



Town Hall Meeting: 2-2-2021

Bi-Weekly Update



02.02.2021

Town Hall Agenda

- Welcome
- School Readiness Rate Review
- SR and VPK Payment for January
- Enrollment Updates
- E-Verify
- VPK AP-2 and VPK Pilot Project
- Child Assessment Period 2
- NEW PDG Professional Development Stipends
- COVID Vaccination Update
- Questions





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Understanding School Readiness Provider Reimbursement Rates

How School Readiness Rates are Determined

- The rates paid by the Early Learning Coalition to School Readiness providers are determined through a market study.
 - Collect general population rates for childcare services.
 - Analysis of reporting providers.
 - ELC Board role
 - Office of Early Learning role



Unit of Care

Full-Time Daily Rates



Rates in effect on

7/1/2019

* Reimbursable rate is reduced because the amount exceeds the provider's private pay

| Care Code | Description | A Provider's Private Pay Rates | B Coalition Maximum Reimbursement Rates | C Approved Provider Reimbursement Rate without Gold Seal (Column A or B, whichever is lower) |
|-----------|------------------|---|---|---|
| INF | <12 Months | \$24.00 | \$28.84 | \$24.00 |
| TOD | 12 <24 Months | \$24.00 | \$26.78 | \$24.00 |
| 2YR | 24 <36 Months | \$24.00 | \$23.28 | \$23.28 |
| PR3 | 36 <48 Months | \$24.00 | \$21.63 | \$21.63 |
| PR4 | 48 <60 Months | \$24.00 | \$21.01 | \$21.01 |
| PR5 | 60 <72 Months | \$24.00 | \$21.01 | \$21.01 |
| SCH | In School | \$24.00 | \$18.75 | \$18.75 |
| SPCR | Special Needs | \$0.00 | \$28.84 | \$0.00 |



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- **Start date** of this reimbursement plan. Any time these rates are changes, a new contract or a contract amendment is required.
- Column A, **“Provider’s Private Pay Rates”**. Provider charges all private paying (non-SR) families for childcare daily.
- Column B, **“Coalition Maximum Reimbursement Rates”**. The county’s rate plan for reimbursement of childcare daily. The Early Learning Coalition sets the rates, and the Office of Early Learning approves the rates. These rates are based on a comparison of local rates charged for childcare and guidance from the federal government. For a detail explanation of how rates are determined see <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ccdf-fundamentals/assessing-market-rates-and-child-care-costs>.
- Column C, **“Approved Provider Reimbursement Rate without Gold Seal (column A or B whichever is lower)”**. The paid rate.
 - If A is greater than B, $C = B$
 - If B is greater than A, $C = B$
 - In other words, C equals the lower rate when A & B are compared.

January SR and VPK Payment

- Open SR providers will be reimbursed for up to 10 total absences (3 excused and up to 7 with documentation). **Please note that documentation is once again required beyond the first three absences.**
- **Parents are required to pay the SR copayments.**
- Open VPK providers will continue to be reimbursed according to the “80/20 rule” consistent with the VPK contract. This means that providers will be reimbursed 100% for students who attend at least 80% of the month.

Enrollment Updates

- Preparing for SR enrollments for the coming year
- ELC staff will be calling requesting capacity
- SR children not attending should be terminated
 - Lee/Hendry/Glades- Delia Buckley 239-935-6127
 - Collier- Amanda Devariste 239-935-6113
- Be sure to check enrollment queues
- Children listed as Pending Family Acceptance soon **will not be paid**
- VPK COEs need to be submitted with all enrollments
- New VPK enrollments submitted in the portal will not be approved until we receive the completed form



E-Verify

- All new contracts after 1/1/2021
 - Current providers with a 20-21 contract do not have to do anything until they apply for a 21-22 SR or VPK contract.
 - VPK and SR providers adding new employees to the VPK App or QPS will also need to fill out the form during the 20-21 year.
- To enroll visit:
 - <https://www.e-verify.gov/employers/enrolling-in-e-verify>
- Upload signed affidavit to the document tab in your Provider Profile
 - VPK only providers upload to document library for now
- Questions can be directed to your Early Childhood Specialist



VPK

- VPK AP-2 should be completed and entered into Bright Beginnings by February 15th 
- **VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Project**
 - **Assessment window has been extended to February 26th.**
 - **Technology devices and headphones have been ordered but providers do not need to wait to take the assessment.**
 - **Should these devices become lost or damaged, replacements will not be provided.**
- Star Early Literacy Assessment technology support will be available by contacting Renaissance Place Help Desk: 1-800-338-4204 or PilotVPK@renaissance.com.



Child Assessment

- Spring Child Assessments are due by April 30th.

Something to Remember

- Be sure all assessments are finalized.
- Finalizing the last Dimension does not finalize all of them.
- When in doubt, Complete and Finalized 
- Complete but Not Finalized 
- In Progress 
- Not Started 

NEW PDG Professional Development Stipends

- The Office of Early Learning is excited to share that Florida Early Childhood Educators are eligible for a **\$75** stipend upon the successful completion of specific online courses by **June 30, 2021**, or until the stipend funding is depleted. The maximum stipend an eligible participant can receive is \$225. (3 courses/events x \$75 = \$225). Successful completion may include an end-of-course assessment or certificate of completion.
- **A participant agreement must be received and approved before courses are taken.**
- For directions and forms, go to the ELC website <https://elcofswfl.org/early-childhood-education-professional-development-stipends/>

COVID Reminders

- COVID is a reportable illness. If it occurs in your facility, there are three places to contact:
 - Your county's health department, or Danna Breeden at 239-825-5218
 - The Early Learning Coalition
 - The Department of Children and Families

COVID is still being observed in high numbers. Continue to be vigilant with masks, distancing and handwashing.

Children's Week- April 4-9, 2021

- Children's Week provides a platform for advocates to deliver the message that every child in Florida should be health, ready to learn and able to achieve their full potential.
- Mail your artwork any time before **March 25, 2021**
 - The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region
2639 N Monroe St, Building C
Tallahassee, FL 32303



Announcements & Questions?

- New trainings are available on the ELC website, including more CLASS, ASQ and health trainings. Go to the homepage and click on “Click here to register for trainings” on the bottom of the page.
- Provider Questions from the Chat Box
- Questions/comments from you





Thank you!

Our next meeting will be on 2/16/2021

We will meet every other week on Tuesdays or as announced

Thank you for your continuing support of children and families now, and especially during the ongoing health emergency!

