



News Release

Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Normandy Early Learning Center Receives State License Ahead of Schedule

NORMANDY, Mo. – Normandy Schools Collaborative’s Early Learning Center (ELC) is now a state-licensed early childhood education provider. The ELC received its Missouri license on August 14, five months ahead of the scheduled date in 2021. The ELC is licensed to serve up to 189 students in its pre-kindergarten program.

“We are thrilled to receive our state license ahead of schedule,” said Dr. Crystal Hunter, director of early learning at the Normandy Early Learning Center. “With COVID-19 and building construction behind schedule, this was a very difficult process; however, we have a great team who all worked very hard to achieve this recognition.”

The ELC, which opened for its first year of learning in August 2019, started the process to obtain the state license when staff moved into the new facility. District and ELC staff first worked with the local fire marshal and sanitation inspector from Jefferson City, Mo., to ensure all necessary requirements were met. Then, the state performed a comprehensive paperwork review and classroom observations.

“Through the licensing process all aspects of safety are examined,” said Dr. Hunter. “Every sink is checked for proper temperature control; each classroom is measured for square footage minus furniture to ensure enough room for students to move safely. All equipment is counted by the piece and inspected, and playground equipment is measured for safety.”

“Obtaining state licensing is a tangible example of Normandy Schools Collaborative’s commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education for our community,” said Marcus C. Robinson, Normandy Superintendent of Schools. “We want every family in the Normandy footprint to feel confident in sending their child to the Normandy Early Learning Center.”

ELC staff had to go through multiple background checks, and specialized professional development.

“Students and staff washing hands and the sanitation process of items in the classroom were observed. These practices have really helped our staff understand and prepare for the opening of our school during the COVID-19 pandemic,” explained Dr. Hunter.

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CAPTION #1: The Normandy Early Learning Center opened in August 2019. The school serves students in preschool, prekindergarten, and kindergarten.

CAPTION #2: Students at the Normandy Early Learning Center work with building blocks in the classroom of the district's newest school. The school's early childhood program recently earned its state license.