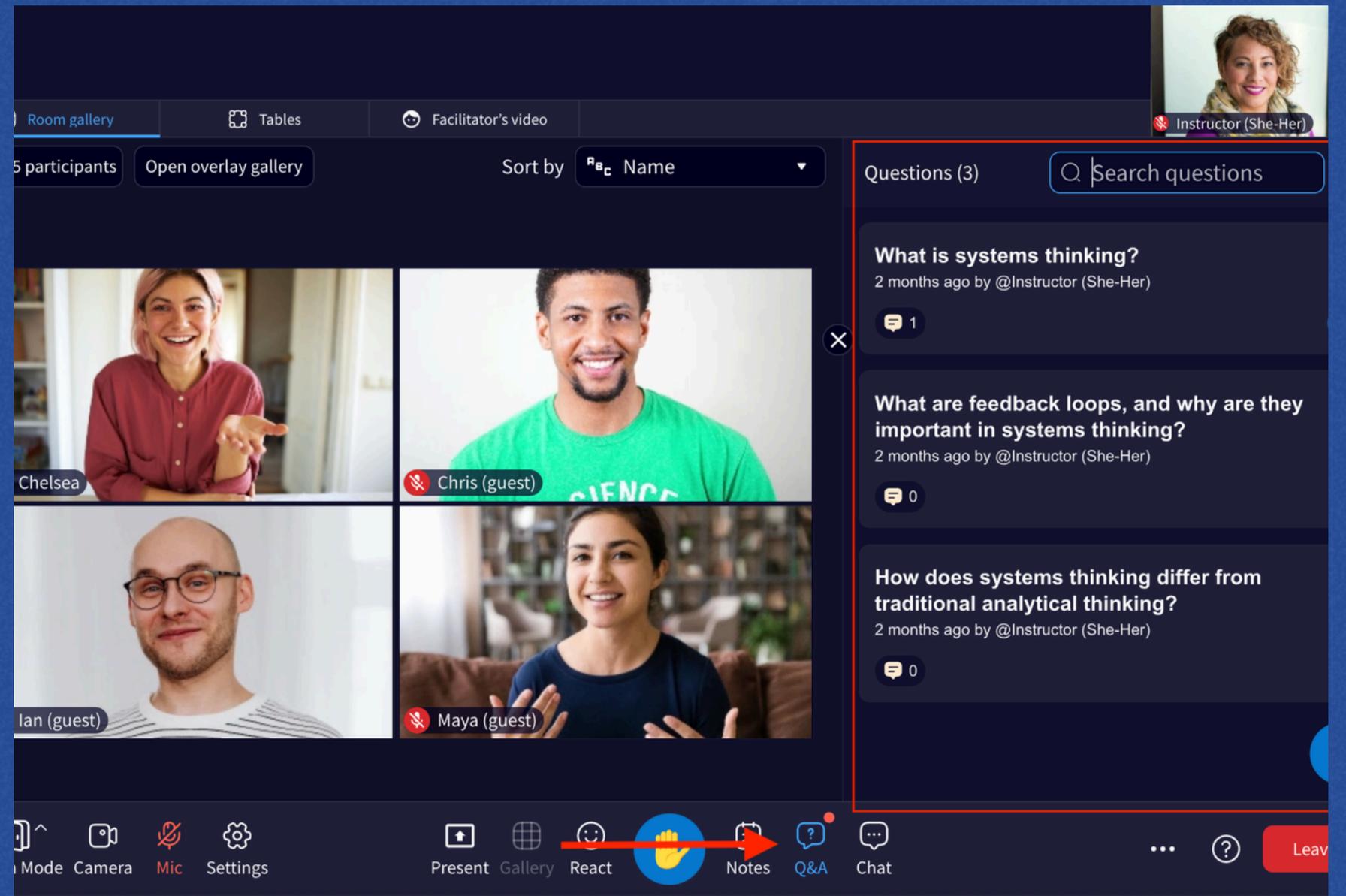


Housekeeping

- Chat feature is no longer available. As a result, we're unable to respond.
- Questions will be answered via the Q&A box and a FAQ Sheet that will be posted to the OEC website.
- Submit your questions early.
- Please use the Q&A Box to submit any questions.





Arkansas Department of Education

Office of Early
Childhood

MARCH 3, 2026

OEC Monthly Provider Call





**Ashelyn
Abney**

**Welcome
SRA
ABC
Call for Proposal
Awards**

**Local Lead
Announcement**



SRA

- **Payments**
- **Waitlist**

ABC

- **Payments**

**Ashelyn
Abney**

**Updates on SRA
and ABC**



Call for Proposals: Vendor Update

In August 2025, ADE released a Call for Proposals to support professional services for early childhood professionals in alignment with the LEARNS vision for quality. Over 40 vendors submitted proposals on November 1, 2025.

Funding for professional services grants is paid for with funding designated exclusively for job-embedded coaching, training, and technical assistance, which will fund the following subject areas:

- Adult-Child Interactions
- High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and Child Assessment
- Foundational Support

Vendor Selection

Vendors have been selected based on the following criteria:

- Aligned with OEC responsibilities and vision
- Vendor qualifications, responsiveness to local needs, and experience
- Proposed service delivery model
- Coverage (geographic reach, unit type, and subject area)
- Available budget

The Office of Early Childhood is selecting the following vendors to receive Professional Service Grants, effective July 1, 2026.

Grantee	Amount*	Subject Area		
		Adult Child Interactions	HQIM and Child Assessment	Foundational Support
A-State Child Care Aware	\$150,000			X
A-State	\$2,439,350	X	X	X
Arch Ford ESC	\$150,000			X
Child Care Aware of NWA	\$150,000			X
Curricula Concepts	\$420,400	X		X
Dawson ESC	\$150,000			X
DeQueen Mena ESC	\$150,000			X
Excel by Eight	\$440,400			X
Guy Fenter ESC	\$150,000			X
LENA	\$150,000	X		
National Park College	\$150,000			X



Ashelyn Abney

Call for Proposals



Grantee	Amount*	Subject Area		
		Adult Child Interactions	HQIM and Child Assessment	Foundational Support
Northeast ESC	\$150,000			X
North Central ESC	\$150,000			X
OUR ESC	\$150,000			X
Really Great Reading	\$343,000		X	
SEARK ESC	\$150,000			X
SWAEC	\$150,000			X
UAMS	\$142,310			X
University of Arkansas Partners	\$399,234	X	X	
University of Arkansas ECEP	\$2,195,275.95	X	X	X
White River PDD	\$150,000.00			X
Total	\$8,479,969.95			

**The following amounts reflect the maximum amounts that may be paid through reimbursement for services rendered.*



Ashelyn Abney

Call for Proposals



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

Jacob Oliva
Secretary | Read Bio ▶
Department of Education

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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Local Leads

Local Lead Organizations Recompete Information - February 6, 2026

You can find detailed recompete information at this [link](#).

Local Lead Responsibilities Overview

Local Leads play a critical role in advancing early childhood initiatives across Arkansas. They serve as the primary contact for their area, working closely with the Office of Early Childhood, provide stakeholders, and families to ensure alignment with state and federal guidelines. Their responsibilities span data collection, funding coordination, strategic planning, and CLASS implementation.

Scope of Work:

Lead Work in Local Area: Coordinate local efforts and ensure compliance with guidelines.
 Administer Child Count: Collect and verify data to inform planning and funding.
 Coordinate Funding Requests: Align funding applications with local needs and maintain audit-ready documentation.
 Maintain Local Plan and Needs Assessments: Develop strategic plans and conduct regular assessments.
 Assist with CLASS Implementation: Support training, scheduling, and data-driven improvements.

In the spring of 2023, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the Arkansas LEARNS Act into law. As a comprehensive and transformative education reform initiative, LEARNS prioritizes several key components of education, including early learning.

One of the Act's major requirements is the establishment of **local early childhood lead organizations** to improve the experience of families and providers. These organizations are tasked with:

- **Supporting** access to early childhood programs;
- **Identifying gaps** in services;
- **Fostering local partnerships**;
- **Creating alignment** among public and private providers and agencies within the community; and
- Establishing a **comprehensive, locally supported plan** for providing early childhood programs and services.

Ashelyn Abney

Local Lead Announcement





Alicia Atwood

Curriculum

HQIM



- The updated Approved Curriculum List will be released on the Arkansas Department of Education website on Monday, March 16th.
- To access the most current version, visit:
www.dese.ade.arkansas.gov



- **Offices**
- **Early Childhood**
- **Content and Development**
- **Curriculum**

- Additional guidance documents will be posted alongside the list to support providers in reviewing and selecting curriculum and to address common questions about the process.
- The Office of Early Childhood will conduct the curriculum review process annually to align with and mirror the state's K–12 HQIM review model.
- The next open submission window for curriculum review will take place March 16–27, 2026. Beginning with this cycle, any curriculum submitted during an open window that meets the criteria outlined in the HQIM Scoring Rubric will be added directly to the Approved Curriculum List upon completion of the review process.

Alicia Atwood

Curriculum

HQIM





Alicia Atwood

CLASS

 **KCLASS**[®]

Classroom Assessment Scoring System[®]





Alicia Atwood

Amy Pinkston

*White River Planning and
Development Local Lead*

Abby Baker

Bald Knob Schools





**Jennifer
Douglas**

**Mary Katherine
Hardin**

**CLASS: Quality
Interactions**





Emotional Support

Classroom Organization

Instructional Support

**Mary
Katherine
Hardin**

**CLASS: Quality
Interactions**

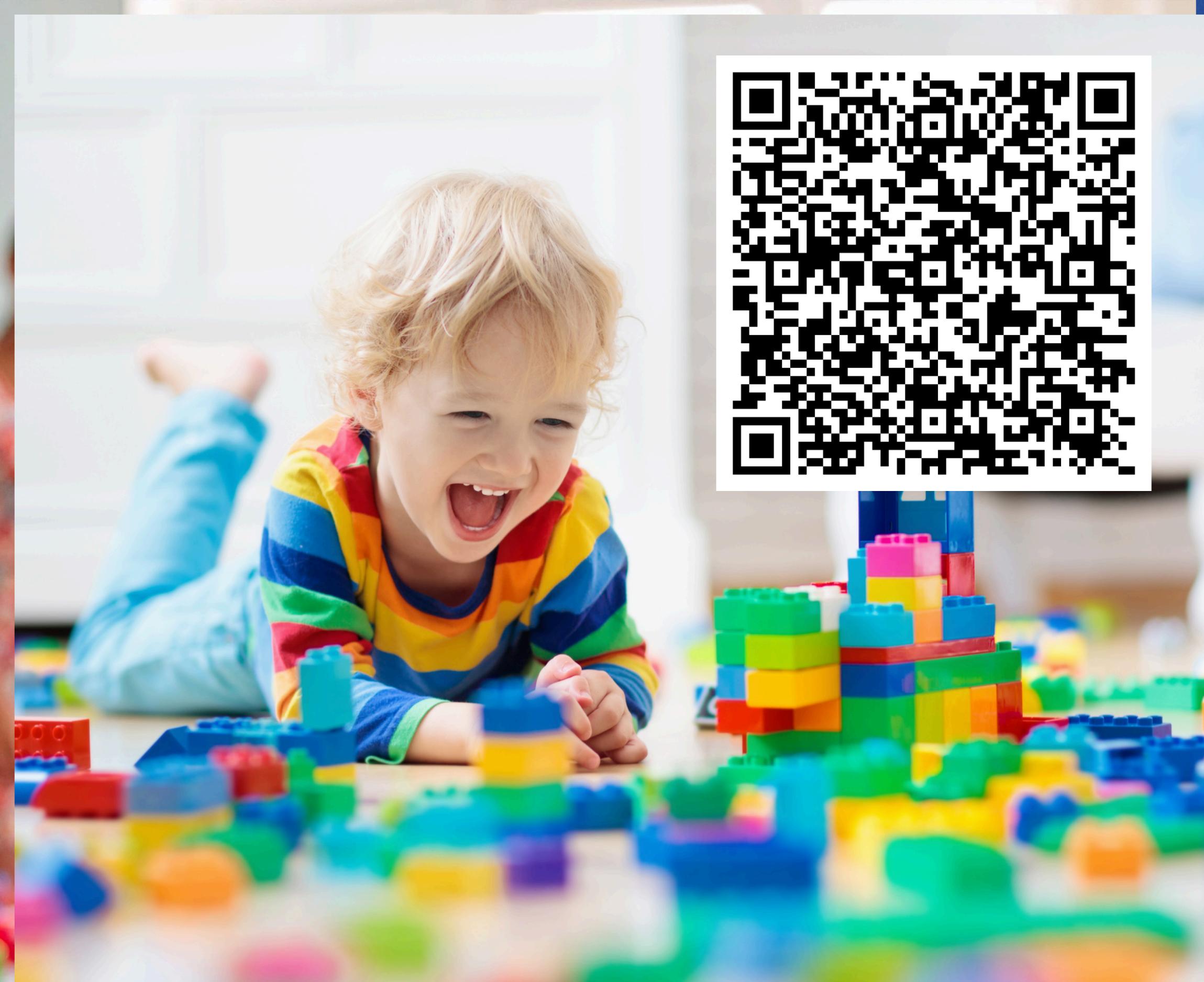




**Kelli
Hilburn**

**Licensing
Updates**





**Ashelyn
Abney**

PDR Survey





Your
feedback
matters!

Provider Call Frequency Survey Results

Ashelyn Abney





**Office of Early
Childhood**

**Phone:
501-682-8947**

**Email:
[oec.familysupport@
ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:oec.familysupport@ade.arkansas.gov)**



Questions?





Next Meeting

April 7, 2026

12:00 p.m.

