

Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission: Review of Workgroup Recommendations

December 13, 2018

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Approaches to Increased Access to Quality from Other States
- V. Consideration of Commission Workgroup Recommendations and Report Outline
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Adjournment

Review of Past Commission Discussions

At the August 1 meeting, the Commission heard from the National Governors Association, the Education Commission of the States, the University of Virginia, and leaders of Community Networks.

- High quality early learning impacts children's brain development.
- Since 2012, Louisiana has created a vision and framework to unify early childhood programs toward ensuring every child is prepared for success in kindergarten and life.
- A significant number of lead agency leaders have gone above and beyond policy requirements and have shown the path forward on local leadership toward improving access to high quality programs.
- The Commission will develop recommendations to expand access to quality in early learning programs.

Review of Past Commission Discussions

At the September 6 meeting, the Commission heard from Louise Stoney, Bridget Hamre, and Elliot Regenstein.

- The state supports early childhood programs through a quality rating system linked to positive outcomes for children.
- There are a wide variety of early childhood programs in Louisiana with differing funding sources and requirements.
- Privately-run child care programs play a critical role in supporting early learning for children birth to three from all economic backgrounds.
- Additional strategies are needed to improve quality and access for children birth through four.

Review of Past Commission Discussions

At the October 3 meeting, the Commission heard from Karen Ponder on local governance.

- Local partnerships build stronger, more family friendly early childhood systems, and get to better outcomes for all the states' children, especially those with high risk factors.
- A local governance strategy provides flexibility to respond to community needs while maximizing funding through a sharper vision, data collection system and planning.
- State government should define the parameters for local coalitions (parish, county, regional, school districts, etc.), based on the vision and goals for the coalitions' work.
- It is critical that local coalitions are funded for coordination, needs assessment, data collection and community engagement. Without dedicated and predictable funding for these foundational functions, coalitions often dissolve or become ineffective.

The Legislative Charge of the Commission

Today the Commission will consider approaches to the legislative request to establish the vision of the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana, building on the work of Act 3 (2012).

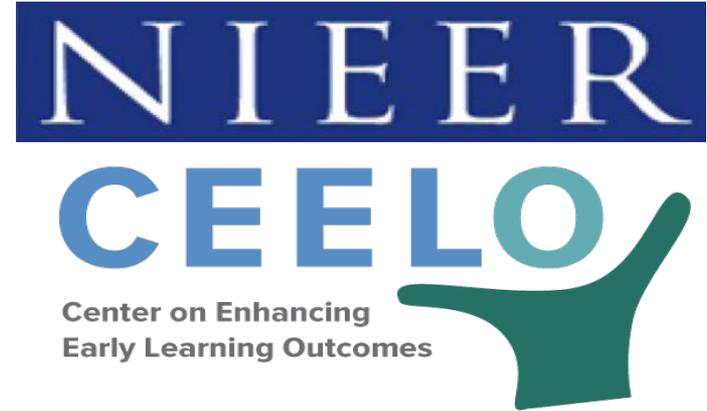
- Gather and analyze data and develop a plan focused on family access, affordability, and quality.
- Consider research, local coordination currently established in Louisiana, and related work done in other states to determine best practices that inform and foster continued development of local governing entities.
- Determine a sustainable infrastructure to ensure quality programs, including workforce and professional development, monitoring and assessment, coordinated enrollment, and data-informed decision making (will happen in year 2).
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
- Define a timeframe for achieving the vision and determine benchmarks for the intervening years.
- Determine the amount of funding needed to achieve affordable access to quality care and education for all children from birth through age four and recommend policies that prioritize the allocation of future funding.



Increasing Access to Quality: Examples from Other States



Lori Connors-Tadros
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THE IMPERATIVE TO INVEST IN INFANTS AND TODDLERS: WHY AND HOW

LORI CONNORS-TADROS, PH.D., SENIOR PROJECT DIRECTOR, CEELo
LOUISIANA EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMISSION , DEC. 13, 2018



Our Mission

- NIEER improves the learning and development of young children by producing and communicating knowledge that transforms policy and practice.
- CEELO, a project of NIEER, seeks to build capacity of state agencies to lead sustained improvements in early learning opportunities and outcomes.



The Imperative to Invest in Infants and Toddlers

"Research shows that 85 percent of brain development happens before age three."

- Healthy infants and toddlers become joyful and confident preschoolers.
- Pre-k is simply not soon enough to invest in children's learning and development.

Louisiana is only providing publicly funded early care and education to 7 percent of infants and toddlers, and 33 percent of three year old at-risk children.



How: Learning From Other States

LA has already laid the groundwork, the time is now to target funding, quality and local infrastructure to infants-toddlers, and maintain efforts in preschool.

- Illinois Early Childhood Block Grant
- Kansas Early Childhood Block Grant
- Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
- Oklahoma Pilot Early Childhood Program
- Other states: Indiana Happy Babies Brain Trust, Oregon Best Beginnings, Vermont Everything Matters for Babies Washington Birth to Three Early Regional Coalitions, Help Me Grow Connecticut



Strategies for Increasing Investments in Infants-Toddlers (I-T)

- **Targeted Population**

- Direct funds to at-risk IT to include services & supports
- Link Birth-Five Systems
- IL & KS I-T set aside ensures any new investments in PreK included automatic set-aside for at risk I-T
- CO & WA provide funding to local I-T councils to determine services



Financing Strategies

- **Set Quality Standards**
 - High-quality, evidence-based services
 - Strong accountability structure
 - Assistance for programs moving toward high-quality standards
- OK Pilot Early Childhood Program required that all programs meet a specified list of 25 requirement and *Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers*.
- IL Early Childhood Block Grant requires 20% of set aside to be used for quality enhancements.



Financing Strategies

- **Set Aside Funding- create a floor, not a ceiling**
 - Tap all Sources: State general revenue, state education funds, tobacco settlement funds, CCDF, Early Head Start, Part C, Maternal & Child Health, Medicaid, CHIP, Title I
 - Flexibility to blend funding streams that support a range of high-quality programs
- NE created “Sixpence”, a public-private partnership, including \$40 million in state funding and an additional \$20 million in private sector dollars. Sixpence generates earnings each year and is not subject to annual appropriations or state fiscal fluctuations.
- VT made improving financing and sustainability for evidence-based home visiting programs a priority and worked together to a specific funding proposal.
- KS established state funding for Early Head Start, and utilizes portion of Master Tobacco Settlement dollars for I-T



Selected Resources

- Cohen, J. et al (2009). *Inspiring Innovation: Creative State Financing Structures for Infants and Toddlers*.
- Zero to Three (2017). *Advancing State Policies for Infants and Toddlers Lessons Learned From Three States*.
- Lieberman, A. (2018) *Lessons from the Bayou State: Three Reforms for Improving Teaching and Caregiving*. New America





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Workgroup Activities

Workgroups met twice in November to develop guiding principles and recommendations for the legislative report.

November 1 & 2 workgroup meetings:

Considered guiding principles and financial data that shape legislative recommendations.

November 29 workgroup meetings:

Vetted outline for legislative report, including future considerations, and considered general direction for funding ask.

Workgroup line editors:

Provided line-by-line editing and refining of recommendations shared today.

Proposed Outline for Legislative Report

A. Introduction and Background:

- Legislative charge and overview of the Commission
- Current landscape and work to build current unified quality rating system, including strengths and limitations
- Vision for Future

B. Guiding Principles

C. Recommendation for Legislative Action: Call to Action-Funding request

D. Future Considerations

- In year two:
 - Local governance pilots
 - Infrastructure
 - Collaboration
 - Others TBD

A. Introduction and Background

Vision:

Every child in Louisiana deserves an equal opportunity to a quality educational foundation that will prepare them to grow, learn, and succeed.

Key Facts to Highlight:

- Early childhood is a critical time. At birth, the average baby's brain is about a quarter of the size of the average adult brain. Incredibly, it doubles in size in the first year. It keeps growing to about 80% of adult size by age 3 and 90% – nearly full grown – by age 5.¹
- Every dollar invested in early childhood education can generate up to \$7.30 in return, per the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

¹ *First Things First*. Retrieved from <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/early-childhood-matters/brain-development/>

² The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Paper: Quantifying the Life-Cycle Benefits of a Prototypical Early Childhood Program (www.nber.org/papers/w23479.pdf?sy=479)

A. Introduction and Background

Louisiana's current level of service delivery does not provide sufficient access to quality child care.

Through a variety of funding sources and programs, Louisiana currently serves:

- 92% of fours, but only
- 7% of infants and toddlers, and
- 33% of threes

The waitlist for one program, the Child Care Assistance Program, often hovers around 5,000 children.

B. Guiding Principles

Critical. Quality interactions in the early years are critical to the development of children’s intellectual, physical, and mental health, and matter for a lifetime. Louisiana’s future is tied to a strong start for children.

Cost-Effective. High-quality early care and education that begins at birth must be a long-term, stable investment because it reduces spending in future years and yields results in school and well into adulthood.

Accessible. Families who want and need quality care for children birth through four have limited choices. Creating more options for this age group is essential to supporting Louisiana’s families who want to work.

State Supported, Locally Led. Common measures of success provide the framework for Louisiana’s nationally recognized unified system of publicly-funded early childhood providers. The quality of programs and opportunities for access are improving. With a formal structure and increased authority, network leaders can respond to the needs of families in their local community by driving improvements and securing investments to expand service options for Louisiana’s youngest learners.

Valuable. Early learning providers and teachers provide an essential community service that supports Louisiana’s workforce. The current economics of the child care sector threaten efforts to build and sustain quality.

C. Recommendation for Legislative Action

Call to Action: Louisiana would be a more economically viable and communities more stable in 20 years (one generation) if the state invested in the education of young children, birth through four.

Recommendation: Start Louisiana on a path toward quality statewide services for all children.

- a). Provide resources for all families that capitalize on early learning opportunities
- b). Prioritize access to quality child care for children in need, birth to three.
- c). Learn from local pilots that collaborate to maximize braided funding strategies.

Rationale

- Quality child care is either hard to find or financially out of reach for most families, requiring a substantial percentage of their earned income—7-10% for married couples and more for single-adult households (Child Care Aware of America survey, 2018).
- Access is currently a problem. Louisiana's child care waitlist is typically ~5,000 children.
- Investment in a child's early years strengthens the continuum of education, building more efficient and effective systems across early childhood, K-12, and higher education.

Braided Funding Strategy

Serving all of Louisiana's children birth to 4, particularly those in need, would require a significant infusion of funding. An investment of this size will require commitment and collaboration from a broad set of stakeholders, just as Louisiana's strategy for four year-old programs has done.

The proposed call-to-action could require leveraging the following over a 10-year period:

- State General fund
- Federal dollars
- Local and statewide philanthropic dollars
- Local and statewide public-private partnerships, including industry

Everyone must be part of the solution and committed to the long-term strategy to make it a success.

Louisiana's Success with Fours

Louisiana currently serves 92% of in need 4 year olds with funding from a variety of sources. This change occurred over 17 years.

Serving this high percentage of four year olds is achieved through federal and state funds:

Federal Funds:

Child Care Development Funds	TANF	Title I
Federal Administration for Children and Families	REAP	Head Start
Preschool Development Grant	EEF	IDEA

State Fund: State general fund, 8g, Local funds

Results of Louisiana's PreK program consistently show that high-quality early childhood education positively impacts the academic success of in need children including¹:

- improved LEAP test scores,
- reduced kindergarten retention,
- lowered special education placement rates
- significant gains in the academic areas of Language and Mathematics

¹ 2010 longitudinal study by the Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning at ULL

Sizing the Financial Need

All figures are inclusive of cost per child, plus system-wide infrastructure that would support increased service delivery.

	All Children, 0-4, who will likely use child care (212,470)	Children In Need, 0-4, who will likely use child care (141,186)	+\$ /year over 10 years
Toddler Rate (per CCAP, with no bonus): \$5,940	\$1,329,071,800	\$905,644,840	+\$90.5M
Current Rate, with bonus: \$6,300	\$1,405,561,000	\$956,471,800	+\$95.6M
2017 Market Rate: \$7,583	\$1,678,160,010	\$1,137,613,438	+\$113M
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children Cost Model Rate: \$12,700	\$2,765,369,000	\$1,860,062,200	+\$186M
Early Head Start Rate: \$14,119	\$3,066,863,900	\$2,060,405,134	+\$206M

Outcomes of the Investment

Other states and cities have seen incredible returns for strong investments in ECE—upwards of \$7.30 for every dollar invested.

This return comes from the more efficient and effective use of existing systems, as well as stronger children who grow into healthier adults. Research supports strong outcomes including:

- 11% more high school graduates (McCoy et al, 2017)
- 8% less likely to require special education (McCoy et al, 2017)
- 7% less likely to be retained a grade in school (McCoy et al, 2017)
- more years of education for women
- lower drug use and blood pressure for men
- less need for social services (Grunewald and Rolnick, 2010)
- more income which translated into a stronger tax base for communities (Grunewald and Rolnick, 2010)

Furthermore, child care has a two-generation effect when combined with quality early learning. Mothers have an opportunity to work and grow their income while children gain the skills to succeed in school and life.

D. Future Considerations: Local Governance Pilots

1. Local governance structures hold promise for strengthening access to quality and will be studied.

In spring 2019, the inaugural Ready Start network pilots will launch, as prompted by Act 639 (2018).

Building on the Commission's learnings from the October 2018 meeting, these pilots will provide the Commission with an opportunity to receive on-the-ground, Louisiana-specific learnings about implementation of stronger local governance.

The Commission will study community network potential to develop local funding that aligns with their strategic plans, as well as the pilots' capacity to drive improvement and access.

D. Future Considerations: Infrastructure

II. The entire early childhood education system will need to scale up, as well as tighten in efficiency, to meet increased access and quality.

Child care programs would be supported by efficiencies that build capacity.

- Shared services, like back office support, substitute teacher pools, and shared staff should be explored.
- Integrated, automated systems would allow providers and local pilots to gather and report outcome data in a cost-effective way, allowing targeted analysis and improvement. For example, vacancy data in child care programs to support child enrollment.

The Commission will study further shared services opportunities and practices in year two.

D. Future Considerations: Collaboration

III. Deepening cross-collaboration between business entities, workforce development, and all agencies can further promote the well-being and education of young children.

A statewide, aligned strategy for early childhood will require greater collaboration between stakeholder groups -- state agencies, business and industry, workforce development.

Comprehensive coordination will support the development of additional funding strategies, and further maximization of future investments

The Commission will study additional opportunities for collaboration in year two.

Public Comment

Next Steps and Adjournment

Mid-January:

Commission member workgroup to refine legislative report
Please email Emmy.odwyer@la.gov to participate.

January 29 Commission meeting:

The legislative report will be reviewed by all members