

# Welcome to the Monthly Provider Call.



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

## **Meeting Agenda**

- Laura Webb – Provider Payments
- Jennifer Douglas – Fall Town Halls  
– Local Leads
- Lori Bridges – CLASS Pilot Review
- Dawn Jeffrey – Academic Approval
- Brandy Ishmon – Eligibility Updates





# Laura Webb

## Provider Payments





# Jennifer Douglas

- Fall Town Hall
- Local Leads





# Early Childhood Town Hall Schedule

**10 am - 12 pm**

**Oct. 2 Jonesboro**

Hames Meeting Room First National Bank Arena  
217 Olympic Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401

**Oct. 16 Gillham**

DeQueen Meena ESC  
305 Hornberg Ave, Gillham, AR 71841

**Oct. 23 Harrison**

John Paul Hammerschmidt Conf. Center, N Arkansas College  
South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Dr. Harrison, AR 72601

**Oct. 30 Pine Bluff**

Big Rock Auditorium, Arkansas River ESC  
912 W 6th Ave., Pine Bluff, AR 71601

**Nov. 6 Conway**

Conway School District, Special Education Annex  
1902 Hairston St., Conway, AR 72034







# Local Leads

## ● October 1 - Child Count

- The unduplicated number of children currently served by age, program, type, and location
- The number of children that are not able to access program(s) for which they are eligible
- The true capacity of the system (i.e., spot, number of professionals, facilities)
- The number and location of spots needed to meet the needs of families.

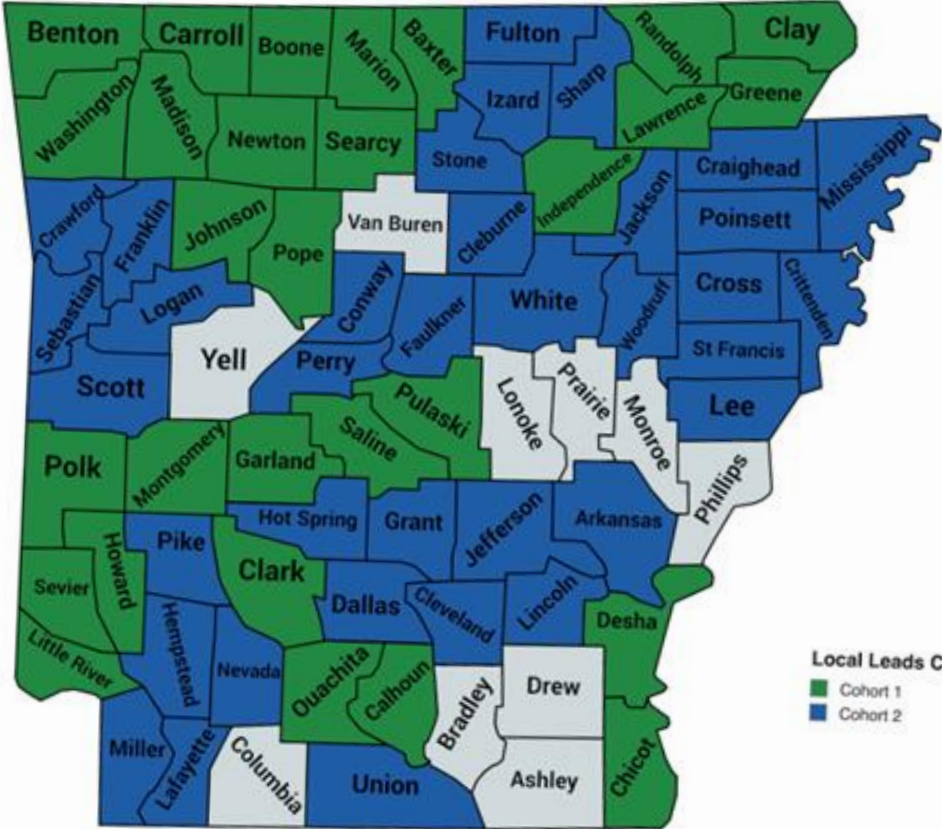
Child Count is an opportunity for Arkansas to begin understanding access, demand, and gaps at the State and local levels for early childhood programs and services.

- Selection of Cohort 3
  - Applications are available through the Commissioner's Memo
  - Early October Cohort 3 will be selected





# Local Leads Website







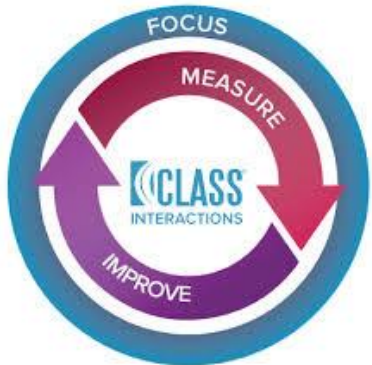
# Lori Bridges

CLASS Pilot  
Pre-K RISE



# CLASS Pilot – Phase 1

- ✓ **CLASS Pilot Phase 1 – Selected programs are 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 choosing to level up in Better Beginnings**
  - **New program needing Better Beginnings certification**





# CLASS Pilot Phase 1 Timeline

Key Activities	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cohort 1 submits a confirmed list of programs participating in Phase 1 of CLASS Pilot (those receiving fall 2024 observations)						
Cohort 1 grows their CLASS observer pool with CLASS affiliate trainers delivering CLASS observer training			Observer pool will continue to grow throughout the fall, with additional trainings offered			
OEC releases CLASS Pilot protocol and guidelines for Cohort 1 - Phase 1						
OEC provides ongoing support to the field as the CLASS Pilot rolls out						
Phase 1 CLASS pilot observations take place						
December 13 - CLASS Pilot practice ratings due in data portal						



# CLASS Pilot – Phase 1



[www.oecclass.org](http://www.oecclass.org)



# Pre-K RISE

[www.prekrise.org](http://www.prekrise.org)



LETRS for Early Childhood Educators







# 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

## Eligibility Updates



# OEC Updates effective October 2024

Presumptive Eligibility

Front End Job Search

Coordinating Eligibility Determination

Rate Increase





# Presumptive Eligibility

Child care assistance shall be provided for all applicants who submit an incomplete application for up to ninety (90) days. The ninety (90) day timeframe will allow families to submit required documentation to establish eligibility.





# Front End Job Search

A ninety (90) day authorization may be extended to allow eligible household members to actively seek participation in an eligible activity for application who are currently NOT in an eligible activity.





# Coordinating Eligibility Determination

When additional child(ren) are added to an existing household, OEC will offer an extended eligibility period for child(ren) previously approved in the household. All children will receive services through the duration of the extended eligibility period for a minimum of thirteen (13) months.





# Rate Increase

(see link below)

[10 24 Copy of Rates Structure OEC.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

Two different geographic areas

- Urban/Rural
- Urban Plus

Two different rates







# NEXT MEETING

**Next call is October 1 at 12:00pm**

Find the recording of today's meeting here:

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