



Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida Policy

220.10 School Readiness and VPK Providers Compliance Policy

Revision Date: 02-29-2020
Board Approval Date: 03-17-2020
Effective Date: 03-17-2020

POLICY:

The Coalition will ensure that all Providers under contract with the Early Learning Coalition will comply with applicable Florida laws, rules, and regulations and the Provider Contracts 6M-4.610 Form OEL SR-20 and 6M-8.301 Form OEL-VPK-20.

This includes the provider's ability to meet the conditions required to maintain their legal operating status; and adherence to the licensing, accreditation and/or SR health and safety standards that are critical to the health and safety of the children in their care.

Definitions:

Provider: One who delivers child care services, specifically: a child care facility, family child care home, large family child care home, public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure, a faith based child care program exempt from licensure, a before or after-school program, or an informal child care as authorized by law. (6M-4.610 F.A.C)

School Readiness: The School Readiness Act was passed by the Florida Legislature to help children from low-income families get the support they need to be successful in school. The program provides child care so a parent can work or attend a training or education program. The program is funded primarily by a federal Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant. It is administered at the state level by the Office of Early Learning. (http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/school_readiness.aspx)

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten: Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer free prekindergarten to all 4-year-olds. Children must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current school year to be eligible. If their fourth birthday falls Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 in a calendar year, parents can postpone enrolling their child in VPK that year and wait until the following year when their child is 5. (<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk.aspx>)

Citation History: 45CFR98, Chapters 402.301 – 402.319, and Section 1002.55-79, F.S. 65C-22 and 65C-20 Florida Administrative Code

Associated Documents: 6M-4.610 Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness; 6M-8.301 Standard Statewide Provider Contract for the VPK Program; 6M-4.620 Health and Safety Checklists and Inspections; and Health and Safety Standards Handbooks, Checklists and for each School Readiness provider type, Forms OEL-SR-6201-6208, that are incorporated by reference.

Reference #: OEL-EL-220

Replaces: ELCSW-EL0008-11