HOW DOES THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Louisiana has established a strong statewide Early Childhood Care and Education Network of all publicly-funded child care, Head Start, and pre-K sites. The network offers:

1. **Community-based Local Leadership**
   Communities collaborate to coordinate across programs making key decisions that engage and inform families and measuring service, demands, and gaps to ensure increased access.

2. **Unified Quality Rating System**
   All publicly-funded sites receive a Performance Profile with a rating based on CLASS® observations and informational metrics on best practices.

3. **Workforce Support and Preparation**
   The Department has established expectations for aligned preparation and training that supports high-quality teacher-child interactions.

4. **High-Quality Instructional Tools**
   Early childhood sites are equipped with expertly reviewed instructional tools, including standards, curriculum, and assessment.

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**2013-2015**
- Early Childhood Community Network Pilots launched.
- Legislation passed to further unify licensing, enrollment, and funding.

**2015-2016**
- Implementation of the new unified state system is achieved during the “Learning Year.”

**2016-2017**
- Practice Performance Profiles released and policy aligned to assist programs and families.

**2017-2018**
- Annual Performance Profiles for every site published online in School and Center Finder.

**2018-2019**
- Early Childhood Care and Education Commission creates proposal to expand access to children ages birth to three and Ready Start Communities are launched to pilot local governance.

**In 2015-2016**, only **6 of 10** publicly-funded early care and education programs were rated as Proficient or above.

This number grew to **more than 8 out of 10** in **2017-2018**, which amounts to more than 52,000 children being offered high-quality, publicly-funded early care and education in Louisiana today.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE?

In 2019-2020, the Department is:
- Developing initiatives to expand birth to 3 access.
- Expanding focus on youngest learners with the addition of Infant CLASS® observations.
- Establishing local governance through new Ready Start Networks.
- Incorporating Family Child Care providers into the statewide Early Childhood Network.
- Increasing professionalism for early childhood workforce through new credential requirements and fellowship opportunities.

WHO TO CONTACT?
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OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

View all of Louisiana’s Key Initiatives at: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/about-us/louisiana’s-key-initiatives