



**EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
2675 Winkler Avenue, Suite 300
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**Recommendation for Local Eligibility Priorities for Children
Policy 404.1 School Readiness Eligibility and Enrollment
For Board Approval, November 16, 2022**

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.

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, Enrollment and statute, rule serving children in the SR Program (s. 1002.87(1) and (3), F.S.; Rule(s) 6M-4.300, FAC; Grant Agreement, Exhibit II, C.1.3 and C.2.1-2.6; CCDF State Plan 3.3. The Coalition shall give priority for participation in the School Readiness Program as follows:

- (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 or a parent who has an Intensive Service Account, (ISA) or an Individual Training Account, (ITA), under s. 445.009, F.S.
- (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. This priority may also 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 sixth grade. However, the first priority for funding an eligible sibling is local revenues available to a coalition for funding direct services.
- (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 or 2 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.
- (7) A child younger than 13 years of age whose parent transitions from the work program into employment.
- (8) A child who has special needs, is 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) A child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility criteria in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraphs (c)1. and 2. of s. 1002.87(1), F.S., but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the VPK Education Program.

