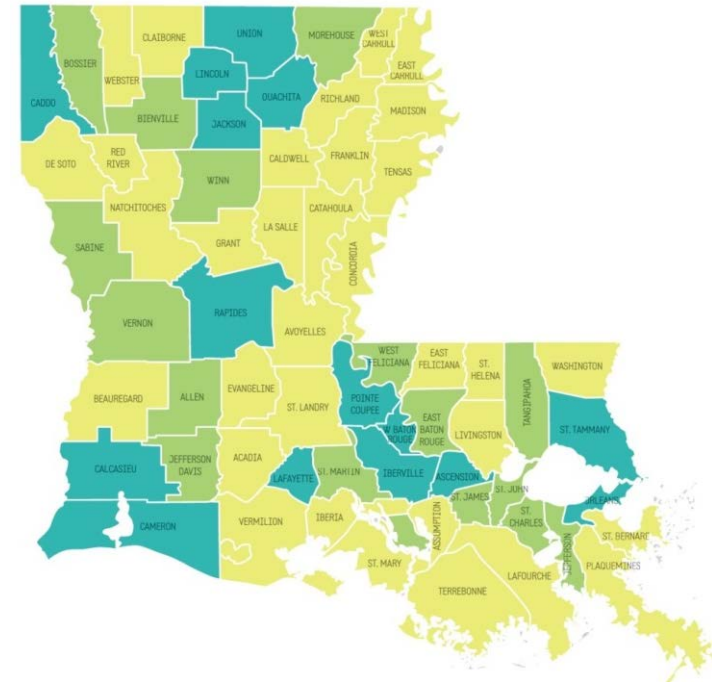
- From 2013-2015, all parishes voluntarily established unified local early childhood networks
- State Board set formal expectations in 2015

## Each Community Network:

- Has a lead agency
- Includes all publicly-funded early childhood programs (child care, Head Start, pre-K)

## Activities of Each Community Network:

- Account for every birth-to-age-5 at-risk child
- Provide 2 CLASS observations per classroom
- Coordinate enrollment to improve process for families
- Request slots as a community based on family demand



# Unique Traits Cultivate Leadership and Innovation

*The community network model ensures that implementation meets local needs.*




**Natchitoches Parish – 22 sites**  
Small college town with very supportive city government surrounded by small communities.

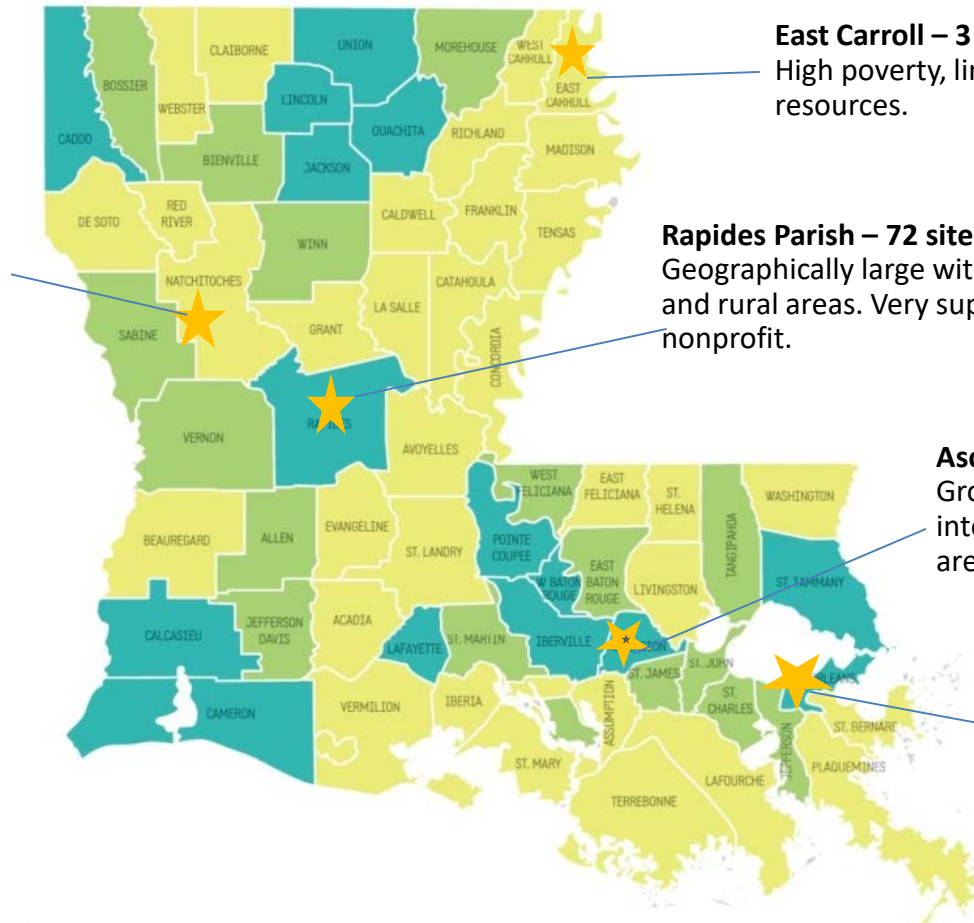
**East Carroll – 3 sites**  
High poverty, limited local resources.

**Rapides Parish – 72 sites**  
Geographically large with a mix of towns and rural areas. Very supportive local nonprofit.

**Ascension Parish – 30 sites**  
Growing. Divided by the river into high poverty and affluent areas.

**Orleans Parish – 160 sites**  
High poverty, urban area. Independent, competitive providers.

-  Pilot Cohort 1
-  Pilot Cohort 2
-  Pilot Cohort 3







# **Improving Access for Families**

# Without Coordinated Enrollment, Families Face Big Challenges

*Our community networks have worked collaboratively, over multiple years, to remove the barriers families face in accessing high-quality early childhood programs across Louisiana.*

**Louisiana offers various early childhood program options to low-income families in need of quality early childhood care and education.**

- School-based pre-K including public and nonpublic school programs, special education, Child Care Assistance, Head Start and Early Head Start

**When communities are not coordinated, enrollment challenges for families can include:**

- Families don't have a primary contact to learn about all early childhood programs in the community.
- Families have to go to too many places to determine if they are eligible for a program and apply.
- Families may be on a waitlist for one provider while another in the community has empty seats.
- There is no way to know the full demand for early childhood and plan to meet families' needs.
- Providers are often on their own in recruiting and connecting with families.

# Coordinated Enrollment at Its Best

*Because no one provider can serve all children, providers must collaborate in order to reach as many families as they can, and serve as many at-risk children as possible.*

**Coordinated enrollment at the local level helps to ensure that:**

- Families know of all available seats;
- Families have an easy way to know what they are eligible for and apply;
- Families do not occupy more than one seat, thus ensuring max use of available slots;
- The greatest number of children are served.

**Communities are building local enrollment systems that coordinate information, eligibility and applications and match families with their highest ranked preferences.**

Every program that takes public dollars to serve children is required to participate as a condition of licensure or funding. They must sign assurances to receive Academic Approval.

# Tackling the Problem

## Defining Coordinated Enrollment's Four Key Areas

*Louisiana's state legislature defined coordinated enrollment with Act 717 (2014), and required all communities to fully implement each component.*

**Coordinated enrollment centers on parent choice.** This means that families must be empowered to choose what is best for their children. That's why the state of Louisiana enabled the formation of locally-managed enrollment systems that:

- 1. Coordinate Information: Families know of all available seats**
  - Inform families about the availability of publicly-funded programs*
- 2. Coordinate Eligibility: Families easily know what programs they qualify for**
  - Ensure families are referred to available publicly-funded programs*
- 3. Coordinate Applications: Families apply to all programs through one application**
  - Collect family preferences regarding enrollment choices*
- 4. Match Based on Preference: Families enroll their child in the highest ranked preference available**
  - Enroll children based on family preference so no one occupies more than one seat*



# Setting Clear Expectations

## Using Policy to Require Collaboration

*Louisiana used policy to establish the requirement that community networks and provider sites work together to submit specific information that shows coordination of enrollment.*

Coordinated Enrollment is a multi-step process that requires lead agencies to convene their community network partners to:

- **Count all at-risk publicly-funded children by funding source**, so they understand resources and demand and can plan to maximize access;
- **Submit a Coordinated Funding Request**, that allocates resources according to local need and family choice; and
- **Submit a Coordinated Enrollment Plan**, that demonstrates coordination across the four key areas of enrollment.



# Coordinated Enrollment

## A Year-Long Process for Communities

*Community networks must continuously work together to achieve coordinated enrollment throughout the year.*

### **Child Count (October 1)**

Communities count children being served through public dollars.



### **Coordinated Funding Request (Fall/Winter)**

Communities request funding for early childhood



### **Coordinated Enrollment Planning (Fall/Winter)**

Communities plan to increase access based on child count, at-risk data, and family demand.



### **Coordinated Enrollment Implementation (Spring/Summer)**

Communities fill publicly-funded seats through coordinated enrollment work.

# Coordinated Enrollment

## The Full Model

### Maximize System Capacity

- 1) Analyze historical demand for services (e.g., count seats currently occupied and children on waiting lists)
- 2) Project community need (e.g., how many seats are needed and where are they available?)

#### Coordinated Information Campaign

*Work together to inform families about early childhood programs in the community*

- Collaborate to ensure access to information year-round
- Conduct an on-the-ground information campaign
- Institute a “No Wrong Door” approach by sharing information in-person, online and paper as appropriate
- Use common timelines

#### Coordinated Eligibility Determination

*Create one way for families to know what they qualify for and one year-round process to refer families to other available programs when they do not qualify or no seats are available*

- Understand program & funding eligibility requirements
- Determine preliminary eligibility with a unified eligibility application
- Use common timelines
- Develop a community referral system

#### Coordinated Applications

*Have a single application used by all programs to collect family preferences*

- Guide families through options based on eligibility
- Families designate choices on one application during open enrollment period
- Coordinate application and enrollment timelines across all programs year-round
- Collaborate on waitlist management

#### Matching Based on Preference

*Enroll at-risk children based upon where families prefer to send their children, as long as space is available*

- Admit families according to their preference and the capacity of programs
- Provide enrollment options throughout the year
- Collaborate on waitlist management

# Coordinated Enrollment

## Maximize Capacity for 3 and 4 Year Olds

*In order to increase access to early childhood programs, community networks must also understand where access is limited, and act strategically to maximize capacity.*

### Mini Case Study: Calcasieu Parish Schools – Maximizing Seats for 3 and 4 Year Olds

- **Problem:** Not all threes were being served, and not all seats for fours were used
- **Solution:** Maximized seats for fours by moving all fours served by Title I to LA 4 seats
- **Result:** Served more threes with Title I seats that were being used by fours

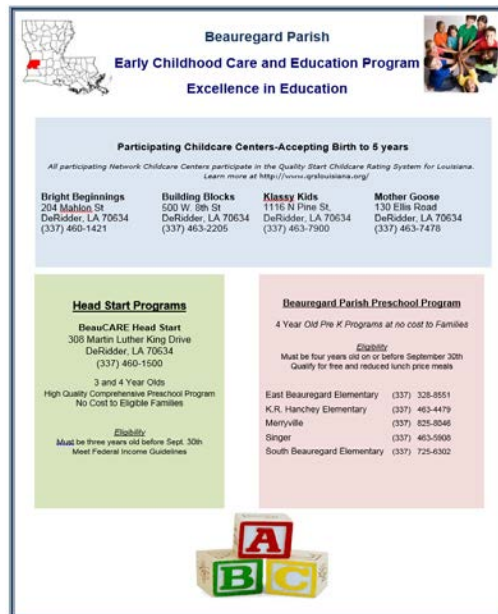
#### Full Model Expectations

- ✓ Analyze all sources of information
- ✓ Determine the at-risk gap (# of children not being served)
- ✓ Maximize available programs and seats to reduce the at-risk gap as much as possible
- ✓ Use enrollment and demand data to complete your Coordinated Enrollment plan



# Coordinated Enrollment Information Campaign

*Community networks work together to inform families about early childhood programs in the community.*



**Beauregard Parish**  
**Early Childhood Care and Education Program**  
Excellence in Education

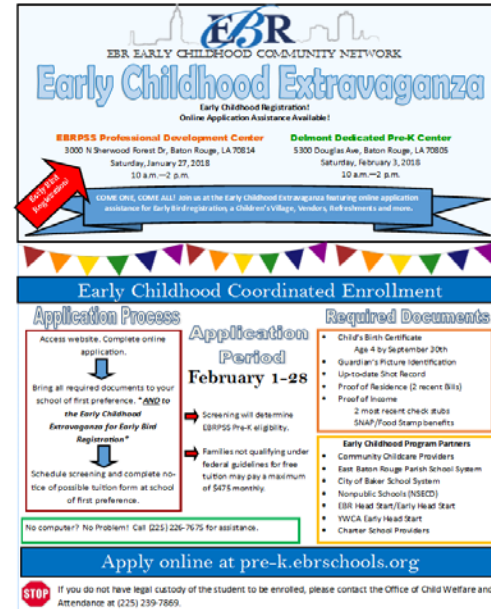
**Participating Childcare Centers-Accepting Birth to 5 years**  
All participating Network Childcare Centers participate in the Quality Start Childcare Rating System for Louisiana. Learn more at <http://www.qsrlouisiana.org/>

<b>Bright Beginnings</b> 284 Mahlon St. De Ridder, LA 70534 (337) 460-1421	<b>Building Blocks</b> 500 W. 8th St. De Ridder, LA 70534 (337) 463-2205	<b>Klassy Kids</b> 1116 N Pine St. De Ridder, LA 70534 (337) 463-7900	<b>Mother Goose</b> 130 Ellis Road De Ridder, LA 70534 (337) 463-7478
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**Head Start Programs**  
**BearCARE Head Start**  
308 Martin Luther King Drive  
De Ridder, LA 70534  
(337) 460-1500  
3 and 4 Year Olds  
High Quality Comprehensive Preschool Program  
No Cost to Eligible Families  
  
**Eligibility:**  
Must be three years old before Sept. 30th  
Meet Federal Income Guidelines

**Beauregard Parish Preschool Program**  
4 Year Old Pre-K Programs at no cost to Families  
  
**Eligibility:**  
Must be four years old on or before September 30th  
Qualify for free and reduced lunch price meals

East Beauregard Elementary (337) 328-8551	K.R. Hanchey Elementary (337) 463-4479
Merryville (337) 825-8046	Singer (337) 463-0908
South Beauregard Elementary (337) 725-6302	



**EBR EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY NETWORK**  
**Early Childhood Extravaganza**  
Early Childhood Registration!  
Online Application Assistance Available!

**EBRPS Professional Development Center**  
3000 N Sherwood Forest Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70814  
Saturday, January 27, 2018  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Delmont Dedicated Pre-K Center**  
5300 Douglas Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70805  
Saturday, February 3, 2018  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**COME ONE, COME ALL!** Join us at the Early Childhood Extravaganza featuring online application assistance for Early Child Registration, a Children's Village, vendors, refreshments and more.

**Early Childhood Coordinated Enrollment**

**Application Process**  
Access website. Complete online application.  
Bring all required documents to your school of first preference. \*AND to the Early Childhood Extravaganza for Early Child Registration\*  
Schedule screening and complete notice of possible tuition form at school of first preference.  
No computer? No Problem! Call (225) 226-7675 for assistance.

**Application Period**  
**February 1-28**

Screening will determine EBRPS Pre-K eligibility.  
Families not qualifying under federal guidelines for free tuition may pay a maximum of \$475/monthly.

**Required Documents**

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Age 4 by September 30th
- Guardian's Picture Identification
- Up-to-date Shot Record
- Proof of Residence (2 recent Bills)
- Proof of Income
- 2 most recent check stubs
- SNAP/Food Stamp benefits

**Early Childhood Program Partners**

- Community Childcare Providers
- East Baton Rouge Parish School System
- City of Baker School System
- Nonpublic Schools (NPSIS)
- EBR Head Start/Early Head Start
- YWCA Early Head Start
- Charter School Providers

**Apply online at [pre-k.ebrschools.org](http://pre-k.ebrschools.org)**

**STOP** If you do not have legal custody of the student to be enrolled, please contact the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance at (225) 239-7869.

## Full Model Expectations

- ✓ Conduct information campaign with joint enrollment and informational materials
- ✓ Use a single timeline for enrollment
- ✓ Communicate with families, including at-risk and hard to reach families
- ✓ Support families through the choice process

# Coordinated Enrollment Eligibility Determination

*A coordinated timeline, application, and process benefits both families and providers.*

Providers use a unified eligibility determination form (Early Childhood Program – Family Eligibility Worksheet) shown to the right. Networks work hard to ensure that:

- Parents can turn to anyone in the network to get the initial information they need;
- Every provider knows the options available to all at-risk children in the network;
- Referral system is in place among program partners; and
- Use a referral process to reduce waitlists.

**DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION**  
Louisiana Believes

**2017-2018 Early Childhood Program Family Eligibility Worksheet**

☐ **Proof of Income – Note: Use hourly rate and income formula whenever possible for the most accurate and consistent verification.** Select which item(s) you have verified:

\_\_\_\_ Two (2) consecutive check stubs for EACH PARENT or CAREGIVER in the HOUSEHOLD for the current year (within 2 months from the date of filling out this application.) Use tables below to calculate.

\_\_\_\_ An official letter from your employer stating all of the following:

- Where parent/guardian is employed
- Hourly rate of pay
- The average number of hours parent/guardian works per week.

\_\_\_\_ SNAP/Food Stamps – must include the child's name and valid effective dates. (Certified thru \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ A statement from the Social Security Administration verifying that the child listed on the application is a recipient of SSI benefits, which must be accompanied by two current check stubs.

\_\_\_\_ Current foster care placement agreement from DCFs

\_\_\_\_ Parents unemployed must submit a letter of support and income documentation from support source.

\_\_\_\_ Families in a temporary living arrangement due to loss of housing or economic hardship (homeless). Community Networks should follow LEA-defined procedures for verifying homeless status.

\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ May be subject to review. (Note: 2016 tax documentation is allowable only if no other form of income verification documentation exists. Previous tax years are not allowed.)

(Family Size: \_\_\_\_\_; Number of Children in Family: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Monthly Income Calculation Table: How to Translate Income into a Monthly Figure**

Pay Period	Formula
Hourly	(Hourly wage x 40 hours per week) x 4.33
Monthly, same gross pay each month	Use gross salary
Paid same gross amount exactly 2 times per month (e.g., 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of month)	Gross salary x 2
Paid same gross amount every 2 weeks (e.g., every other Friday)	(Gross salary ÷ 2) x 4.33
Weekly	Gross salary x 4.33

**INCOME LIMITS SHOWN ARE EFFECTIVE FOR 2017-2018 ENROLLMENT ONLY**

LA 4, NSECD, PreK Expansion Grant: 185% FPL	
Family Size/Gross Monthly Income	Family Size/Gross Monthly Income
2 People ~ \$2,504	3 People ~ \$3,148
4 People ~ \$5,793	5 People ~ \$4,437
6 People ~ \$5,081	7 People ~ \$5,726
8 People ~ \$6,370	9 People ~ \$7,015

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	
Family Size/Gross Monthly Income	Family Size/Gross Monthly Income
2 People ~ \$2,150	3 People ~ \$2,656
4 People ~ \$3,182	5 People ~ \$3,688
6 People ~ \$4,173	7 People ~ \$4,788
8 People ~ \$4,563	9 People ~ \$4,458

REV. 1/2017

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# Coordinated Enrollment Unified Applications

*Unified applications reduce the burdens for families and make it clear for families, from the start, how space is allocated in a program.*

**A unified application is used by all providers, which allows for:**

- Clear communication and publicity around: dates and deadlines, information required for application/enrollment, eligibility restrictions, priority admission categories, other impacts on enrollment;
- A central point of entry where all providers enroll children on the same timeline, allowing for ongoing enrollment options; and
- Collection of only the information needed for children to apply and be matched to seats.

Acadia Parish Early Childhood Network Application  
2402 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526 Phone: 337-783-3664

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Desired Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (child care only)  
Has your child received services from the school system in the \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Child Care Site  
Other(Specify): \_\_\_\_\_ Is your child in Early Steps: Yes No  
Please prioritize the providers you want your child to attend by placing a 1, 2, and 3 in front of your first, second, and third choices:  
Public School PreK HeadStart Child Care Centers

_____ Branch Elementary	_____ Church Point Head Start	_____ Assist Agency Little Friends IV (Church Point)
_____ Central Rayne Kindergarten	_____ Estherwood Head Start	_____ Assist Agency Little Friends V (Rayne)
_____ Church Point Elementary	_____ Rayne Head Start	_____ Jinger and Pickels (Rayne)
_____ Crowley Kindergarten	_____ Ross Head Start (Crowley)	_____ Melda's Kiddie World, LLC (Eunice)
_____ Egan Elementary		_____ Petite Bulldogs (Iota)
_____ Estherwood Elementary		_____ Precious Moments (Crowley)
_____ Evangeline Elementary		_____ Room To Grow (Crowley)
_____ Iota Elementary		_____ Raynebeau's Learning Center, LLC (Rayne)
_____ Mermentau Elementary		_____ Sam's Kids Safari Too (Crowley)
_____ Mire Elementary		
_____ Morse Elementary		
_____ Richard Elementary		

(Please fill in the form completely and accurately. All information will be kept confidential.)

Applicant's Information  
Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Language: \_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_ Native American \_\_\_\_\_ Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Emergency Information  
Family Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emerg. Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
List any emergency situations such as allergies, chronic illness, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Information  
Parent 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home# \_\_\_\_\_ Work# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relation to Child: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Does the student live with this person? \_\_\_\_\_

Family Size: (The family size is to be determined by including all persons living in the household who are supported by the income of the child's parents or guardians and related to the parents or guardians by blood, marriage, or adoption.)  
Family Size: \_\_\_\_\_ (Household size) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: 0-11 months \_\_\_\_\_ 1 yr \_\_\_\_\_ 2 yr \_\_\_\_\_ 3 yr \_\_\_\_\_ 4 yr \_\_\_\_\_

Name (First, Middle, Last)	Circle One	Relationship of child	Date of Birth
1. _____	M/F	_____	_____
2. _____	M/F	_____	_____
3. _____	M/F	_____	_____
4. _____	M/F	_____	_____
5. _____	M/F	_____	_____

FERPA Information  
Do you wish to release information such as honor rolls, awards and various activities to non-school entities (newspaper, TV, and other)? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
I CERTIFY that this information is true and correct. ☐ Yes ☐ No  
I understand that if I deliberately misrepresent my family income or circumstances, my family may not be eligible for further services. In the event my child is not accepted into the program, my application may be released to local child care centers.  
☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Coordinated Enrollment Matching Based on Preference

*Community networks ensure that every family who submits an application through the coordinated enrollment system will be considered equitably.*

**This typically happens one of two ways:**

1. Via online systems that match families based on stated preferences and eligibility information; or
2. Via community meetings where providers match paper applications with family rankings to open and available seats.

**A coordinated enrollment system focused on equity helps families by:**

- Increasing access to quality early learning, by leveling the playing field;
- Preventing reliance on the “first-come, first-served” method; and
- Creating an ongoing process with a main enrollment timeframe (even if registration is on-going).

# Coordinated Enrollment

## Family Friendly Web-Presence

*Community network websites that inform and empower families to make informed decisions about their children.*



### [Apply Now](#)

The St. Tammany Parish Early Childhood Community Network is a collaboration of the St. Tammany Parish Public School System, Head Start and Type III child care centers.

The mission of the network is to provide high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood care and education for children birth to age five so that each enters kindergarten ready for success.

[How to Sign Up](#)  
[Explore Your Options](#)  
[Participating Providers](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

Pre K Video 2017



### At Minimum, Community Network Websites Should:

- ✓ Ensure that the coordinated enrollment application is easy to find and working
- ✓ Ensure that accurate contact information is provided to families
- ✓ Ensure that the local school board's website has a link to the network's website






# **School and Center Finder**

# Engaging and Informing Families

## Early Childhood and K-12 School and Center Finder

*Louisiana's new tool was designed for families to use, to help them to navigate their choices and make informed decisions about care and education for their child.*



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Louisiana School and Center Finder. At the top, there is a header with a map of Louisiana, a schoolhouse, and a magnifying glass. Below the header, the text "Welcome to the Louisiana School Finder" is displayed, followed by the tagline "Search for schools based on what matters most to you." The interface is divided into two main sections: "EXPLORE SCHOOLS AND CENTERS" on the left and "JUMP RIGHT TO YOUR SCHOOL OR CENTER" on the right. The left section has a search bar for address, city, or zip code, a dropdown menu for age/grade, and a "View Schools/Centers" button. The right section has a search bar for school or center name. Two purple callout boxes with arrows point to the respective search bars.

**Browse by address, city, or zip code to see all nearby schools or centers.**

**Or search directly for a school or center by name.**

**EXPLORE SCHOOLS AND CENTERS**

📍 Enter an address, city, or zip code in Louisiana

Select an age/grade

View Schools/Centers

**JUMP RIGHT TO YOUR SCHOOL OR CENTER**

🔍 Search by school or center name

The School and Center Finder can be accessed at [www.LouisianaSchools.com](http://www.LouisianaSchools.com)

# Supporting Informed Family Choice

## Map Browsing View

*The map browsing view helps families easily find a variety of schools or centers that are near them. Families can also use the filters to narrow their search.*

1201 N 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, L Age/Grade Level PK (ages 3-4) More Filters Displaying 1-20 of 218 schools within 10 miles and any district/parish Change Filters

Map Satellite

Sort By Early Childhood Performance Rating Search by School Name

1 TREASURES FROM HEAVEN CHILDCARE AND LEARNING CENTER Infant (Under 1) - PK (ages 3-4) East Baton Rouge Parish Distance 5.9 Miles Early Education Performance Rating Excellent

2 WESTDALE HEIGHTS ACADEMIC MAGNET SCHOOL PK (ages 3-4) - Grade 5 East Baton Rouge Parish Distance 3.8 Miles Early Education Performance Rating Excellent K-12 Letter Grade A

3 A LIL ONE'S LEARNING CENTER, INC. Infant (Under 1) - PK (ages 3-4) East Baton Rouge Parish Distance 10 Miles Early Education Performance Rating Proficient

4 ABC CHILDRENS LEARNING ACADEMY Infant (Under 1) - PK (ages 3-4) East Baton Rouge Parish Distance 4.7 Miles Early Education Performance Rating Proficient

This list of numbered sites corresponds to the numbers on the map.



# Supporting Informed Family Choice

## Tracking and Comparing Centers

*Within the tool, families can select up to three sites to compare side by side, or they can create a list of favorite sites to bookmark them.*

The screenshot shows a web application for comparing schools. At the top, there are tabs for 'Compare' (with a green circle icon) and 'View Favorites' (with a gear icon). Below these, a status bar indicates 'Displaying 1-20 of 221 schools within 10 miles and any district/parish' with a 'Change Filters' link. A 'Sort By' dropdown menu is set to 'Early Childhood Performance Rating'. A search bar is labeled 'Search by School Name'. The main content area lists three schools, each with a rank number in a dark box on the left, the school name, its level and parish, and its distance. To the right of each school entry are two circular icons: a magnifying glass and a heart. Annotations include a purple arrow pointing to the 'Compare' tab, a red arrow pointing to the 'View Favorites' tab, a purple arrow pointing to the magnifying glass icon for the first school, and a red arrow pointing to the heart icon for the second school.

Rank	School Name	Level	Parish	Distance	Compare Icon	Favorite Icon
1	TREASURES FROM HEAVEN CHILDCARE AND LEARNING CENTE	Infant (Under 1) - PK (ages 3-4)	East Baton Rouge Parish	5.9 Miles	Yes	No
2	WESTDALE HEIGHTS ACADEMIC MAGNET SCHOOL	PK (ages 3-4) - Grade 5	East Baton Rouge Parish	3.8 Miles	Yes	Yes
	A LIL ONE'S LEARNING CENTER PERKINS	Infant (Under 1) - PK (ages 3-4)	East Baton Rouge Parish		Yes	Yes

# Supporting Informed Family Choice

## Site-Level Overview Information

*The “About Our School” section displays general information about the school or center that families have selected.*

[Back to School Finder](#)


EXAMPLE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

EARLY EDUCATION PERFORMANCE

Approaching Proficient

[ABOUT OUR SCHOOL](#) [ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE](#)

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL



1201 North Third Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
[View on Google Maps](#)

877-453-2721

[View School Website](#)

[assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov)

Mon: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Tue: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Wed: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Thu: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Fri: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Sat: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Sun: 6:00am to 6:30pm

ZZZ903

[f](#) [t](#)

### OVERVIEW

**AGES/GRADES SERVED**  
Infant (Under 1)-PK (ages 3-4)  
Infant (Under 1)-Toddler (ages 1-2)

**DISTRICT/PARISH**  
East Baton Rouge Parish

**SCHOOL/CENTER TYPE**  
Licensed Center

**LICENSE TYPE**  
III

**INSPECTION VISIT INFORMATION**  
[Click here to view inspection visit information](#)

**STAR RATING**  
★★★★☆

**DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL**  
Mr. John White

**TRANSPORTATION**  
Yes

**TAKES CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)**  
Yes

**BEFORE CARE**  
Yes

**AFTER CARE**  
Yes

# Providing Families With Quality Information

## Performance Profile Rating and Score

### EXAMPLE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

EARLY EDUCATION PERFORMANCE

Approaching Proficient

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

WHAT IS THIS SITE'S RATING FOR CLASSROOM QUALITY?

2016-2017 RATING

Approaching Proficient

HOW IS THIS MEASURED?

2016-2017 SITE SCORE

4.49 out of 7

Unsatisfactory	Approaching Proficient	Proficient	Excellent
1-2.99	3-4.49	4.5-5.99	6-7

These are scores based on classroom observations of teacher-child interactions. Classrooms with high-quality teacher-child interactions are supportive, organized, and promote children's learning and development.

[Watch a video on how this is measured](#)





# Providing Families With Quality Information

## Individual Domain Scores and Averages

### HOW IS THIS SITE PERFORMING IN MEASURES FOR PREK CLASSROOMS (3-4 YEARS)?

Louisiana classrooms are observed using CLASSTM, a nationally recognized tool. These in-depth measures show how well classrooms support children's growth and development.



#### EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

**5.63**  
Proficient

[Metric description >](#)

##### NETWORK AVERAGE

5.63  
Proficient

##### STATE AVERAGE

5.74  
Proficient



#### CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

**5.27**  
Proficient

[Metric description >](#)

##### NETWORK AVERAGE

5.49  
Proficient

##### STATE AVERAGE

5.53  
Proficient



#### INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

**3.17**  
Approaching Proficient

[Metric description >](#)

##### NETWORK AVERAGE

3.58  
Approaching Proficient

##### STATE AVERAGE

3.68  
Approaching Proficient

# Providing Families With Quality Information

## Use of Best Practices

### HOW IS THIS SITE USING BEST PRACTICES?

Stars help parents understand the practices in their children's classrooms. This is self-reported information that is not included in the site's rating.

#### ASSESSMENT



Are teachers measuring child progress?

[Metric description >](#)

#### CHILDREN PER TEACHER



Will my child receive close attention?

[Metric description >](#)

#### CURRICULUM QUALITY: PRE-K



What is the quality of the curriculum in PreK classrooms?

[Metric description >](#)

#### CURRICULUM QUALITY: INFANT/TODDLER



What is the quality of the curriculum in infant/toddler classrooms?

[Metric description >](#)

### HOW PREPARED ARE THE TEACHERS AT THIS SITE?

#### WHAT IS THE HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED BY TEACHERS AT THIS SITE?



[Metric description](#)

### HOW MANY TEACHERS AT THIS SITE ARE CERTIFIED BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA?

#### TOTAL CERTIFIED TEACHERS

[Metric description >](#)





# Providing Families With Quality Information Community Network Rating and Score

*Network Performance Profiles contain a roll up of each community's results, along with at-risk access metrics and community survey results, and are linked on each site's page.*

These are scores based on classroom observations of teacher-child classrooms with high-quality teacher-child interactions are supported and promote children's learning and development.

[Watch a video on how this is measured](#)

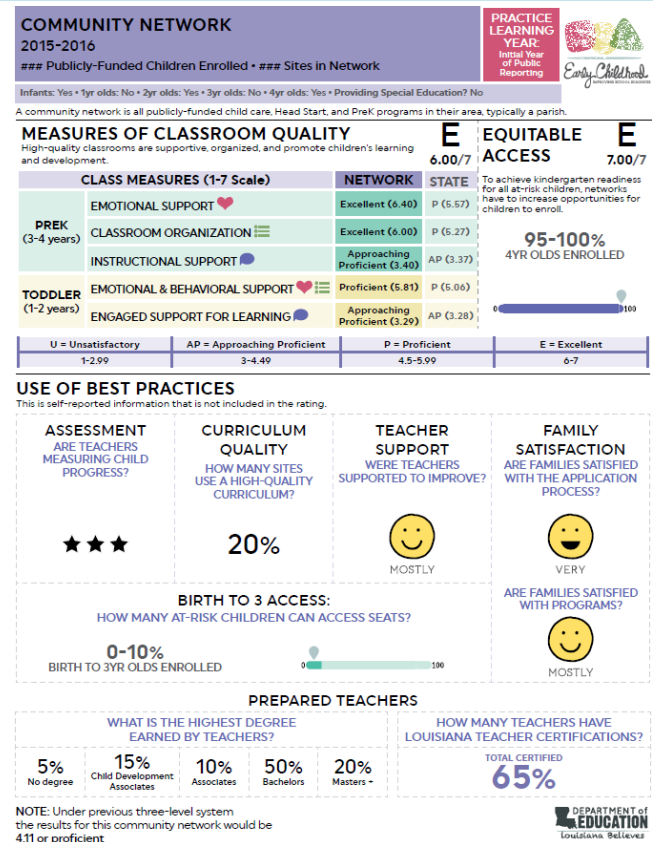
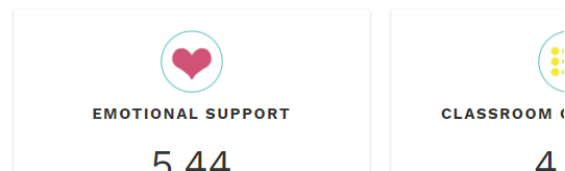
HOW DOES THIS SITE'S SCORE COMPARE TO ITS NETWORK'S SCORE?

**2016-2017 OVERALL SITE PERFORMANCE** Approaching P  
4.34

**2016-2017 OVERALL NETWORK PERFORMANCE** Proficient  
4.79

[See this network's full report card](#)

HOW IS THIS SITE PERFORMING IN MEASURES FOR PREK CLASSROOMS (3-4 YEARS)?



# Marketing the School and Center Finder

## Reaching and Engaging Families

*The Department has rolled out several tools and resources for Louisiana communities to use to promote their sites via School and Center Finder.*

**As part of the School and Center Finder release, the Department has:**

- Released a [one page flyer](#), [parent night presentation](#) and [animated video](#);
- Promoted the School and Center Finder with statewide media and through social media;
- Provided [talking points and resources](#) for organizations that interact closely with families so that they can promote the school and center finder in their own communities:
  - Schools and centers
  - Community organizations
  - Chambers of commerce
  - Realtor organizations
  - Non-profits

Louisiana has supported communities to collaborate around their own plans to include the new School and Center Finder in their coordinated enrollment work.

# Contact Information

## Presenters:

Kaye Eichler, Consultant – [Kaye.Eichler@la.gov](mailto:Kaye.Eichler@la.gov)

Lindsey Bradford, Portfolio Senior Manager – [Lindsey.Bradford@la.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Bradford@la.gov)

Dominick Robinson, Enrollment and Access Senior Manager – [Dominick.Robinson@la.gov](mailto:Dominick.Robinson@la.gov)

Nasha Patel, Accountability Senior Manager – [Nasha.Patel@la.gov](mailto:Nasha.Patel@la.gov)

## Resources:

- Louisiana School and Center Finder: <http://louisianaschools.com/>
- Lead Agency Guidebook: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/early-childhood/2016-early-childhood-louisiana-guidebook.pdf?sfvrsn=16>
- Coordinated Funding Request Guide: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/early-childhood/coordinated-funding-request-guide.pdf?sfvrsn=16>
- Resources related to Performance Profiles: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/performance-profiles>

# For More Information

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BUILD Initiative

[www.buildinitiative.org](http://www.buildinitiative.org)

QRIS National Learning Network

<http://qrisnetwork.org/>

