

Welcome to the Monthly Provider Call.



**The meeting will
begin at 12:00 pm.**

Meeting Agenda

- Tonya Williams – Physical Move
 - Phones
 - External Mail
 - Town Hall
 - Rules
- Lori Bridges – CLASS Pilot
- Dawn Jeffrey – Academic Approval
- Brandy Ishmon – Child Care for Child
Care Workers



Tonya Williams

- Physical Move
- External Mail Changes
- Town Hall Meetings



Mailing Address

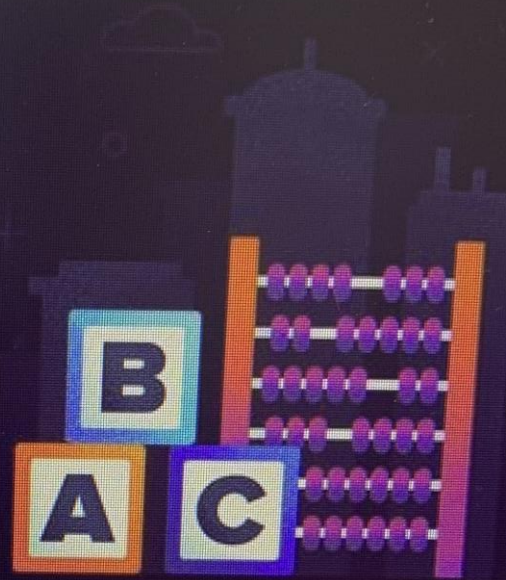
Office of Early Childhood
4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

We're #1

W WalletHub

States with the Best Early Education Systems

1. Arkansas
2. District of Columbia
3. Nebraska
4. Maryland
5. Oregon





Lori Bridges

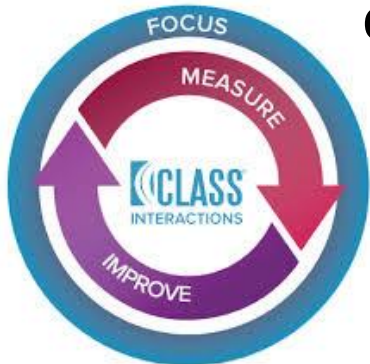
CLASS Pilot

Office of Early Childhood



CLASS Pilot Project Phase I

- ✓ **CLASS Pilot Phase 1 - Located in the catchment area of a Cohort 1 Local Lead**
- ✓ **During the CLASS Pilot Learning Year there will be **NO** ERS evaluations unless:**
 - **Programs are wanting to level up in Better Beginnings**
 - **New program needing Better Beginnings certification**





Dawn Jeffrey

Academic Approval

Academic Approval - Background

[The LEARNS Act](#) requires that each early learning center approved for licensure by the Department of Education and receiving public funds under this chapter shall:

1. Meet all **health and safety standards** previously required by the Department of Human Services; and
2. (A) Obtain approval from the department for adherence to the requirements of the Unified Early Childhood Care and Education System established under this chapter regarding **kindergarten readiness** as determined by the State Board of Education.
(B) The department shall base its approval under subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section on an early learning center's satisfactory participation in the Unified Early Childhood Care and Education System, including without limitation **unified accountability** and **coordinated enrollment**, as determined by the state board.



Academic Approval - Definition

- To receive academic approval from the Department, early learning sites must comply with the following:
- Participation in the local early childhood lead organization** and all associated activities (e.g., child count, coordinated enrollment, information campaign)
- Participation in Better Beginnings** and receiving an accountability rating



Academic Approval - Participants

• **Required participants:** all early childhood sites (regardless of site type) that accept public funding would be required to participate in academic approval

- ABC
- Publicly-funded prek classrooms
- CCDF vouchers
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- Medicaid (EIDT sites)

• **Opt-in programs:** licensed early childhood sites that do not accept public funding may opt in to participate and receive a rating in the QRIS





Brandy Ishmon

Child Care for
Child Care Workers



NEXT MEETING

**Next call is September 3 at
12:00pm**

Find the recording of today's meeting here:

[Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Offices - Early Childhood - Informational Provider Calls \(arkansas.gov\)](#)