



## **Caddo Smart Start READY START Early Childhood Community Network Blue Print for Success 2025-2026**

### **Mission**

Caddo Smart Start READY START Early Childhood Community Network is dedicated to increasing access for enrollment in programs that promote high quality educational experiences in a safe and nurturing learning environment for the whole child.

### **Vision**

All children in publicly funded early childhood programs are provided high quality educational experiences with stimulating instruction that promotes each child's cognitive, language, social-emotional and physical development skills in order to effectively build a foundation for kindergarten readiness and lifelong learning.

### **Analysis of State**

Caddo Smart Start READY START Early Childhood Community Network is comprised of 104 sites which includes: 27 Public Schools, 1 Charter School, 2 Early Head Start Centers, 11 Head Start Centers, 54 Type III Child Care Centers and 9 Family Child Care Centers. Total number of sites: 107; Total number of early childhood classrooms: 407

According to the February 1, 2024 child count data, our Network currently serves 4279 birth to 4-year-old children, which also includes families who pay for child care at sites in our Network. Funding sources include: LA-4, Title I, EEF, 8(g), IDEA, NSECD, ECE, CCAP B-3 CCAP Voucher, EHS and HS.

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>2019-2020 School Year</b>	<b>2020-2021 School Year</b>	<b>2021-2022 School Year</b>	<b>2022-2023 School Year</b>	<b>2023-2024 School Year</b>	<b>2024-2025 School Year</b>
Infants	72	84	129	172	219	372
1-year-olds	121	180	216	337	342	535
2-year-olds	205	188	286	372	354	601
3-year-olds	1034	679	871	995	1067	1116
4-year-olds	2013	1520	1582	1597	1595	1655
Total	3445	2651	3084	3473	3577	4279

The 6-year data suggests the enrollment numbers have steadily increased since the COVID pandemic. In addition, increase in the number of Infants, 1-year-olds and 2-years-olds is directly linked to the scholarships provided through the Birth to 3 (CCAP B-3) and Early Childhood Education funding. Continued partnership with the Community Foundation of North Louisiana in raising local funds for scholarships has been secured for the 2025-2026 school year.

The 2023-2024 Performance Profiles, released in November 2024 indicated the following ratings, with our Network's overall Performance Profile score increased from a 5.23 to 5.27; reaching a High Proficient status. In addition, scores increased in each Domain area as identified below:

- Our Network's overall PreK scores are: Emotional Support: 6.07-Excellent; Classroom Organization: 5.85- High Proficient; Instructional Support: 3.80- Approaching Proficient
- Our Network's overall Toddler scores are: Emotional & Behavioral Support: 6.08- High Proficient; Engaged Support for Learning: 4.00- Approaching Proficient
- Our Network's overall Infant scores are: Responsive Caregiving: 5.60- High Proficient

<b>Performance Level</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Excellent Sites	6	9	6	5	6
High Proficient Sites	37	49	41	48	55
Proficient Sites	42	26	41	42	38
Approaching Proficient Sites	8	2	4	6	5
Total Number of Sites	93	86	92	101	104

The data above suggests that our Network experiences variables from year to year in site Performance Level. Factors contributing to these fluid Performance Levels include: Lead Teacher turnover, closure of existing sites and the addition of new sites. However, for the 2023-2024 school year, gains have been made in more sites performing at or above High Proficient.

Strengths for our Network include

- 95% of our Network's programs are scoring within the Excellent, High Proficient and Proficient ranges; with 59% scoring Excellent and High Proficient
- 475 Birth to 3-year-old children are accessing early childhood programs in Type III Child Care Centers via CCAP B-3 Seats funding and ECE Local/State local scholarship funding
- 19 Family Child Care Centers have opted into Academic Approval
- The ASQ-3 Developmental Screener was implemented in all program types across the Network screening publicly funded children

Areas of Improvement include the following:

- Instructional focus on sites scoring in the Approaching Proficient range
- Instructional focus on Preschool Instructional Support
- Instructional focus on Toddler Engaged Support for Learning

## 2025-2026 Goals

**Goal 1 QUALITY:** Increase the overall Network program quality with 80% of all early childhood programs earning a Performance Profile score of High Proficient or above as measured by the Performance Profile release from the 2024-2025 year, and maintaining/improving all program's Performance Profiles.

**Strategy 1:** Analyze all site level data for programs that fall at the Approaching Proficient or Proficient Performance Profile scoring range and identify individual support needed to raise the Profile scores.

**Strategy 2:** Develop a work plan specific to each site outlining improvement steps with input from the Lead Agency and Administration from each site.

**Strategy 3:** Provide on-going monitoring of progress in all programs with a review of local and 3<sup>rd</sup> party CLASS observations and aiding sites to ensure no program drops below their current Performance Profile level and that all programs maintain the highest level of proficiency reached.

**Existing Resources:** School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start administration, TYPE III Child Care Center owners/directors, Resource and Referral Personnel, site data.

**Performance Metrics:** Performance Profiles site scores, fall and spring CLASS observation scores for comparison in growth.

**Goal 2 ACCESS:** Increase the number of children, ages Birth to 3-years-old in quality early childhood programs by supporting efforts in expansion and workforce retention.

**Strategy 1:** Analyze both the October and February child count date to determine the number of Birth to 3-year-old children served in publicly funded seats.

**Strategy 2:** Target specific local, state and federal funding that would increase seat availability in programs with a Proficient or higher Performance Profile score and that are located in high gap geographical areas; Monitor and adjust funding requests according to the number of families applying for Birth to 3-year-old seats.

**Strategy 3:** Engage in community task force meetings, with the Community Foundation of North Louisiana, the Work Force Commission, local colleges/universities, local businesses and Child Care Center Owners.

**Existing Resources:** School site administration, Early Head Start/Head Start administration, TYPE III Child Care Center owners/directors, Resource and Referral Personnel, child count data.

**Performance Metrics:** 2025-2026 fall and spring child count data comparison.

**Goal 3: QUALITY/ACCESS:** Support Family Child Care Providers as a viable high quality early childhood program options for families.

**Strategy 1:** Provide on-going support with Family Child Care Providers in the area of CLASS observations; Performance Profile ratings, TS GOLD child assessment, Child Count, ASQ-3 Developmental Screening and Developmentally Appropriate Practices.

**Strategy 2:** Assess the needs of each Family Child Care Provider to support and maintain existing sites in Academic Approval.

**Strategy 3:** Recruit additional Family Child Care Providers by meeting with them one on one and providing the them with the advantage of opting into Academic Approval.

**Existing Resources:** Existing Family Child Care Center owners, Resource and Referral Personnel, Family Child Care Provider Consultant, site data.

**Performance Metrics:** Published Performance Profiles.

**Goal 4: COMMUNITY AWARENESS/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:** Advance the Network's vision by raising the awareness of early childhood within our Network's community which in turn, supports families with engagement in their child's early childhood education.

**Strategy 1:** Communicate regularly with the Advisory Council and Network Coalition, Leveraging the Advisory Council and Coalition's connection with the public in general and local businesses promoting the Network's vision; add additional Coalition members as opportunities arise.

**Strategy 2:** Implement ASQ-3 Developmental Screening for all publicly funded children twice a year engaging family in the screening process.

**Existing Resources:** Advisory Council members, local advertising entities, ASQ-3 Developmental Screening Kits and Materials Kits; Birth to 3 books/resources.

**Performance Metrics:** Advisory Council agendas/meetings, increased early childhood enrollment during the spring enrollment campaign.

**Goal 5: FUNDRAISING:** Raise awareness and secure funding from local entities to increase the number of children in publicly funded seats by 2025-2026.

**Strategy 1:** Identify and inform local corporate and community stakeholders of the Network's goals.

**Strategy 2:** Leverage Advisory Council members to open doors as the spokesperson for the Network.

**Strategy 3:** Identify local grant opportunities through the community, family and corporate foundations to fund seats in programs.

**Existing Resources:** Community Foundation of North Louisiana, City of Shreveport, Advisory Council, School District administration.

**Performance Metrics:** Secured funding.