**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PELICAN EARLY LEARNING CENTER EARNS TOP MARKS FOR CLASSROOM QUALITY**

*Center Receives Excellent Rating for Emotional Support, Classroom Organization*

PELICAN, La. – Pelican Early Learning Center is supportive, organized and promotes our children’s learning and development, according to annual early childhood performance ratings released today by the Louisiana Department of Education on the [Louisiana School Finder](http://louisianaschools.com). Our center earned a “Proficient” rating for overall classroom quality, an improvement from the “Approaching Proficient” rating received last year.

All publicly funded early childhood education sites across the state now receive an annual performance rating. The overall performance ratings are based on classroom observations of the interactions between teachers and children, and are reported in five categories--Excellent, High Proficient, Proficient, Approaching Proficient and Unsatisfactory. These ratings appear in an interactive, online performance profile that also displays information about the level of training teachers have and the quality of materials used in each classroom.

Among the highlights in this year’s performance profile, Pelican Early Learning Center:

* **Earned “Excellent” ratings for emotional support and classroom organization in its Pre-Kindergarten classrooms.** This means teachers here are responsive to children’s needs and emotions, and they helps develop children’s ability to interact with others. It also means the classrooms are organized and our lessons are scheduled in a way that best helps children learn and grow.
* **Employed highly trained teachers.** Louisiana teachers need excellent training and ongoing professional development to provide children with experiences they need to develop. Pelican Early Learning Center’s teachers have all attained their certification.
* **Achieved an overall performance score that outpaced the network’s overall performance score.** This means Pelican Early Learning Center is higher quality than the average childcare in the area.

“We work everyday to make sure our children are learning what they need to learn to go to Kindergarten ready, while staying happy and healthy in their home away from home,” said Owner and Director Paula Pelican. “Our performance profile shows we are doing a good job. Of course, we could always be better, and we’ll continue to make improvements to support our children and their families. We know we can achieve our goal of earning an ‘Excellent’ rating next year with the continued love and support of our children, our families, our educators and our community.”

To learn more about early childhood performance ratings, visit [louisianaschools.com.](http://louisianaschools.com)

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**PELICAN PARISH EARLY CHILDHOOD SITES DEMONSTRATE STEADY PERFORMANCE**

*Network Achieves Overall “Proficient” Rating for Second Consecutive Year*

PELICAN, La. – Early childhood education classrooms in Pelican Parish are supportive, organized and promote children’s learning and development, according to annual early childhood performance ratings released today by the Louisiana Department of Education on the [Louisiana School Finder](http://louisianaschools.com). The Pelican Parish Early Childhood Network, which serves nearly 4,000 children among 132 sites, achieved a “Proficient” rating for the second consecutive year.

All publicly funded early childhood education sites across the state now receive an annual performance rating. The overall performance ratings are based on classroom observations of the interactions between teachers and children, and are reported in five categories--Excellent, High Proficient, Proficient, Approaching Proficient and Unsatisfactory. These ratings appear in an interactive, online performance profile that also displays information about the level of training teachers have and the quality of materials used in each classroom.

Among the highlights, this year’s early childhood performance ratings show:

* **The network achieved an “Excellent” rating for equitable access.** That means the network offers seats for most of its eligible four-year-olds.
* **The network achieved “Proficient” ratings for emotional support and classroom organization for Pre-Kindergarten students, as well as for emotional and behavioral support for toddlers.** This means teachers here are responsive to children’s needs and emotions, and they helps develop children’s ability to interact with others. It also means the classrooms are organized and our lessons are scheduled in a way that best helps children learn and grow.
* **Eighty-five percent of all network sites use top-rated teaching and learning materials in their classrooms.** Research shows a high-quality curriculum in early childhood classrooms leads to better chances for success in Kindergarten and beyond.
* **More than half of all teachers at network sites are certified.** Louisiana teachers need excellent training and ongoing professional development to provide children with experiences they need to develop. Teachers in this network are highly trained to do their jobs.

“As a network, we strive to provide every child with the highest quality care, support and instruction, and to send them to Kindergarten fully prepared,” said Network Director Penny Pelican. “We are proud of the gains our sites have made, but there is much work left to do to ensure our network can achieve an ‘Excellent’ rating in the future.”

The network will focus on the following priorities this year:

* Improving the instructional materials in toddler and pre-K classrooms;
* Providing more support to pre-K children making the transition to kindergarten;
* Implementing a high-quality learning materials in every classroom; and
* Providing families with activities, tools, and support they need to support child learning and development at home.

“We are confident we can achieve our goals with the continued support of our children, our families, our educators and our community,” Pelican said.

To learn more about early childhood performance ratings, visit [louisianaschools.com](http://louisianaschools.com)