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. These networks provide observations and feedback, identify every birth-to-five low-income and disadvantaged child, and coordinate enrollment across programs. These networks offer:

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.

WHAT’S SUCCESS HAS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE HAD IN LOUISIANA & NATIONALLY?

“Nearly 300 Early Learning Centers Honored for High Performance” (Louisiana Believes, November 1, 2018)

“Louisiana Ranks No. 8 in Nation for Early Childhood Education Policies” (Louisiana Believes, December 17, 2018)

“Louisiana Awarded Nearly $8 Million to Enhance Early Childhood Education” (Louisiana Believes, January 2, 2019)
In 2015-2016, only 6 of 10 publicly-funded early care and education programs were rated as Proficient or above.

This number grew to 8 of 10 in 2017-2018, which amounts to more than 47,000 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 will:

• Expand focus on youngest learners with the addition of Infant CLASS observations.
• Expand local governance through new community network pilots.
• Increase professionalism for early childhood workforce through new credential requirements and fellowship opportunities.

WHO TO CONTACT?
EARLYCHILDHOOD @LA.GOV
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE*

*http://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood