Louisiana
Early Childhood Vision
Louisiana Vision to Achieve Kindergarten Readiness

- Shared high standards for what children should learn and what excellent teaching looks like.
- Teachers are excellent at interacting with children and guiding learning.
- Expectations for health, safety, and learning are consistent with adequate funding levels for programs that serve children well.
- Families can easily enroll and choose the best option for their children.
Access to Quality Early Childhood Programs in Louisiana
Performance Profiles provide information about the quality of publicly-funded sites to families to inform choice and to communities to guide improvement.

Louisiana’s Unified Rating System:
• Measures core elements needed for positive child outcomes;
• Provides a clear and focused path to improvement;
• Gives families an easy way to compare choices in their community;

Results in a Performance Profile for each site published on www.LouisianaSchools.com that contains two components:
1. Ratings that relate to positive child outcomes, based on CLASS™ observations that measure the quality of adult-child interactions and instructions
2. Informational metrics that measure use of best practices, such as using curriculum, assessing children for learning, credentialing of teachers

Researchers at the University of Virginia found that Louisiana observers are accurate, that children learn more in Louisiana classrooms with higher ratings, and that adding other quality measures does not help identify quality classrooms.
Louisiana led the nation in its launch of the Louisiana School and Center Finder, an online interactive tool providing families with information about both early childhood centers and K-12 schools. Families and providers can utilize the search feature to search for the Performance Profile of a particular site.

www.LouisianaSchools.com
Each site has a Performance Profile found under the “Academic Performance” tab.

This provides information on how the Rating is calculated and how the site compares to the network as a whole.
Each network has a Performance Profile that shows network scores compared to state averages.

Each Network Performance Profile contains information on the use of best practices in that community.
Over the past three years, Louisiana has made progress toward achieving the goal that all early childhood sites are preparing children for Kindergarten.
Network Improvement

• All Community Networks scored between 4.35-5.88, scoring either Approaching Proficient or Proficient

• 57 Networks increased their overall score from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, with the greatest improvement equaling 0.58 points.

• 5 Networks improved from Approaching Proficient to Proficient
Network Trends

- The statewide average score is 5.03.
- 39 networks have scores that are greater than the statewide average.
- 26 networks have scores that are below the statewide average.
Continuing Challenge: Access to Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>In Proficient/Excellent (%)</th>
<th>In Unsatisfactory/Approaching (%)</th>
<th>Unserved (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-Year-Olds</td>
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<td>2-Year-Olds</td>
<td>93</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-Year-Olds</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3</td>
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Partnership with United Way of Southeast Louisiana

In a unique public-private partnership, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana and Women United have partnered annually with the Department to conduct a statewide Family Survey since 2015-2016.

• Thanks to the contributions of United Way of Southeast Louisiana and Women United, as well as the contributions of Louisiana Association of United Ways, economically disadvantaged families in every parish are able to provide important feedback on both access to and quality of the early childhood options available to them.

• In 2017-2018, feedback was collected from over 2,800 families on the Louisiana Early Childhood Survey, which is administered by LSU’s Public Policy Research Lab.

• Each year, the Department compiles and analyzes the results to produce the in-depth Family Survey Report, which explains the important insights gathered from this data.

• Additionally, the information gathered from this survey is used to create two informational metrics featured on the community network profile for every parish in Louisiana: Family Satisfaction with Enrollment, and Family Satisfaction with Programs.
The two-page survey asks questions that measure families satisfaction with the enrollment process in their communities, as well as with the quality of their current program.
Each community network in the state receives a set of Family Satisfaction indicators on their Network Performance Profile that is published each year.

These two indicators, Enrollment Satisfaction and Program Satisfaction, provide information on family satisfaction with the application and enrollment process at the community level and the programs their children attended in the community.

Based on the results from the Family Survey, these metrics are rated on a three-level scale: Somewhat, Mostly, and Very.

These results are only reported at the network level and are never reported at the site level to protect families’ anonymity.

These indicators are designed to provide information for families and incentivize communities to improve.
Each year, the Department publishes a Family Survey Report that summarizes the findings and statewide results from the Family Survey.

Key Takeaways from the 2016-2017 Family Survey:

1. Louisiana families are generally satisfied with the quality of their early childhood programs, and would choose their program again.

2. Family understanding and knowledge of their child’s early childhood program has improved since 2015–2016, but many families still report not knowing about the quality of the experiences offered to their child.

3. Louisiana needs more information to understand how to best support families, especially more disadvantaged families, to make informed choices for the care of their children.
Questions