



## Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida Policy

### 420.5 School Readiness Provider Requirements for Gold Seal Differential Payments

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

#### **POLICY:**

1. Section 402.281 F. S sets forth the authority for the Gold Seal Program that enables child care providers to acquire a "Gold Seal Quality Care" designation if they are accredited by a "nationally recognized accrediting agency."
2. The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) is given the authority to determine which accrediting agencies meet the standards to qualify a child care provider for "Gold Seal" designation; and to address eligibility requirements and enforcement actions. A list of approved accrediting agencies is available at: <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/goldseal>
3. The COALITION will apply the same requirements and sanctions to all School Readiness licensed or exempt from licensure Child Care Providers who successfully acquire a Gold Seal Quality Care designation by a DCF approved accrediting agency ss. 402.281 (3) F.S.

#### **Definitions:**

Gold Seal: Child care facilities, large family child care homes, or family day care homes that are accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting association whose standards substantially meet or exceed the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of Family Child Care, and the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission shall receive a separate "Gold Seal Quality Care" designation to operate as a gold seal child care facility, large family child care home, or family day care home. Such facilities receive a differential in their School Readiness payments as set by their coalition.  
(<http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/goldseal-statutory>)

**Citation History:** 402.26 (6) F.S.; 402.281 (3) F.S.; Rule 65C-22.009 F.A.C.; 1002.895(2)(a) F.S.

**Associated Documents:** Policy 220.9 Health and Safety Compliance; Policy 220.10 SR-VPK Compliance and related procedures

**Reference #:** OEL-420

**Replaces:**