

SUMMER, 2024 NEWSLETTER

A message from our CEO



Melanie M. Stefanowicz, Ed.D.
CEO, Early Learning Coalition of SWFL

You may contact Dr. Stefanowicz at
Melanie.Stefanowicz@elcofswfl.org

ARPA Funding: A Legacy of Impact

We are proud to announce that our work with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding has successfully concluded. Over the past months, these critical funds have allowed us to make significant strides in improving early childhood education across Southwest Florida. We've expanded access to high-quality childcare, enhanced professional development for our educators, and supported the overall well-being of the children and families we serve. While the ARPA funding period has ended, the positive impact of these initiatives will continue to resonate in our community for years to come. While the ARPA funds are exhausted, we are working with the Florida Department of Education's Division of Early Learning to coordinate the use of Federal Disaster Relief Funding to support recovery and resiliency efforts following Hurricane Ian. There will be more information to come. However, if you are a provider interested in engaging in Phase 1 of this project, which is participating in an impact study, please contact me to let me know.

Preparing for a New School Year

With the start of the new school year upon us, our coalition is more committed than ever to supporting early learning providers, children, and families. We've been hard at work ensuring that our programs and services are ready to meet the needs of our community. From providing resources for educators to offering guidance for parents navigating the early learning landscape, we are here to help every child succeed in their educational journey.

Celebrating Successes in Early Learning

In This Issue



Don't let "Summer Brain Drain" happen to your child!
[WATCH HERE](#)



ELC Activities
[READ MORE](#)



Our 1st Annual Director's

We are thrilled to share some of the incredible achievements happening within our coalition:

1. **Expansion of Early Learning Programs:** This summer, we've expanded our reach as exhibited by a significant increase in VPK applications. VPK is designed to ensure that every child has access to the quality education they deserve, regardless of their background or circumstances. We are working in a similar fashion to expand our reach in School Readiness.
2. **Professional Development Milestones:** Our commitment to the ongoing professional development of early educators remains strong. We've recently launched several new training initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of our educators, empowering them to provide the highest level of care and instruction to the children in their classrooms.
3. **Community Partnerships:** Collaboration is key to our success, and we are proud to have strengthened our partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies. These partnerships are helping us to create a more integrated and supportive early learning ecosystem in Southwest Florida.

Looking Ahead: Advocacy and Action

As we move forward, our focus remains on advocating for policies that support the healthy development of young children. The 2024 legislative session brought important discussions, and we are encouraged by the progress made. However, there is still work to be done to ensure that early learning remains a priority at the state level. We will continue to engage with lawmakers, educators, and families to champion the needs of our youngest learners and the professionals who serve them.

Get Involved: Your Support Matters

The success of our coalition is built on the dedication of our community. Whether you are a parent, educator, policymaker, or community member, your involvement is crucial to our mission. We invite you to join us in advocating for quality early learning experiences, volunteering your time, or contributing to our programs. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families throughout Southwest Florida.



Follow the Early Learning Coalition of SWFL



Training Event in June
[READ MORE](#)
[WATCH HERE](#)



New Faces on the Board
[READ MORE](#)



Fun & games at the
FFCCHA conference.
[READ MORE](#)



Back to School Expo
[READ MORE](#)



Try email marketing for free today!