



## Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida Policy

### 404.1 School Readiness Eligibility and Enrollment

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

#### **POLICY:**

#### **Background:**

The 2018 Florida House Bill (HB) 1091 requires that each Early Learning Coalition must biennially submit a School Readiness program plan to the Office of Early Learning (OEL) before the expenditure of funds. The Coalition's procedures for implementing the requirements of this part include Eligibility and Enrollment processes and local eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87. HB 1091 also requires an assessment of local priorities within the county or multi-county region based on the needs of families and provider capacity using available community data.

At this time, OEL has not completed rule promulgation for this new legislation. The Coalition continues to use the Eligibility Priorities listed in statute and to follow the policy and procedures associated with the Coalition's Policy 404.1 School Readiness Eligibility and Enrollment until such time as rule is promulgated:

- (1) A child younger than 13 years of age from a family that includes a parent who is receiving temporary cash assistance and subject to the federal work requirements.
- (2) An at-risk child younger than 9 years of age.
- (3) A child from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school who is from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, and may include such child's eligible siblings, beginning with the school year in which the sibling is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school until the beginning of the school year in which the sibling is eligible to begin 6th grade, provided that the first priority for funding an eligible sibling is local revenues available to a coalition for funding direct services.

Infants and toddlers within 100% of the federal poverty level who qualify for participation in the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership will be served before serving the rest of the population under this priority. This sub-priority applies only when there are openings in the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership program.

- (4) A child, from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school, of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment.
- (5) An at-risk child who is at least 9 years of age but younger than 13 years of age. An at-risk child whose sibling is enrolled in the SR Program within eligibility priority category 1-3 shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this group.
- (6) A child who is younger than 13 years of age from a working family that is economically disadvantaged. A child whose sibling is enrolled in the SR Program under group 3 shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this group.
- (7) A child, who is younger than 13 years of age, of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment.

- (8) A child who has special needs, has been determined eligible as a student with a disability, has a current individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is at least 3 years of age but is not yet eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school.
- (9) Notwithstanding priority groups 1-4, a child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility criteria in 1-4 but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the VPK Program.

**Recommendation:**

**The staff recommendation at this time is to continue to follow the statutory Eligibility Priorities.**

*OEL has not provided any guidance based upon the HB 1091 language regarding local establishment of priorities based upon needs of the families and providers capacity using available community data.*