

# School Readiness Contract Briefing FY 2026-2027

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## SSO, EFS Modernization and Provider Portal – 2026-2027 Contracting Prerequisites

- **The Division of Early Learning requires all Coalitions, School Readiness and VPK Providers to use their statewide data system, SSO, and EFS MOD, for all processes of the School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Programs, to include Developmental Screenings (ASQ's).**
- **You are eligible for a School Readiness contract because you have registered in the SSO and Provider Portal, completed a provider profile and submitted a contract application.**
- **A contract cannot be granted to any Provider until their contract application, provider profile in the portal have been approved.**
- **Payments are calculated from EFS MOD.**
  - **However, paper copies of attendance verification (daily sign-in/sign-out or equivalent) are still required.**

## Contract Eligibility

To be eligible to deliver the School Readiness Program must be one of the following:

- Child care facility licensed under s. 402.305
- Family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313,
- Large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131
- Public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s. 402.3025
- Faith-based child care provider exempt from licensure under s. 402.316
- Before-school or after-school program described in s. 402.305(1)(c),  
or
- Informal child care provider

The Provider must maintain legally operating status. The Coalition may immediately terminate a contract upon revocation, suspension or termination of Provider's licensure, exemption, accreditation, or status to legally operate.

## Contract Eligibility Cont.

**Rule 6M-4.610(3) School Readiness Program Ineligibility.** For the purpose of this subsection “individual associated with a provider” means an individual or family member of an individual who, regardless of compensation, holds a management position, oversees the operations of a provider, or is an officer, shareholder, beneficial owner or member of the board of directors of a provider. A provider shall not be eligible to contract to offer the SR program if any of the following circumstances apply:

- The provider, or individual associated with the provider, is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List ;
- The provider, or individual associated with the provider has not committed public assistance fraud;
- The provider, or individual associated with the provider, has been terminated from participation in the program due to fraud and is currently not eligible to participate in the school readiness program;
- The provider, or individual associated with the provider, is currently ineligible to participate in the program pursuant to Section 1002.88(2), F.S.

# Child Eligibility

## Enrollment Requirements

Children may only be enrolled if there is an electronic authorization from the Coalition. This authorization must be issued in the form of a payment certificate.

- Providers are only paid for:
  - Children who are eligible as of the payment certificate start date
  - The level of care authorized on the certificate
  - **Providers cannot** add extra days of care beyond what is authorized
  - Increase care from Part-Time (PT) to Full-Time (FT) without updated authorization

To ensure payment is processed, both of the following must be completed:

- **Provider Responsibility** is to accept each child's enrollment in EFSM (Early Learning Family Support/Portal system) This must be done as soon as possible
- **Parent Responsibility** is to complete the online acknowledgement form ("sign" electronically)
- ✓ Important: Payment will not occur unless both steps are completed.

# Child Eligibility Continued

## Timeliness Matters

Waiting until attendance is processed to complete enrollment tasks can:

- Create delays
- Slow down reimbursement for all providers

## Provider Portal Functions

### Pending Enrollments

- Where providers view and accept children needing enrollment approval

### Redetermination Queue

- Displays Parents who are due for redetermination (redet)

### ASQ Queue

- Used to track and manage Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) requirements

### Terminations

- The provider portal is also where you can process and complete child terminations AND, parents must “sign” online the acknowledgement form. Both must be done to allow payment for services.

**Reminder: parents must “sign” online the acknowledgement form. Both must be done to allow payment for services.**

# Child Attendance

## **Additional Provider Portal Functions**

### **Registration Fees**

- Where providers submit for reimbursement of registration fees

### **Completing Attendance**

- **Recommendations:**
  - Complete attendance daily or weekly in your provider portal
  - Put reason for absence in the portal so the Finance team can see
  - Upload absence documentation for review

## Health and Safety Requirements

- **Provide a healthy and safe environment pursuant to s. 402.305(5), (6), and (7), as applicable, and as verified pursuant to s. 402.311.**
- **Unlicensed, license exempt providers now receive annual health and safety review by DCF.**
- **Since July 1, 2017, Coalition enforces violations of standards as contractual non-compliance.**
- **DCF still checks licensed, but Coalition required to enforce contractual compliance.**
- **DCF also doing three checks per year of all Gold Seal.**
- **May be terminated for excessive Class 1, 2 or 3 violations.**

# School Readiness Program Assessments and Child Assessment Requirements

- 1. SRPA: Does Provider meet minimum threshold for contracting?**
  - Yes - Receive a SR Contract
  - No - You are not eligible to receive a SR contract
  
- 2. SR Quality Performance Incentive**
  - ❖ Different levels of payment based on SRPA CLASS score
  
- 3. Child Assessment Incentive**
  - SR Quality Performance Incentive
  - 100% SR children Birth to 5, 75% teaching staff retention = 5% rate incentive

# School Readiness Program Assessments Thresholds for 2026-2027

- **Providers with SR children**
  - **Program Assessment Required**
  - **Exemptions:**
    - **No SR Children enrolled**
    - **Centers that have less than 20% of published capacity is SR children**
    - **Family Child Care homes with 2 or fewer paid SR children**
    - **Night and Weekend care only**
    - **School age care only**
  - **If at any time a provider is no longer exempt, they remain in a must be assessed status with the exception of Family Child Care Homes.**
- **Program Assessment CLASS Scores**
  - **Minimum Threshold for Contracting = 4.0**
  - **SR Quality Performance Incentive must score 5.0 or above**
    - **5.00-5.99 = 7%,**
    - **6.00-7.00 = 10%**

## SR Quality Performance Incentives

- What is the SR Quality Performance Incentive?
- Differential payment program (1002.82(2)(o))
  - Effective July 1, 2025
  - Based on quality measures of program assessment
  - SR Quality Performance Incentive: CLASS Score of:
    - 5.00-5.99 = 7%
    - 6.00-7.00 = 10%
  - Total State incentive may not exceed 15%
  - No more than 5% (of the 15%) may be provided to providers who submit valid and reliable child assessment data to statewide information system in the domains of language and executive functioning
  - Total Incentives may not exceed 20% (Does not include Gold Seal)



## High CLASS Learning

### **Best practices for a better CLASS**

- **Teacher Stability:** Not just keeping them on staff, but **keeping them in the same age class every day**
- **Director Competence:** Directing and owning is more than just reaping profits. Successful classrooms come from successful leadership
- **Training:** Make effective use of training opportunities. Expend time & money to improve staff qualifications
- **Curriculum:** Take it off the shelf and **Use it!** Assessors can tell if you do this, and if you don't

## Better prepare for your next SRPA

- **Get Familiar with the CLASS tool**
- **Participate in LENA Grow With Me**
- **Attend Interaction Essentials, formerly know as CLASS Group Coaching (MMCI)**
- **Good News: If CLASS Score improves into a new QPI Range, increased rates start the first of the next month**
- **Similarly, if score goes down the rate changes the first of next month**
- **Scoring below 4.00 starts the process to terminate contract; unless a second assessment is requested**

## Ratio and Group Size Requirements

- **SR-20 - 11.b. Supervision.** Provider agrees to provide minimum staff-to-children ratio by provider type at all times and direct supervision to ensure the health and safety of children in care.
- **SR-20L and LE - 2. Group Size and Staff to Children Ratio.** In accordance with s. 1002.88(1)(d), F.S., Provider agrees to maintain group size and staff to child ratio in accordance with s. 402.302(8) or (11), F.S., as applicable, and as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, F.S.
- **Group Size sets the maximum number of children, by age, that can be in single “classroom”**
  - Over or equal to age 2 based on majority population
  - Under age 2 based on youngest population



## Ratio and Group Size Requirements Cont.

| Age Group       | Max Group Size | No active CDA required | 1 active CDA required | 2 active CDA required |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Birth -12       | 12             | 1-4 children           | 5-8 children          | 9-12 children         |
| One year olds   | 12             | 1-6 children           | 7-12 children         | N/A                   |
| Two year olds   | 22             | 1-11 children          | 12-22 children        | N/A                   |
| Three year olds | 30             | 1-15 children          | 16-30 children        | N/A                   |
| 4,5,6 year olds | 40             | 1-20 children          | 21-40 children        | N/A                   |
| School age (>6) | 50             | 1-25 children          | 26-50 children        | N/A                   |

- **Does not apply during: Outdoor, sedentary activities (School age), dining, specific large group assemblies or events.**
- **Simple guide: If two adults are required one must be CDA credentialed!**

## Educational Requirements

- **Curriculum**: Implement one of the curricula approved by the DEL that meets the State child development standards.  
(F.S.S. 1002.88.1.f )
  - **Character Development**: Implement a character development program approved by the DEL to develop basic values.  
(F.S.S. 1002.88.1.g)
- \*\* Must have curriculum from new 2025 DEL list of Approved School Readiness Curricula**

## Developmental Screening Requirements – ASQ's

**“Collaborate with the Coalition to complete initial screening for each child, aged 6 weeks to kindergarten eligibility (60 months), within 45 days after the child’s first or subsequent enrollment, to identify a child who may need individualized support services.” (F.S.S. 1002.88.1.i)**

- ASQ's are completed in the Provider Profile in EFS MOD
- **NOTIFICATIONS FOR SCREENINGS DUE ARE MADE VIA THE PROVIDER PORTAL IN YOUR QUEUE. Eligibility is NO LONGER sending notifications via email.**
- Parents shall have the first option to complete the ASQ
- The Coalition requires the Provider to complete the ASQ Process IF the parent defers or does not complete the screening in time allotted
- Failure to complete all requirements of the ASQ process can be grounds for contract termination

## Developmental Screening Requirements – ASQ’s Cont.

1. **Initial Screening** due no later than 45 days upon screening start date
    - a. Parents shall have first option to complete screening **within 20 days** of enrollment
    - b. Parent may defer screening to provider
    - c. Provider will be required to complete screening if parent defers or fails to complete on time. **The providers due date for the provider will be 45 days after the child’s first day of attendance.**
    - d. Parent will be notified via their parent portal with screening results
  
  2. **Annual Screening** due no later than 45 days from date of redetermination
    - a. Parents have first option to complete screening **within 20 days** of enrollment
    - b. Parent may defer screening to provider
    - c. Provider will be required to complete screening if parent defers or fails to complete on time
    - d. Parent will be notified via their parent portal with screening results
- Questions or issues contact: [inclusion@elcescambia.org](mailto:inclusion@elcescambia.org)

## Developmental Screening Requirements – ASQ's Cont.

- **If an observation results in an additional screening, Coalition Medical Staff may be requested to conduct vision and hearing screenings. This is part of the screening process, and you must allow Coalition staff onsite.**
  - **Parents have given permission for these screenings, therefore, we ask you to help assist Med Staff to ensure they obtain the correct results for referral purposes.**
  - **Please ensure permission slips are completed promptly.**
    - \* **Best practice is to have caregiver complete permission slips annually with their registration packets or on the Coalition website.**
- **Questions or issues contact: [inclusion@elcescambia.org](mailto:inclusion@elcescambia.org)**

## Prohibited Forms of Discipline

- **Standards in s. 1002.88(1)(i), F.S. and s. 402.305(12), F.S.**
- **No discipline that is severe, humiliating or frightening**
- **Discipline may not be associated with food, rest or toileting**
- **Spanking of other forms of physical punishment is prohibited**
- **May not deny active play as a consequence of misbehavior**
- **Must have documented Discipline policy per contract and monitoring tool**





## E-Verify Requirements

- **Providers must use the I-9 and E-Verify system for all new employees effective January 1, 2021.**
- **Provider must provide evidence of using E-Verify.**
- **This will be part of the SR contract documents each year.**
- **Providers shall also be required to attest that all employees hired before January 1, 2021, are cleared to work in the United States.**
- **An attestation form is provided.**



## Information Changes

- Coalition must receive updates on all changes in business information, such as changes in owner, director, teachers, business name, banking info, or phone number, within 14 calendar days.
- ***NOTE: If you change your FEIN number, this will require a whole new profile and a new contract. Please consult with the Contracts Administrator before make this change.***
- Temporary emergency closings reported by the close of business the first day that the closing occurs.
- Closing permanently, changing location or ownership must be reported at least 30 days prior to changes.



## Unusual Incidents

- All unusual incidents are to be reported to the Coalition by close of business next business day and a written report is to be submitted within 3 business days.
- You may go to [www.elcescambia.org/families/incidents/](http://www.elcescambia.org/families/incidents/) to complete an incident report online.
- Anything illness related that is considered an outbreak is a reportable incident.
- Use [PIU@elcescambia.org](mailto:PIU@elcescambia.org) or call 850-595-5400 for incident reporting.



### Child Abuse Hotline

- Comply with state child abuse and neglect reporting requirements.
- All employees are required to call 1-800-962-2873 if child abuse is suspected. (F.S.S. section 39.201)

## Rilya Wilson Act

Providers caring for a child in the Protective Supervision Program must notify the Coalition of all absences.

Go to [www.elcescambia.org/providers/absent-child/](http://www.elcescambia.org/providers/absent-child/) to report an absence online.

You may also send your absence report to [absent@elcescambia.org](mailto:absent@elcescambia.org) or by fax at 850-466-3783.

Additionally, if a PS child is out 7 consecutive days they must notify DCF and the Coalition

Questions regarding PS reporting contact the ELCEC Protective Services Liaison at 850-290-7724

(F.S.S. Section 39.604)

## Other Program Requirements

- **Parental Choice:** Parents have the right to choose and to change providers.
- **Parental Access:** Parents must have unlimited access to their child(ren) and all that concerns their child(ren).
- **Child Care Resource and Referral**
  - New requirement is to keep your Provider Portal up to date. Noncompliance if change is more than ten days old.
  - Every time the Provider Portal changes your account is Pending and no payments can be made until Accepted.

## Record Requirements

**Record Confidentiality:** The Provider must have **all staff complete confidentiality agreements** and have processes in place to protect the privacy of child and family information. Confidential information associated with the SR Program should only be available to the Provider, the parent/legal guardian, the Coalition or its representative, the Florida Division of Early Learning, and federal agencies as required for audit and research information. (F.S.S. 1002.97)

**Records Maintenance:** Maintain records, including sign in and sign out documentation, enrollment and attendance certification, documentation to support excused absences, and proof of parent co-payments. All records must be kept on file for 5 years. Coalition must have access to records for audit purposes.

**Record Transfer on Termination:** Provide records no later than last business day of contract. No records, no last payment!

## Coalition Responsibilities

- **Training and Technical Assistance:** Provide notification of availability of training, technical assistance, and other targeted assistance.
- **Developmental Screenings (ASQ):** Provide notification in the Provider Portal of screening due date. It is based on first day of attendance.
- **Monitoring:** Coalition will monitor Provider for compliance with contract and applicable laws per s. 1002.85(2)(h) per monitoring plan and in response to parental complaints.

# Holidays



**Holidays.** Per Rule 6M-4.500(3)(a) F.A.C., every Provider is approved to be paid for up to twelve holidays per year. The Coalition has identified seven days of the year to be fixed holidays for all Providers. Providers can choose up to five additional days to be paid holidays. These days must be identified in the Provider Portal as holiday closures.

**Professional Development Day.** Each provider is approved one paid Professional Development Day per contract year. This is a workday to do staff training. Proof of training and that staff were paid must be provided. **This day is optional.** If taken, it will be the thirteenth paid closure day.

**Provider Portal.** In the Provider Portal only the seven fixed holidays will be identified in the master calendar. Providers must identify all the days they are planning to be closed for the coming year, both with or without reimbursement, to include the fixed holidays. The Provider Portal prompts users to another menu to choose from their list of closed days which will be the optional paid holidays. The seven fixed paid holidays will be preselected.

# Absences

Three excused absences allowed per month.

Extraordinary absences are **ONLY** allowed for extreme circumstances, such as death or hospitalization, routine doctor or health related appt, and must be documented, such as an obituary, doctor note, court order.

Max 13 days of absence, excused and extraordinary.

The Coalition must be notified if a child is absent 5 consecutive days, and it is unexplained, by the close of the 5<sup>th</sup> business day.

Notify the Coalition **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** when SR children no longer attend your program. **Reporting at the end of the month as part of attendance submission is too late**, and may result in financial penalties.

Must submit a summary report of ALL absences of 5 days or more, explained and unexplained, each month.

Submit an absence report online via Coalition website at [www.elcescambia.org/providers/absent-child/](http://www.elcescambia.org/providers/absent-child/) (preferred) or email reports to [Absent@elcescambia.org](mailto:Absent@elcescambia.org) (backup alternate).

# Closures

- **Emergency Closure Days.** If the Coalition is closed in all likelihood a CR day will be awarded for all providers. Additional C days may be based on the severity of the emergency.
- **Temporary emergency.** Temporary emergency closures must be reported by the close of business the first day that the closing occurs. Providing notice to the COALITION of subsequent reopening of the SR Program within two (2) business days of reopening.
- **Closure Notification.** You must notify the Coalition by the close of business on the first day of a closure, otherwise approval of the closure for payment will not be approved.
- **EFS MOD Entries.** Provider must select Closure Days in Provider Closure Calendar. The Coalition will enter Closed Reimbursable (CR) or Closed Non-reimbursable (CN) for all other closures.



## Closures for Illnesses

- Any type of outbreak is considered a reportable incident.
- The current outbreak definition according to FLDOH is three or more unrelated non-household sharing staff or attendees becoming positive for an illness within a 14-day period.
- A variety of options in response to closures. Contact the Coalition to determine which option is best.
- Child absence days for outbreaks will be counted toward a child's absences just like all other absences.
- Use [Covid@elcescambia.org](mailto:Covid@elcescambia.org) or call 850-595-5400 for incident reporting.



# Reimbursements



Providers are paid based on budget availability, current reimbursement rates and incentives, family eligibility, and reported work schedule.

- **Registration Fees.** Registration fees reimbursement will continue in 26-27. However, the system will begin to deny payment if a child has had fees paid twice in 5 years.
- **Monthly Statement.** Review monthly statements and if discrepancies, overpayment or underpayment, occur the provider must notify Coalition within 60 days of date of payment.
- **Parent Copayments.** It is the Provider's responsibility to collect "Parent fees" from parents. Copayments are automatically deducted from monthly reimbursement payment. New process for assessing copayments. One fee for entire family assigned to one child.
- **Gold Seal.** Providers are required to provide private rates and report changes in their Gold Seal status to the Coalition. Total payment received by the Provider per SR child shall not exceed the Coalitions maximum rate.

# SR Sliding Fee Scale

Effective date October 1, 2026

## Florida Division of Early Learning SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE for SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

| DAILY FEE |           | ----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family ----- |        |        |        |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|-----------|-----------|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Full-Time | Part-Time | 1  | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9       | 10      | 11      | 12      | 13      | 14      | 15      |         |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 5% SMI   | 2,690  | 3,504  | 4,329  | 5,153  | 5,978   | 6,802   | 7,627   | 8,451   | 9,276   | 10,100  | 10,925  | 11,749  | 12,574  | 13,398  | 14,223  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 10% SMI  | 2,891  | 3,506  | 4,330  | 5,154  | 5,979   | 6,803   | 7,627   | 8,452   | 9,276   | 10,101  | 10,925  | 11,750  | 12,574  | 13,399  | 14,223  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 15% SMI  | 3,380  | 7,009  | 8,888  | 10,307 | 11,956  | 13,905  | 15,915  | 14,224  | 14,833  | 14,842  | 15,151  | 15,461  | 15,770  | 16,079  | 16,388  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 20% SMI  | 8,039  | 10,812 | 12,988 | 15,489 | 17,933  | 20,408  | 20,870  | 21,334  | 21,798  | 22,262  | 22,726  | 23,190  | 23,654  | 24,118  | 24,582  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 25% SMI  | 8,040  | 10,813 | 12,987 | 15,480 | 17,934  | 20,407  | 20,871  | 21,335  | 21,799  | 22,263  | 22,727  | 23,191  | 23,655  | 24,119  | 24,583  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 30% SMI  | 10,719 | 14,017 | 17,315 | 20,613 | 23,911  | 27,209  | 27,827  | 28,445  | 29,064  | 29,682  | 30,301  | 30,919  | 31,537  | 32,156  | 32,774  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 35% SMI  | 10,720 | 14,018 | 17,316 | 20,614 | 23,912  | 27,210  | 27,828  | 28,446  | 29,065  | 29,683  | 30,302  | 30,920  | 31,538  | 32,157  | 32,775  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 40% SMI  | 13,399 | 17,621 | 21,843 | 26,065 | 29,888  | 34,011  | 34,784  | 36,657  | 36,330  | 37,103  | 37,876  | 38,649  | 39,422  | 40,195  | 40,968  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 45% SMI  | 13,399 | 17,622 | 21,844 | 26,067 | 29,889  | 34,012  | 34,785  | 36,658  | 36,331  | 37,104  | 37,877  | 38,650  | 39,423  | 40,196  | 40,969  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 50% SMI  | 16,078 | 21,026 | 26,972 | 30,919 | 36,865  | 40,813  | 41,741  | 42,668  | 43,596  | 44,523  | 45,451  | 46,379  | 47,306  | 48,233  | 49,161  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 55% SMI  | 16,079 | 21,026 | 26,973 | 30,920 | 36,867  | 40,814  | 41,742  | 42,669  | 43,597  | 44,524  | 45,452  | 46,380  | 47,307  | 48,234  | 49,162  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 60% SMI  | 18,758 | 24,629 | 30,301 | 36,072 | 41,844  | 47,615  | 48,697  | 49,779  | 50,862  | 51,944  | 53,026  | 54,108  | 55,190  | 56,272  | 57,355  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 65% SMI  | 18,759 | 24,630 | 30,302 | 36,073 | 41,845  | 47,616  | 48,698  | 49,780  | 50,863  | 51,945  | 53,027  | 54,109  | 55,191  | 56,273  | 57,356  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 70% SMI  | 21,437 | 28,033 | 34,629 | 41,225 | 47,821  | 54,417  | 55,554  | 56,691  | 57,828  | 58,964  | 60,101  | 61,238  | 62,374  | 63,511  | 64,648  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 75% SMI  | 21,438 | 28,034 | 34,630 | 41,226 | 47,822  | 54,418  | 55,555  | 56,692  | 57,829  | 58,965  | 60,102  | 61,239  | 62,375  | 63,512  | 64,649  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 80% SMI  | 24,117 | 31,637 | 38,968 | 46,378 | 53,799  | 61,219  | 62,811  | 64,002  | 65,194  | 66,385  | 67,576  | 68,768  | 69,959  | 71,150  | 72,342  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 85% SMI  | 24,118 | 31,638 | 38,969 | 46,379 | 53,800  | 61,220  | 62,812  | 64,003  | 65,195  | 66,386  | 67,577  | 68,769  | 69,960  | 71,151  | 72,343  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 90% SMI  | 26,797 | 35,042 | 43,287 | 51,532 | 59,777  | 68,022  | 69,558  | 71,114  | 72,660  | 74,206  | 75,752  | 77,298  | 78,844  | 80,389  | 81,936  |
| 4.0%      | 2.0%      | 95% SMI  | 26,798 | 35,043 | 43,288 | 51,533 | 59,778  | 68,023  | 69,559  | 71,115  | 72,661  | 74,207  | 75,753  | 77,299  | 78,844  | 80,390  | 81,936  |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 55% SMI  | 29,476 | 38,546 | 47,615 | 56,685 | 65,754  | 74,824  | 76,524  | 78,225  | 79,925  | 81,626  | 83,327  | 85,027  | 86,727  | 88,428  | 90,129  |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 60% SMI  | 29,477 | 38,547 | 47,616 | 56,686 | 65,755  | 74,825  | 76,525  | 78,226  | 79,926  | 81,627  | 83,328  | 85,028  | 86,728  | 88,429  | 90,130  |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 65% SMI  | 32,156 | 42,060 | 51,944 | 61,838 | 71,732  | 81,626  | 83,481  | 85,336  | 87,191  | 89,047  | 90,902  | 92,757  | 94,612  | 96,467  | 98,322  |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 70% SMI  | 32,157 | 42,061 | 51,945 | 61,839 | 71,733  | 81,627  | 83,482  | 85,337  | 87,192  | 89,048  | 90,903  | 92,758  | 94,613  | 96,468  | 98,323  |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 75% SMI  | 34,836 | 46,664 | 56,272 | 66,991 | 77,709  | 88,428  | 90,438  | 92,448  | 94,457  | 96,467  | 98,477  | 100,487 | 102,496 | 104,506 | 106,516 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 80% SMI  | 34,836 | 46,665 | 56,273 | 66,992 | 77,710  | 88,429  | 90,439  | 92,449  | 94,458  | 96,468  | 98,478  | 100,488 | 102,497 | 104,507 | 106,517 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 85% SMI  | 37,515 | 49,088 | 60,601 | 72,144 | 83,687  | 95,230  | 97,398  | 99,569  | 101,723 | 103,888 | 106,052 | 108,217 | 110,380 | 112,545 | 114,709 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 90% SMI  | 37,516 | 49,089 | 60,602 | 72,145 | 83,688  | 95,231  | 97,399  | 99,570  | 101,724 | 103,889 | 106,053 | 108,218 | 110,381 | 112,546 | 114,710 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 95% SMI  | 40,195 | 52,662 | 64,930 | 77,297 | 89,665  | 102,032 | 104,391 | 106,770 | 108,989 | 111,308 | 113,627 | 115,946 | 118,265 | 120,584 | 122,903 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 100% SMI   | 40,196 | 52,663 | 64,931 | 77,298 | 89,666  | 102,033 | 104,392 | 106,771 | 108,990 | 111,309 | 113,628 | 115,947 | 118,266 | 120,585 | 122,904 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 105% SMI   | 42,874 | 56,066 | 69,268 | 82,480 | 95,642  | 108,834 | 111,308 | 113,782 | 116,256 | 118,729 | 121,202 | 123,676 | 126,149 | 128,622 | 131,096 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 110% SMI   | 42,875 | 56,067 | 69,269 | 82,481 | 95,643  | 108,835 | 111,309 | 113,783 | 116,257 | 118,730 | 121,203 | 123,677 | 126,150 | 128,623 | 131,097 |
| 6.0%      | 3.0%      | 115% SMI   | 45,554 | 59,571 | 73,697 | 87,804 | 101,920 | 116,037 | 118,265 | 120,493 | 122,721 | 124,949 | 127,177 | 129,405 | 131,633 | 133,861 | 136,089 |

Parents receiving hourly care pay up to the part time fee.

FFY 2026 ANNUAL State Median Income Estimates

Refer to BM-4.400, F.A.C.

85% SMI

70% SMI

85% SMI

Entry threshold for School Readiness program eligibility.

Entry threshold for School Readiness program eligibility.

Upper threshold for School Readiness program eligibility.

# SR Plus Sliding Fee Scale

Effective date October 1, 2025

## Florida Division of Early Learning SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE for SCHOOL READINESS PLUS PROGRAM

----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family -----

| DAILY FEE |       |                           | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9       | 10      | 11      | 12      | 13      | 14      | 15      |
|-----------|-------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Full-Time | 8.0%  | 85% SMI + \$1<br>90% SMI  | 45,555 | 59,572 | 73,588 | 87,605  | 101,621 | 115,638 | 118,266 | 120,894 | 123,522 | 126,150 | 128,779 | 131,407 | 134,034 | 136,662 | 139,291 |
|           | 4.0%  |                           | 48,234 | 63,075 | 77,916 | 92,757  | 107,598 | 122,439 | 125,222 | 128,004 | 130,787 | 133,570 | 136,353 | 139,136 | 141,917 | 144,700 | 147,483 |
| Part-Time | 9.0%  | 90% SMI + \$1<br>95% SMI  | 48,235 | 63,076 | 77,917 | 92,758  | 107,599 | 122,440 | 125,223 | 128,005 | 130,788 | 133,571 | 136,354 | 139,137 | 141,918 | 144,701 | 147,484 |
|           | 4.5%  |                           | 50,913 | 66,579 | 82,244 | 97,910  | 113,575 | 129,241 | 132,178 | 135,116 | 138,053 | 140,990 | 143,928 | 146,865 | 149,802 | 152,739 | 155,677 |
| Full-Time | 10.0% | 95% SMI + \$1<br>100% SMI | 50,914 | 66,580 | 82,245 | 97,911  | 113,576 | 129,242 | 132,179 | 135,117 | 138,054 | 140,991 | 143,929 | 146,866 | 149,803 | 152,740 | 155,678 |
|           | 5.0%  |                           | 53,593 | 70,083 | 86,573 | 103,063 | 119,553 | 136,043 | 139,135 | 142,227 | 145,319 | 148,411 | 151,503 | 154,595 | 157,686 | 160,778 | 163,870 |

Parents receiving hourly care pay up to the part time fee.

FFY 2026 ANNUAL State Median Income Estimates

Refer to 1002.935, Florida Statutes  
Income 100% State Median Income: Upper threshold for eligibility

## Reimbursements Cont.



- ❖ Providers are required to notify the Coalition in writing at least 14 calendar days prior to any rate changes a provider plans to implement.
- ❖ Providers are required to state in their contract whether or not they require parents to pay the differential between their private pay rates and the provider reimbursement rates. Providers are required to provide parents these rates, along with any additional fees in writing **prior to** enrollment of a child.
- ❖ Parents will only be held responsible for the last 30 days of parent copayments upon disenrolling or transferring from a program. All other unpaid fees, to include the differentials, are a matter between the provider and the parent.

## Reimbursements Cont.



- **Maintain accurate monthly attendance. Be careful as the system selects every child as present every day authorized.**
  - **Must deselect absent day(s).**
- **Maintain daily Sign-in/Sign-out sheets or equivalent system**
  - **Parents must sign IN AND OUT with full signature (no initials) and time of day every day their child attends**
  - **Coalition conducts extensive cross checking. Errors vs. fraud!**
  - **Monitoring will check closely for Sign-in/Sign-out on site**
- **Online attendance submission, Sign-in/Sign-out sheets, and supporting documents due by 3<sup>rd</sup> business day. If not received on time, no payment until the next month.**
- **Sign-in/Sign-out sheets or equivalent are required for payment. No Sign-in/Sign-out sheet for a child, payment will be denied.**
- **Adjustments requests are for discrepancies, under and over payments. Currently due NLT 60 days after invoice payment.**

# Monitoring



- **Monitoring Schedule:** Monitoring for new fiscal year begins July 2026.
- **Access:** Provider agrees to allow DEL and Coalition open access to its' facilities and records upon request. Records stored off-site shall be provided within 72 hours.
- **Monitoring Specifics:**
  - **Tier 1: Annually. Desk Review.** Includes reimbursement desk audit. No discrepancy Provider will not know monitoring was done.
  - **Tier 2: Coalition Monitoring Plan** requires every provider receive a Tier 2 at least once every two years, some providers may receive one two years in a row.
  - **High Risk monitoring *once every six months.***
  - **Coalition does not announce Tier 2 reviews.**

## Monitoring Cont.



- **Receiving an excessive number of DCF Class Violations results in a provider being designated as High Risk.**
- **Being on probation for any reason results in a provider being designated as High Risk.**
- **Monitoring Tool follows contract almost verbatim.**
- **Added focus on admin related to child safety and accountability, especially cross-referencing sign-in/sign-out to transportation logs.**
- **Now checking for proof that parent billing is done on a WEEKLY basis. Must have copies of receipts given to parents.**

## Monitoring Cont.



- **Current hit list:**
  - Differences between Sign-in/Sign-out forms and attendance reported in EFS MOD.
  - Parents are not signing their children in and out properly
  - **INITIALS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE**
  - Providers are signing children in and out daily and this is FRAUD
  - Providers altering sign in and out sheets...this is FRAUD
  - Not reporting absences and terminations
  - Emergency Preparedness Plans (COOP Plan) has deficiencies
    - Plan must be signed and dated
    - Relocation site must be a site big enough to hold the number of children enrolled.
    - Your site verification letter must be signed and dated annually by person allowing you to use their site for relocation purposes.
    - When writing your COOP Plan, you must take into account all types of emergency situations: hurricane, tornado, flood, fire, chemical spill, shooting....etc.

## Monitoring Cont.



- Use [PIU@elcescambia.org](mailto:PIU@elcescambia.org) for CAP responses, incident reporting, parent and provider complaints, ASQ compliance and dispute resolution correspondence
- Dispute requests must be sent by letter but can attach to an email
- If you want to dispute, follow Exhibit 7 of SR contract
- **Note:** The Coalition reviews the Provider's compliance and evaluates the Provider's past and present performance and DCF violation record when considering contract renewal

# Noncompliance

- **Corrective Action Notice:** If Provider fails to comply and Coalition concludes corrective action will resolve failure to comply a Corrective Action Notice will be provided in writing.
- **Probation:** Same non-compliance twice, multiple CAPs, multiple DCF Health and Safety violations, or failure to complete CAP shall result in probation up to six months.
- **Termination for Cause:** Coalition has right to terminate for cause. Grounds for termination are:
  - ❖ Action which threatens health, safety or welfare of children.
  - ❖ Material failure to comply with contract terms, including failure to implement corrective action or terms of probation.
  - ❖ Refusal to accept any notice the Coalition is required to send.
  - ❖ Reasonable or probable cause to suspect provider fraud.
- **Notification of Termination:** Notification in writing at least five days before termination. Must include Provider right to request review.



## Revocation of Eligibility

- **The Coalition may revoke the provider's eligibility to deliver the school readiness program or receive state or federal funds under this chapter for a period of 5 years. s. 1002.88.(2).**
- **It is still 5 years or nothing for most revocations, except for termination due to SRPA score.**
- **Coalition may revoke for failing to meet quality standards.**



# Fraud



- **All suspected Fraud must be reported to the proper authorities**
- **The Coalition and its representatives are required to report any identified regulation deficiencies to the Division of Early Learning and the Bureau of Public Assistance Fraud for further investigation and cases where there is sufficient reason to believe that a Provider has knowingly provided or submitted any fraudulent information.**
- **Provider agrees that they shall not use their position as a SR Provider to engage in any activity, or be a party to, any form of deception, misrepresentation, falsification, fraudulent or unlawful behavior to affect a personal gain, or the personal gain of any relative, friend or business associate.**
- **A fraud referral shall result in suspension or termination of your contract.**

## Fraud Cont.



### Examples of Fraud being discovered

- **Providers signing children in and out when they are not present.**
- **Providers altering sign in and out sheets.**
- **Providers informing parents that they must sign for days their child wasn't present, using their voucher as leverage.**
- **Having the parent complete the Sign-in/Sign-out form all at one time at the end of the month.**
- **Changing sign in and out times.**
- **Closing early and claiming a full day of attendance. Open less than six hours is part-time for all attendees. Claiming full time is fraud.**
- **Accepting food stamps for payment.**
- **Signing a child in for one day out of the month so the provider can claim the 3 excused absences for the month.**

## Due Process

- **The Provider may request a review of determinations made by the Coalition using procedures detailed in Exhibit 7.**
- **Provider can only request a review for termination, not submission for suspected fraud.**
- **While a review for termination is being examined a Provider may not offer services.**
- **Exhibit 7 has detailed steps to follow and starts with a request in writing for a review hearing.**
  - **Request must be within 5 business days of receipt of notice.**
  - **Name and contact information individual authorized by Provider.**
  - **Specific action by Coalition that Provider disputes and specific reasons.**
  - **Whether Provider will be represented by an attorney.**
  - **Include supporting documentation.**
- **Dispute requests must be by signed letter but can attach to email. Use [PIU@elcescambia.org](mailto:PIU@elcescambia.org) for dispute resolution correspondence.**
- **Decision of Review Hearing Committee is final.**



# Indemnification



- **Provider shall be fully liable for and indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Coalition, DEL and all officers, directors, and employees.**
- **If Provider is state agency, public school or school district indemnification is limited by law.**

# Contract Changes

- ❖ **Addendums and attachments are not allowed, except as allowed by Rule.**
- ❖ **Changes to the Contract requires a new contract, except for the following:**
  - **Doing Business As Name (DBA) (Paragraph 1)**
  - **The location of the provider's principal offices (Paragraph 1)**
  - **Adding or deleting Provider Locations (Exhibit 1)**
  - **Identification of the state-approved curriculum or curricula (Paragraph 16)**
  - **Identification of the character development program (Paragraph 17)**
  - **Change in Signature Authority (Exhibit 2, number 4)**
  - **Change in Provider's Program Assessment Requirements (Paragraph 7)**
  - **Change in Selection to Conduct Child Assessments or Eligibility (Paragraph 34)**
  - **Coalition & Provider Reimbursement Rates (Exhibit 5)**
  - **Change in Holidays (Paragraph 58, Exhibit 6)**
  - **Change Coalition Contact persons or Provider Contract Person (Paragraph 86)**
  - **Gold Seal Status (Exhibit 2)**
  - **Identification of liability insurance policies (Exhibit 2)**
- ❖ **Reminder: Any changes not listed above require the execution of a new Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract.**

# Insurance Requirements

**Liability Insurance:** “Provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. A provider must add the coalition as a named certificate holder and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days’ advance written notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the entire period of this Contract.” s. 1002.88.(1)(l).

**Transportation:** If SR children are transported by the program appropriate commercial automotive insurance is required.



## Coalition Provider Reps and Meetings

- **The Coalition has two Provider representatives on its Board.**
  - **Private Childcare Providers Representative: Ashley Colon**
  - **Faith-based Childcare Providers Representative: Deirdre Patton**
- **Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, Resource Development Committee meetings and Review Hearing Committee meetings are open to the public.**
- **All meetings are posted and indicate times and locations.**
- **A Board meeting is posted whenever two or more board members come together and Coalition business will be discussed and/or decisions made.**
- **All meetings of the Coalition are open to the public and conducted as per the Sunshine Law.**

# Marco Polo Learning

**The Coalition is still offering 2 free tablets to each VPK Classroom upon successful completion of MarcoPolo for Educators Training. Reach out to Brooke Watkins for more information or scan the QR code on the next slide.**

What is MarcoPolo Learning?

**MarcoPolo** For Educators + **MarcoPolo** For Families

- A curriculum-aligned video and resource library that simplifies planning
- Content in English, Spanish, and Modified (ELL) versions to meet and respond to diverse student learning needs
- Aligned to the CLASS Framework and FAST/STAR Assessment
- MarcoPolo For Families supports and strengthens family engagement



© MarcoPolo Learning

# Marco Polo Learning Cont.

Get signed up today!

"I like that the students can explore videos of their interest. They enjoy having the freedom of choice to learn about what they want."

"I find the share video aspect very nice to engage families. It is personalized and allows the children to feel special."

"I use the letter videos each week and my kids absolutely love drawing the different animals each week."

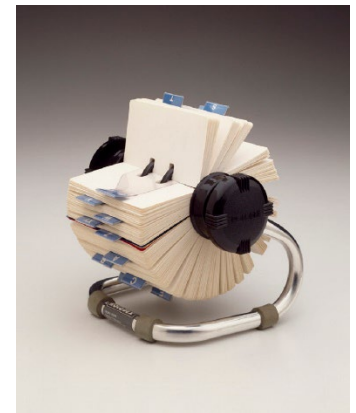


"Honestly, we were preparing a folder with each theme. On each folder, we added photos, videos and other resources to help our kids with their knowledge, concepts and skills. WE SAW IN MARCOPOLO SOMETHING AMAZING! We are going to prepare our "playlists" to keep and share good resources also with the parents."

# Coalition Email Contacts

To ensure your email reaches the correct department for immediate assistance, please refer to the email list below. These go directly to staff working in these areas.

- Absence Reporting: [www.elcescambia.org/providers/absent-child/](http://www.elcescambia.org/providers/absent-child/) or email [absent@elcescambia.org](mailto:absent@elcescambia.org)
- Ask a general question: [askelc@elcescambia.org](mailto:askelc@elcescambia.org)
- Program Assessment questions: [classhelp@elcescambia.org](mailto:classhelp@elcescambia.org)
- Child Care Resource & Referral: [crr@elcescambia.org](mailto:crr@elcescambia.org)
- Closure reporting: [thoang@elcescambia.org](mailto:thoang@elcescambia.org)
- Contract questions: [contracts@elcescambia.org](mailto:contracts@elcescambia.org)
- Illness/Outbreak reporting: [covid@elcescambia.org](mailto:covid@elcescambia.org)
- Early Intervention questions: [inclusion@elcescambia.org](mailto:inclusion@elcescambia.org)
- Incident reporting: [www.elcescambia.org/families/incidents/](http://www.elcescambia.org/families/incidents/) or email [piu@elcescambia.org](mailto:piu@elcescambia.org)
- Submit Corrective Action Plans: [piu@elcescambia.org](mailto:piu@elcescambia.org)
- SR Child Eligibility questions: [sreligibility@elcescambia.org](mailto:sreligibility@elcescambia.org)
- SR Attendance questions: [srattendance@elcescambia.org](mailto:srattendance@elcescambia.org)



Questions Email: [AskELC@elcescambia.org](mailto:AskELC@elcescambia.org)



## The “If All Else Fails” Contact

**Alphonsa Henderson**

**Executive Director**

**[ahenderson@elcescambia.org](mailto:ahenderson@elcescambia.org)**

**850-595-5400**

**1720 West Fairfield Dr.**

**Suite 100/400**

**Pensacola, FL 32501**