



Coordinated Enrollment for Orleans Parish:
Introduction to Proposed Process
2015-2016

Agenda

- Background and Approval Process
- New Orleans Early Education Coordinated Enrollment Framework - Overview
- Implementation Timeline & Next Steps



Background: NOEEN Priorities

The New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) is responsible for increasing access and improving quality of all publicly funded early childhood care and education in Orleans Parish.

In order to do this, NOEEN will work collaboratively to:

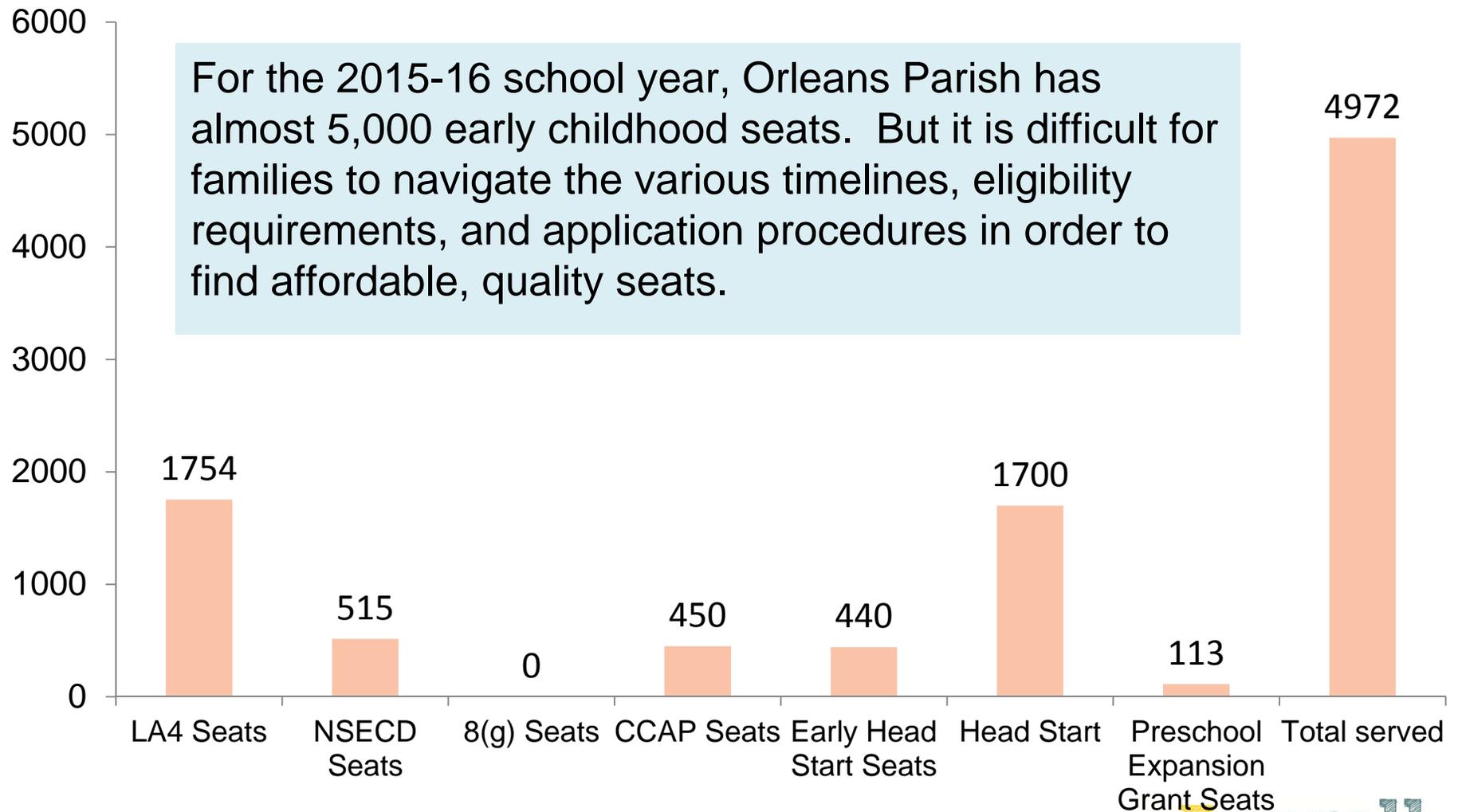
- Improve classroom instruction through training and support on the state's learning and development standards, standards based curricula, TS Gold, and CLASS
- Identify and allocate funds to expand quality early childhood programs to serve all at-risk children from birth through four years of age

- ***Fully coordinate the enrollment process for all publicly funded early childhood programs from birth through four years of age***



Background: Number of Seats

2015-2016



Background: Current Challenges

Finding the right childcare program can be confusing and inefficient for families.

“Managing the application process for PK4, I felt like we were applying to college... It doesn’t make sense to have OneApp and still have PK4 programs across the city still have their own micro-criteria that you can only glean from reading their websites very carefully.”

-Takema Robinson Bradberry, Orleans Parish mother of a 4-year-old and 1-year-old

“The biggest barrier to people participating in our program is because they can’t find childcare.”

–D. Bagneris, Program Director Liberty’s Kitchen Youth Development Program

“As it is right now, I have to drive from daycare to daycare trying to find what I need. The lack of available information on each program and their offerings is amazing to me as a parent. I can’t imagine any family who would say the current process is easy or parent friendly! ”

- Latonya Mornay, Orleans Parish mother of a first grader with special needs and a 13-month-old, who is currently seeking a child care facility



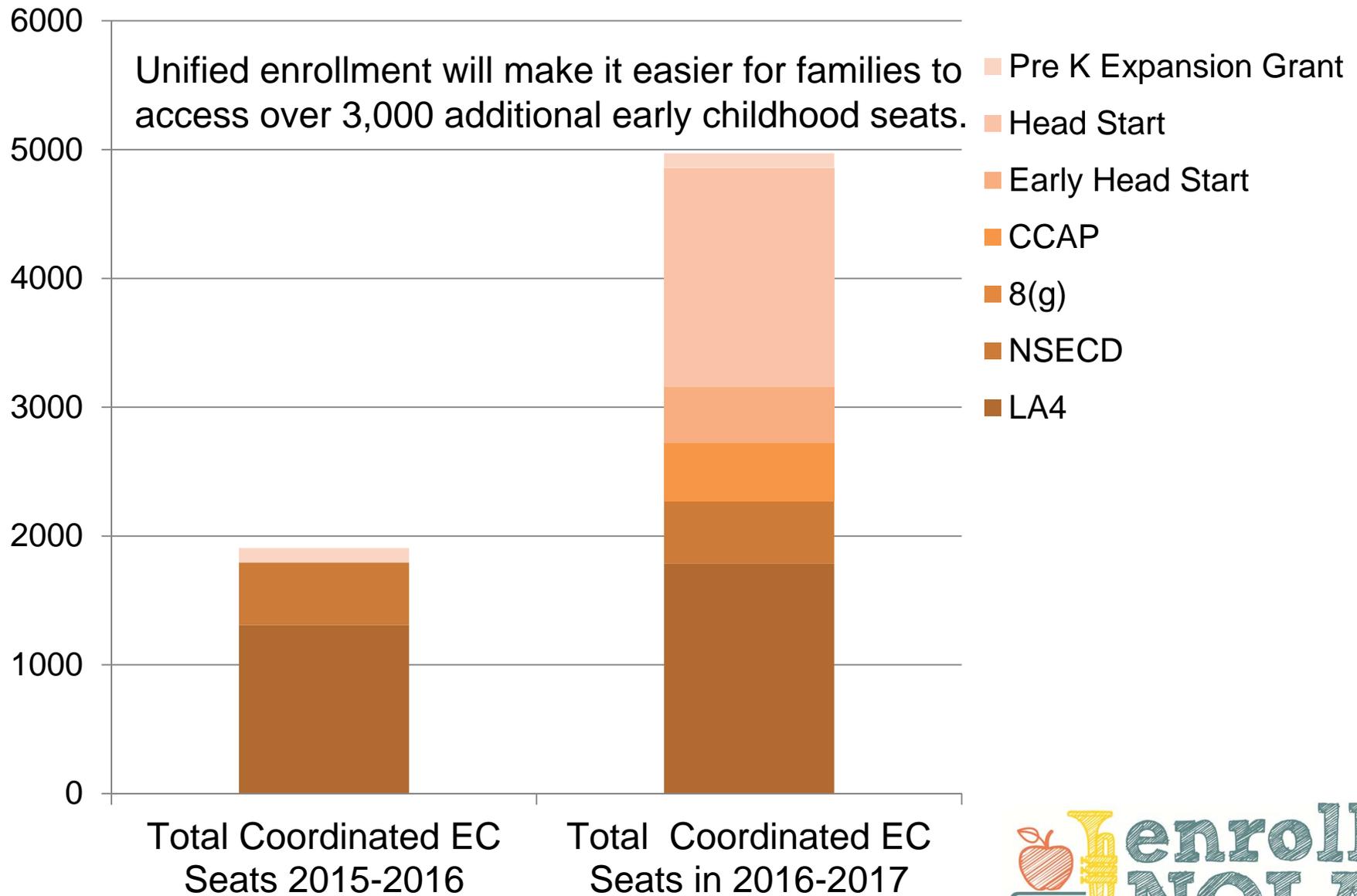
Background: Unmet Need

- For four-year-olds alone, there are more than an estimated 250 fewer seats in early childhood programs than are needed to serve every child in New Orleans who would qualify to attend a free preschool program.
- NOEEN will be working to increase the number of seats available and the level of accessibility to these seats.
- Families are already accessing preschool seats through the coordinated EnrollNOLA process, and once enrollment for all publicly-funded early childhood seats is coordinated, families will have even greater access, choice, and efficiency in finding a seat.

Fast Facts:

- 2,394 preschool applications submitted in Main Round and Round 2
- 1,826 pre-k seats filled for the 15-16 school year through the application
- 81 additional seats filled on a first-come, first-served basis within four hours of being made available during Late Enrollment
- 448 families inquired about preschool during Late Enrollment
- 767 children are on waitlists waiting to enroll in a preschool program for the first time and 546 children are hoping to switch to a program they prefer more

Background: Improving Access



Background

Role of Lead Agency

- As Lead Agency for the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN), Agenda for Children is responsible for creating a unified enrollment process for all publicly funded early childhood programs, per Act 717 of the 2014 La. Regular Legislative Session.
- Agenda for Children is partnering with EnrollNOLA to create a collaborative, equitable enrollment process that ensures all families have fair, transparent, and efficient access to all available publicly-funded early childhood seats in Orleans Parish.



Background

Working group created to inform process

- To facilitate creating a unified enrollment process which complies with Act 717, Agenda for Children worked with EnrollNOLA to create a working group in the Spring of 2015 to propose the processes that will guide coordinated enrollment.

Summary of the Recommended Framework

- This presentation summarizes EnrollNOLA's recommended framework, informed by collaboration with the working group.



Composition of the working group

Representation on the working group is proportionate to the number of publicly-funded seats in Orleans.

Organization	Funding Source	Name
ReNew	LA 4	Maya McLaughlin
Audubon Charter	LA 4	Alisa Dupre
OPSB	LA 4	Leslie Garibaldi
Morris Jeff Community Sch.	LA 4	Patricia Perkins
Total Community Action	Head Start	Adrian Todd
Catholic Charities	Head Start	Jonika Julian
Educare	Head Start	Rachel Brown
Wilcox Academy	CCAP	Rochelle Wilcox
Kids of Excellence	CCAP	Kristi Givens
Louisiana Dept. of Education	NSECD	Lindsey Bradford
Agenda for Children	Community Partner	Elizabeth Keif
Agenda for Children	Community Partner	Teresa Falgoust
Agenda for Children	Community Partner	Bridget Rey



Coordinated Enrollment Plan Approval

- The Louisiana Department of Education is requiring all Lead Agencies to submit a 2015-16 Coordinated Enrollment Plan this Fall.
- As the leadership structure for NOEEN, the Steering Committee will be asked to approve the plan prior to submission to the Department.
- In order to ensure that the plan is effective, transparent, and developed collaboratively, Agenda for Children and EnrollNOLA are partnering to provide multiple opportunities to share information and collect feedback from all stakeholders prior to submitting to the Steering Committee for Approval.



Coordinated Enrollment Plan Approval

Event	Date	Audience
Working Group Sessions <i>Development of enrollment plan</i>	Spring 2015	Working group members representing all program types
Learning Year Info Session <i>Overview presentation</i>	July 23	All NOEEN Program Partners
Steering Committee Meeting <i>Discussion of full process</i>	Aug. 4	NOEEN Steering Comm.; meeting open to public
Online Public Comment Period <i>Posting of full process for feedback</i>	Aug. 4-21	All stakeholders and public; www.enrollnola.org and www.agendaforchildren.org
Program Provider Meetings <i>Presentation, discussion</i>	Throughout Aug.	Meeting for each funding source open to all Program Partners in that funding source
Steering Committee Meeting <i>Approval of full process</i>	Beginning of Sept.	NOEEN Steering Comm.; meeting open to public
Submission to La. Dept. of Ed.	Sept.	Louisiana Department of Education

Framework: Overview

- Application Timeline
- Application Format
- Application Procedure and Content
- Priority Structures
- Match Based on Preference
- Continuing Students
- Registration & Waitlists
- Mid-Year Placement Process & Transfers



Framework: Application Timeline

- Create OneApp: Infant to Pre-K 4 application, an expansion of the current OneApp: PK application, with revisions to accommodate increasing programming and age groups
- Application timeline will align with OneApp: K-12 application for convenience and clarity for families

Main Round



Round 2



Framework: Application Format

Complex Eligibility

- Each publicly-funded early childhood program has its own unique set of eligibility requirements. We are coordinating 7 different program types with different eligibility requirements.
- The working group determined that an online format allows the applicant to answer a series of eligibility questions which allows the application to tailor the list of programs an applicant sees based on the applicant's answers to the eligibility questions.
- A paper application could lead to families applying to programs they are not eligible for, resulting in no seat.

For these reasons, the OneApp: Infant to Pre-K 4 application will be available in an online format only (no paper application) at EnrollNOLA.org.



Framework: Application Format

Families will continue to get help with the online application at the following sites:

- Participating schools and programs
- EnrollNOLA Family Resource Centers
- Libraries (representatives from each branch are trained to assist families)
- Neighborhood / Community centers

Additional sites and trained staff will be added as needed to ensure families have access to, and assistance with, the application.



Framework: Application Procedure and Content

Applicants start K-12 and Infant to Pre-K Applications at the same place

- Parents begin the K-12 and Infant to Pre K applications in the same way, by entering student information (name, address and student birthdate).
- If a parent enters a birthdate for a child that will be eligible for an early childhood program, the application will then prompt the parent to answer a series of eligibility questions.

Accessible Program Descriptions

- Each early childhood program in OneApp: Infant to Pre-K 4 will have a description communicating key information about that program including the eligibility and priorities.
- These program descriptions will be included in the online application itself, on EnrollNOLA.org, in the Early Childhood Parent's Guide, and in other materials as they become available.



Framework: Application Procedure and Content

EnrollNOLA Family Resource Center (FRC) will verify eligibility documents

- Families will bring documentation to the FRC within 5 days of completing the application allowing time for revisions to the application if needed.
- Having verification completed by the FRC staff will provide consistency and maintain accuracy in the verification process, and will relieve program and center staff from having to complete this task.

Eligibility is determined by the State or Federal funding source for a given early childhood program and outlines who is able to be matched to a program.

- *Example for an LA 4 program- Eligibility: New Orleans Residents with an IEP or who are eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch and are four years of age on or before September 30th.*
- To meet the unique needs of Head Start programs, FRC staff will ask a series of “yes” or “no” Head Start specific questions.
- Head Start centers will score answers based on that center’s rubric.



Framework: Priority Structures

Priorities

- Priorities are a set of approved criteria that the algorithm uses to determine what order applicants should be placed into programs. Students with priority to a program have a greater probability of being assigned over students who do not have that priority.
- If there are more applicants within a priority group than there are seats available, an applicant's random lottery number will determine the order in which the applicant gets matched to the program.

Consistent Priorities by funding source

- For clear communication to families, priorities will be consistent for all programs within a particular funding source.
- This means that all LA4 programs will have the same priority structure, all NSECD programs will have the same priority structure, and all CCAP programs will have the same priority structure.
- Priority structures for Early Head Start and Head Start will be determined in accordance with each program's individual grant.



Framework: Priority Structures

Public School Pre K 4 Program Priority Structure:

1. Applicants who currently attend the school/early learning center (if applicable)
2. Applicants who have a special education IEP
3. Siblings,
4. Applicants who reside in the school's geographic zone for up to 50% of available seats
5. All other applicants

Example of Head Start Priority Structure:

1. Homeless Applicants
2. Applicants with a special education IEP
3. Applicants in custody of family members or Foster Care
4. Working parent(s) in school/training
5. Geographic Priority (if applicable)
6. All other applicants



Framework: Match based on preference

Applicants receive a school placement based on the number of available seats, their ranked preferences, and their eligibility and priority for each of the programs to which they applied.

EnrollNOLA will conduct the match according to these specifications in March for Main Round and June for Round 2.

- Participating programs will access their school roster's via SchoolForce.
- Notification of results will be sent to applicants via email and post.

Head Start Enrollment

- A center must enter an Eligibility Priority Criteria (EPC) score for each applicant ranking the program on the application.
- OneApp will use the EPC score to rank the application according to the priorities for a given center.



Framework: Continuing Students

Guarantee vs. Priority for Early Learning Center Students

Children rising to a different grade or age group within an early childhood program (prior to kindergarten) may receive a guarantee (no application required) or a priority in the application process, depending on the transition type

	Application Required?	Guarantee?	Priority?
Same center/preschool Same funding source	No	Yes	n/a
Same center/preschool Different funding source	Yes	No	Yes
Different center/ preschool	Yes	No	No
Different center Early Head Start → Head Start	Yes	No	Yes

Students will lose any guarantee if they apply, and are assigned to, a different program.



Framework: Students Rising to Kindergarten

Guarantee for Students Rising to Kindergarten

If a program utilizes OneApp to enroll a Kindergarten class, standard rules will apply to students rising from Pre-K to Kindergarten within the same school.

	Application Required?	Guarantee?	Priority?
Same public school facility*	No	Yes	n/a
Center/School Partnership	Yes	No	Yes
Same non-public school facility NSECD→Scholarship Program	Yes	No	Yes

*In order to ensure open access to public school kindergarten seats, tuition-based Pre-K students will receive a guarantee to Kindergarten at the same public school facility only if the requirements below are met:

- All pre-K students (publicly-funded and tuition-based) must be enrolled through the coordinated enrollment process; and
- At least 50% of the school's total Kindergarten enrollment must be reserved for continuing publicly-funded PK students, and/or newly admitted Kindergarten students who are economically disadvantaged or are enrolled through the coordinated enrollment process.



Framework: Registration & Waitlists

Registration

- After accessing their roster, programs will contact assigned families to register at the school or center (beginning of April for Main Round and beginning of July for Round 2).
- Programs will register their families and collect the required eligibility verification documentation

Waitlists

- Waitlists will be managed centrally by EnrollNOLA to ensure that the student is offered their highest preferred placement offer
- If a program has more applicants than available seats, the program will form a waitlist.
- Applicants will be placed from the waitlist by FRC staff as seats open throughout the year.
- Students may choose to be placed in an available seat and join waitlists for other centers they prefer more.



Framework: Mid-Year Placements & Transfers

Mid-Year Placement Process

- This process identifies available seats across the system for families in need of immediate childcare after the school year is in session.
- This is a first-come, first served process managed by EnrollNOLA.
- Placement depends on program eligibility and seat availability.
- Most CCAP voucher placements will likely occur through this process.

Transfer Process

- Prior to September 1st, families can transfer to a different program by visiting a Family Resource Center, pending eligibility verification and seat availability.
- After September 1st, families wishing to transfer to a different program must first meet with the program director to discuss the request for a transfer, and then may transfer to a program they meet the eligibility requirements for by visiting a Family Resource Center, pending eligibility verification and seat availability.



Implementation Timeline



Enrollment Plan Approval Next Steps

At the September NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting, this committee will be asked to approve the final version of the 2015-16 NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Framework.

In order to develop and finalize the best possible framework, Agenda for Children and EnrollNOLA will be partnering over the next month to:

- Provide information,
- Answer questions, and
- Gather feedback

Steering Committee members are encouraged to contact Kristen Illarmo directly at kristen.illarmo@rsdla.net, or participate in one of the upcoming events:

- Online public comment period for Coordinated Enrollment Framework from August 4th-21st at www.enrollnola.org and www.agendaforchildren.org
- Coordinated Enrollment Framework Meetings for Head Start, LA4, CCAP, and Preschool Expansion Grant



Questions? Contact Us!

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