
Early Learning Coalition



of Pinellas County, Inc.

Program Development Committee

August 27, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.
2536 Countryside Blvd., Suite 500
Clearwater, FL 33763

Proposed Agenda (Revised)

I. Call To Order

- A. Approval of August 27, 2018 Agenda
- B. Approval of the June 25, 2018 Minutes

II. Action Items

- A. WAGE\$
- B. School Readiness Provider Eligibility & Enforcement Policy
- C. VPK Provider Eligibility & Enforcement Policy

III. Discussion

- A. Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Pilot
- B. Prek All Day
- C. Readiness Rates
- D. School Readiness Provider Minimum Standards Rule Development
- E. Infant Capacity Taskforce
- F. Hurricane Response Collaboration
- G. EFS Modernization

IV. Adjournment

Next meeting: Monday, October 22, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m.
ELC, Countryside Tower
2536 Countryside Blvd., Suite 500
Clearwater, FL 33763

**Program Development Committee
Unapproved Minutes
June 25, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.
2536 Countryside Blvd. Suite 500
Clearwater Florida 33763**

Present: Yvonne Malague and Ray Hensley

Absent: Anne Ryan, Faith Bornoff, Dr. Ricardo Davis, Nancy St. Arnold, Harry Fogle, Dr. Shana Rafalski, and Jackie Lang.

Coalition Staff: Lindsay Carson, Angela Loring, Kate Bauer-Jones, and Eva Stoddard

I. CALL TO ORDER

Yvonne Malague called the meeting to order at 1p.m.

A. A motion was made by Ray Hensley and seconded by Yvonne Malague to:

Approve the June 25, 2018 Agenda

The motion passed unanimously.

B. A motion was made Ray Hensley and seconded by Yvonne Malague to:

Approve the April 23, 2018 Minutes

The motion passed unanimously.

II. ACTION ITEM

A. 2018 School Readiness Special Needs Reimbursement Rate

A special needs child is defined as a child who has been determined eligible as a child with a disability in accordance with Chapter 6A-6, F.A.C., and is participating in a program for children with disabilities provided by the school district or a child who has an individualized education plan (IEP) or family support plan (FSP).

A School Readiness provider may be paid at a higher rate if caring for any school readiness child with special needs requiring additional care. To receive a special needs rate, a child care provider must submit a list of the special needs services it is providing for each special needs child, in addition to the routine school readiness services. A special needs rate may be granted up to 20% percent above the maximum appropriate care level established by the Coalition. However, this rate shall not exceed the providers private pay rate for infant care.

To receive a special needs rate, in addition to the base rate, it must be requested by the provider and approved by the Coalition. A special needs rate may be reimbursed for a school readiness child that has a documented physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral condition that requires a higher level of care in the child care setting. The special need child's condition must be validated by a licensed health, mental health, education or social service professional other than the child's parent or person employed by the child care provider.

A motion was made by Ray Hensley and seconded by Yvonne Malague to:
Approve the 2018 School Readiness Special Needs Reimbursement Rate as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Strategic Plan

A draft of the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County 2018-2021 Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Committee. Strategic Plan is attached to these minutes.

B. VPK Readiness Rates

On May 16, 2018, the State Board of Education approved Rule 6M-8.601, F.A.C., Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate. Pinellas Readiness Summary is attached to the these minutes.

III. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:35p.m.

Chair Signature

Date

Next meeting: Monday, August 27, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m.

ELC Clearwater Countryside Towers
2536 Countryside Blvd. Suite 500
Clearwater, FL 33763

**Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.
August 27, 2018**

Subject: WAGE\$

BACKGROUND

During the 2018 Strategic Planning process, several threats were identified related to the Early Learning Workforce:

- Recruitment & retention of early educators
- Increasing credential requirements
- Shortage of qualified candidates
- Staff turnover from 40-60%
- Average salary of preschool teachers is half that of kindergarten teacher and highly qualified candidates often move on to the public school system.

The Child Care WAGE\$® Florida Program is designed to increase stability and improve child care quality by reducing turnover and encouraging continued education of child care practitioners (teachers, FCCH, assistant teachers in centers and family child care homes). This program provides education based salary supplements for low to moderate wage earners who work with young children ages birth to five.

By increasing teacher retention, WAGE\$ provides children with more stable relationships and better-educated teachers. WAGE\$ addresses individual professional development efforts and low wages, but does not affect provider budgets, regular wages or parent fees within the child care program.

The value of each salary supplement is determined by the level of education and the position held by the child care practitioner. For example, a teacher or family child care provider is eligible for a \$450 annual supplement for possessing a national Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and can earn \$1,500 per year with an AS or AAS in Early Childhood Education. The amount of supplement increases as the level of education increases. Wage supplements for part-time practitioners are prorated based on a 40-hour workweek.

Local program eligibility will be limited to School Readiness providers located in designated high need communities.

The Child Care WAGE\$® Florida Program is administered through the Children's Forum.

Fiscal Impact: \$250,000

Strategic Priority

Early Education Workforce- Recruit, train, and retain the best early educators

2.2 Reducing turnover and encourage the continued education of early childhood teachers (including center staff and family child care providers).

PROPOSED COALITION ACTION

To engage the Florida Children’s Forum to implement the Child Care WAGE\$ Florida Program for Pinellas .

Approval _____
Chair Signature _____
Date _____

Supporting Documents:
WAGE\$ Supplement Scale

CHILD CARE WAGES® FLORIDA PROJECT SUPPLEMENT SCALE

Valid Period	Level	Teacher, Assistant Teacher, Family Child Care Home Provider	Annual Supplement
	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor Degree plus or including at least 24 credits in ECE or CD Bachelor Degree in ECE or CD Masters Degree plus or including at least 18 credit hours in ECE or CD 	\$3,000
	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor Degree plus or including at least 18 credit hours in ECE or CD Masters Degree out of field plus or including 12 ECE or CD 90 credit hours toward a Bachelor Degree in ECE or CD 90 credit hours of well rounded coursework plus or including at least 15 credit hours in ECE or CD 	\$2,250
	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor Degree out of field plus or including 12 ECE or CD Associate Degree plus or including at least 24 credit hours in ECE or CD Associate Degree in ECE or CD 	\$1,500
2yrs**	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor or Masters Degree out of field Associate Degree plus or including at least 12 credit hours in ECE or CD 45 credit hours toward an Associate Degree in ECE or CD 45 credit hours of well rounded coursework plus at least 15 credit hours in ECE or CD 	\$1,125
2yrs**	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Degree out of field At least 70 hours of well rounded coursework 36 credit hours toward an Associate Degree in ECE or CD 36 credit hours of well rounded coursework plus at least 12 credit hours in ECE or CD 36 credit hours of well rounded coursework plus a Director Credential and Florida Staff Credential 36 credit hours of well rounded coursework plus a National CDA 	\$750
2yrs**	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 credit hours toward an Associate Degree in ECE or CD 24 credit hours of well rounded coursework plus at least 12 credit hours in ECE or CD 	\$600
2yrs**	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 credit hours in ECE or CD National CDA Director Credential plus Florida Staff Credential 	\$450
2yrs**	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 credit hours in ECE or CD Florida Staff Credential 	\$200

* Funding for level 1 is temporary. Center-based teachers awarded at level 1 must reach level 2 within two years in order to retain eligibility. Family child care home providers must reach level 2 within three years for continued funding.

** Funding for levels 2 through 5 have a continuing education requirement. Center-based teachers awarded at levels 2 through 5 must complete at least three ECE college credit hours within two years to retain eligibility. Family child care providers must complete the course requirement within three years for continued funding.

This scale is substantially based on a copyrighted document by Child Care WAGES® with permission granted.

**Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.
August 27, 2018**

Subject: School Readiness Provider Eligibility & Enforcement Policy

BACKGROUND

The Florida Office of Early Learning has established eligibility requirements for contracting to provide services in the School Readiness program through Rule 6M-4.610. This Rule also publishes the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract, Form OEL-SR 20; which further define the requirements for the SR program. This contract include enforcement procedures that authorize local Coalitions to act when a contracted Provider fails to deliver services that meet requirements or endangers the health and safety of children.

Effective July 1, 2018, Section 1002.88 of the Florida Statutes states that if a School Readiness provider or a private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I violation, as defined by rule, the coalition may refuse to contract with the provider.

PROPOSED COALITION ACTION

To approve the revised School Readiness Provider Eligibility and Enforcement Policy that reflects the prerequisite eligibility criteria for new or current providers.

Approval

Program Development Committee Chair Signature

Date

Supporting Documents:

DRAFT School Readiness Provider Eligibility & Enforcement Policy ELCPC-61.2

Early Learning Coalition



of Pinellas County, Inc.

Policy: ELCPC-61.2	Title: School Readiness Provider <u>Eligibility and Enforcement Policy</u>	
Review Date: October 2016	Revision Approval Date: January 2017 Effective: <u>Pending approval of OEL</u>	Next Review Date: October 2017

References: OEL-SR20, Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract
OEL SR20LE,
OEL-SR 20L,
OEL-SR20FFN
Chapter 1002 F.S.,
6M-4.610, F.A.C, SR Provider Contract
6M-4.620, F.A.C., SR Health and Safety Checklists and Inspections
6M-4.630., F.A.C., SR Provider Contract Monitoring Tool

Purpose: To outline enforcement actions with School Readiness providers who fail to comply with the terms of the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract.

Background:

This Coalition policy and procedure is inclusive to all caregiver settings: licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, licensed exempt child care centers, and informal providers receiving School Readiness (SR) funding. It is the intent of the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. to ensure the health, safety, and development of all School Readiness children and to maintain compliance of the program requirements delivered by School Readiness providers in accordance with federal, state, and local guidelines.

The Florida Office of Early Learning has established eligibility requirements for contracting to provide services in the School Readiness program through Rule 6M-4.610. This Rule also publishes the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract, Form OEL-SR 20; which further define the requirements for the SR program. This contract include enforcement procedures that authorize local Coalitions to act when a contracted Provider fails to deliver services that meet requirements or endangers the health and safety of children. Providers must demonstrate the capacity to meet the requirements of the contracts, Rules, statutes, and associated regulations; including their ability to meet the conditions required to maintain their legal operating status; and

adherence to the licensing, accreditation and/or SR health and safety standards that are critical to the health and safety of the children in their care.

Policy:

Contract Eligibility

The following are both pre-requisites for contracting as well as requisites for current contracts. Current contracts may be terminated if any of the following requirements are not met.

Effective July 1, 2018, a provider may not be eligible to contract, if they have any Class I licensing violations within 24 months of contracting. This threshold is not an absolute, but a minimum that triggers the requirement to evaluate the provider's performance and render a decision regarding their contracting eligibility. The CEO shall review applications and reapplications per procedure and is responsible for monitoring the current status of all contracted Providers and taking necessary action as required. All extenuating circumstances, past performance of the provider, and precedence in similar circumstances, shall be taken into consideration, with an emphasis placed on the health and safety of children, when determining a provider's eligibility to contract, or to continue contracting.

Rule 6M-4.610, determines SR Program Ineligibility. For the purposes of this subsection "individual associated with a provider" means an individual or family member of an individual who, regardless of compensation, holds a management position, oversees the operations of a provider, or is an officer, shareholder, beneficial owner or member of the board of directors of a provider. A provider shall not be eligible to contract to offer the SR program if any of the following circumstances apply:

- a. The provider is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List;
- b. An individual associated with the provider was, or is, associated with another provider that is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List;
- c. The provider has been terminated from participation in the program due to fraud and is currently not eligible to participate in the School Readiness program or VPK program;
- d. An individual associated with the provider was, or is, associated with another provider that has been terminated from participation in the program due to fraud and is currently not eligible to participate in the School Readiness program or VPK program;
- e. The provider is currently ineligible to participate in the program pursuant to Section 1002.88(2), F.S.
- f. An individual associated with the provider was or is associated with another provider that is currently ineligible to participate in the program pursuant to Section 1002.88(2), F.S
- g. For multi-site providers, such as corporate chains or school districts, SR program ineligibility identified in paragraphs (e) and (f) above, is per site and may not apply to all locations unless specifically determined otherwise by the coalition. In

determining ineligibility of multi-site providers, the coalition shall consider the following factors: the severity of the provider's actions leading to the ineligibility, the health, safety and welfare of children enrolled at the provider sites, the financial impact of the provider's actions, the impact that ineligibility would have upon the local community, consistency with coalition's actions against other providers for similar violations of the Contract or program requirements, the length of time that provider provided services under the contract with the coalition, and whether the provider had previously violated the terms of the Contract and prior contracts with the coalition.

By Rule 6M-4.610 when a provider is removed from eligibility it is not just the owner and directors that lose their eligibility but all persons involved in operations and management; to include the facility Director, Assistant Director, or any staff listed on a provider's application Owner/Operator Information Form that were given authorization to sign contractual and financial documents on behalf of the company.

The definition of "family member of an individual" for the purposes of enforcement of this policy is:

A spouse or significant other, a parent, sibling, or child, or any other individual residing in the household.

- a. Parent includes: father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, stepfather, or stepmother.*
- b. Child includes: son, daughter, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law, step-son or step-daughter.*
- c. Sibling includes: brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, and all spouses of these siblings (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law).*
- d. Family also includes: grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, and first cousins.*

Corrective Action for Contract Noncompliance

If the Coalition determines a provider has failed to comply with the School Readiness Provider Contract and concludes that corrective action will resolve the noncompliance, the provider will be notified in writing. The notice will identify the specific requirement the provider has failed to meet and a detailed description of required corrective action and timeline for completion. Coalition staff will verify satisfactory completion of corrective action and provide confirmation in writing to the provider.

Probation

If the provider fails to complete corrective action in the designated timeframe or has multiple corrective action plans within the same contract year, the provider will be placed on probation for up to 6 months. Terms of probation will be determined by Coalition staff and will specifically relate to the areas of noncompliance. Probation may include one or more of the following conditions: training or staff development, monitoring or technical assistance, submission of documentation related to the violation. The Coalition will notify the provider in writing of the terms and duration of the probation.

If the provider has not satisfactorily completed the terms of its probation by the end of the contract term, the provider will still be held accountable for the terms of the probation of the previous contract if the provider remains eligible to deliver the School Readiness Program and executes a new contract with the Coalition.

Financial Consequences

Noncompliance related to insurance, background screenings, reporting suspected abuse or neglect, child attendance documentation or child ratios will result in nonpayment for school readiness funded children for the affected days.

Terminations

The coalition has the right to terminate a provider's contract for cause at any time, pursuant to the School Readiness Provider Contract. The following are grounds for termination for cause:

(a) Action, or lack of action, which immediately threatens the health, safety or welfare of children; **or**

(b) Failure to comply with the terms of the provider's contract, including failure to implement corrective action or comply with the terms of probation.

Termination for Cause

In the event of a termination for cause, providers will be notified ten (10) business days prior to the effective date. Parents of School Readiness funded children will be notified at least five (5) business days prior to the termination date that the funding for this Provider's program will cease. CCR&R staff will assist parents in finding alternate care. Parents choosing to keep their child enrolled with the terminated Provider will forfeit their School Readiness scholarship.

Emergency Termination

The Coalition must immediately terminate a provider's School Readiness Contract upon notification from Child Care Licensing that actions or inactions of a provider pose an immediate and serious danger to the health, safety or welfare of children.

Other violations involving emergency termination include failure to maintain status as an eligible child care provider and failure to obtain written approval from the Coalition prior to transferring or assigning the Contract to another entity, corporation, or owner.

Any lapse in coverage, non-renewal or cancellation of general liability insurance will result in immediate termination. "No loss" letters will not be considered as a form of corrective action for lapses in general liability insurance.

In the event of an emergency termination, the Coalition will notify the provider by sending the provider written notice of emergency termination at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to termination. CCR&R staff will assist parents in finding alternate care. Parents choosing to keep their child enrolled with the terminated Provider will forfeit their School Readiness scholarship.

Revocation of Eligibility

A provider whose School Readiness Provider Contract has been terminated due to violations of Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, terms of the Contract, or provider misconduct will be ineligible to execute a new School Readiness Contract for five (5) years from the date of termination.

**Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.
August 27, 2018**

Subject: Voluntary Prekindergarten Provider Eligibility & Enforcement Policy

BACKGROUND

The Florida Office of Early Learning has established eligibility requirements for contracting to provide services in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program through Rule 6M-8.301. This Rule also publishes the Statewide VPK Provider Contract, Form OEL-VPK 20; which further define the requirements for the VPK program. This contract include enforcement procedures that authorize local Coalitions to act when a contracted Provider fails to deliver services that meet program requirements or endangers the health and safety of children.

Effective July 1, 2018, Section 1002.55 of the Florida Statutes states that if a VPK provider or a private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I violation, as defined by rule, the coalition may refuse to contract with the provider.

PROPOSED COALITION ACTION

To approve the revised VPK Provider Eligibility and Enforcement Policy that reflects the prerequisite eligibility criteria for new or current providers.

Approval

Program Development Committee Chair Signature

Date

Supporting Documents:

DRAFT VPK Provider Eligibility & Enforcement Policy ELCPC-61.2

Early Learning Coalition

of Pinellas County, Inc.

Policy: ELCPC-71.2	Title: Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider <u>Eligibility and Enforcement</u> Policy	
	Review Date: April 2018	Next Review Date: April 2020

References: Statewide VPK Provider Contract
 OEL-VPK 20,
 OEL-20PP,
 OEL-20PS,
 Chapter 1002, Part V, F.S.,
 Chapter 1002.91, F.S.
 Chapter 414.39, F.S.
 6M-8, F.A.C.

Purpose: To outline enforcement actions with Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) providers who are fail to comply with the terms of the Statewide VPK Provider Contract.

Background:

This Coalition policy and procedure is inclusive to all VPK Provider settings: licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, and licensed-exempt providers receiving VPK funding. The Florida Office of Early Learning has established eligibility requirements for contracting to provide services in the VPK program through Rule 6M-8.301. This Rule also publishes the Statewide Voluntary Prekindergarten Contract, Form OEL-VPK 20; which further define the requirements for the VPK program. This contract include enforcement procedures that authorize local Coalitions to act when a contracted Provider fails to deliver services that meet requirements or endangers the health and safety of children. Providers must demonstrate the capacity to meet the requirements of the contracts, Rules, statutes, and associated regulations; including their ability to meet the conditions required to maintain their legal operating status; and adherence to the licensing, accreditation and/or SR health and safety standards that are critical to the health and safety of the children in their care.

Policy:

Contract Eligibility

The following are both pre-requisites for contracting as well as requisites for current contracts. Current contracts may be terminated if any of the following requirements are

not met.

Effective July 1, 2018, a provider may not be eligible to contract, if they have any Class I licensing violations within 24 months of contracting. This threshold is not an absolute, but a minimum that triggers the requirement to evaluate the provider's performance and render a decision regarding their contracting eligibility.

Rule 6M-8.301, determines VPK Program Ineligibility. For the purposes of this subsection "individual associated with a provider" means an individual or family member of an individual who, regardless of compensation, holds a management position, oversees the operations of a provider, or is an officer, shareholder, beneficial owner or member of the board of directors of a provider. A provider shall not be eligible to contract to offer the VPK program if any of the following circumstances apply:

- a. The provider is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List;
- b. An individual associated with the provider was, or is, associated with another provider that is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List;
- c. The provider has been terminated from participation in the program due to fraud and is currently not eligible to participate in the School Readiness program or VPK program;
- d. An individual associated with the provider was, or is, associated with another provider that has been terminated from participation in the program due to fraud and is currently not eligible to participate in the School Readiness program or VPK program;
- e. The provider is currently ineligible to participate in the program pursuant to Section 1002.67(4).
- f. An individual associated with the provider was or is associated with another provider that is currently ineligible to participate in the program pursuant to Section 1002.67(4), F.S.
- g. For multi-site providers, such as corporate chains or school districts, VPK program ineligibility identified in paragraphs (e) and (f) above, is per site and may not apply to all locations unless specifically determined otherwise by the coalition. In determining ineligibility of multi-site providers, the coalition shall consider the following factors: the severity of the provider's actions leading to the ineligibility, the health, safety and welfare of children enrolled at the provider sites, the financial impact of the provider's actions, the impact that ineligibility would have upon the local community, consistency with coalition's actions against other providers for similar violations of the Contract or program requirements, the length of time that provider provided services under the contract with the coalition, and whether the provider had previously violated the terms of the Contract and prior contracts with the coalition.

For providers removed from eligibility due to noncompliance specifically related to VPK pre- and post assessment or VPK readiness rates under Section 1002.67(4), F.S., the removal from eligibility applies to VPK program type (school-year or summer) and therefore, in paragraphs (e) and (f) above, ineligibility to contract is per program type.

By Rules 6M-8.301 when a provider is removed from eligibility it is not just the owner and directors that lose their eligibility but all persons involved in operations and management;

to include the facility Director, Assistant Director, or any staff listed on a provider's application Owner/Operator Information Form that were given authorization to sign contractual and financial documents on behalf of the company.

The definition of "family member of an individual" for the purposes of enforcement of this policy is:

A spouse or significant other, a parent, sibling, or child, or any other individual residing in the household.

- a. Parent includes: father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, stepfather, or stepmother.
- b. Child includes: son, daughter, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law, step-son or step-daughter.
- c. Sibling includes: brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, and all spouses of these siblings (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law).
- d. Family also includes: grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, and first cousins.

Corrective Action

If the Coalition determines a provider has failed to comply with the provisions governing the VPK Program as described in paragraph 5. or the requirements of the VPK Contract, and the Coalition concludes that corrective action will resolve the failure to comply, the Coalition will notify the provider in writing. The notice will identify the specific requirement(s) which the provider failed to meet and describe how the provider failed to meet each requirement. In addition, the notice will provide a detailed description of any required corrective action and a deadline for completion of the corrective action. Finally, the notice will state that the provider may request a review of the determination as described in the Due Process procedures. Coalition staff will verify satisfactory completion of corrective action and provide confirmation in writing to the provider.

Financial Consequences

Noncompliance related to insurance, reporting suspected abuse or neglect, child attendance documentation, child ratios, accreditation, instructional hours, notification requirements, and staff qualifications will result in nonpayment for VPK funded children for the affected days.

Terminations

Termination for Cause

In the event of a termination for cause, providers will be notified ten (10) business days prior to the effective date. Parents of VPK funded children will be notified at least five (5) business days prior to the termination date that the funding for this Provider's program will cease. CCR&R staff will assist parents in finding another approved VPK provider. Parents will be subject to the VPK re-enrollment requirements in OEL Rule 6M-8, F.A.C. Parents choosing to keep their child enrolled with the terminated provider will forfeit their VPK services.

Note: "No loss" letters will not be considered as a form of corrective action for lapses in general liability insurance. Any lapse in coverage, non-renewal or cancellation of general liability insurance will result in corrective action and non-reimbursable days.

Emergency Termination

The Coalition must immediately terminate a provider's VPK Provider Contract upon notification from Child Care Licensing that actions or inactions of a provider pose an immediate and serious danger to the health, safety or welfare of children.

Other violations involving emergency termination include failure to maintain status as an eligible child care provider and failure to obtain written approval from the Coalition prior to transferring or assigning the Contract to another entity, corporation, or owner.

In the event of an emergency termination, the Coalition will notify the provider by sending the provider written notice of emergency termination at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to termination. CCR&R staff will assist parents in finding another approved VPK provider. Parents will be subject to the VPK re-enrollment requirements in OEL Rule 6M-8, F.A.C. Parents choosing to keep their child enrolled with the terminated provider will forfeit their VPK services.

Revocation of Eligibility

A provider whose VPK Provider Contract has been terminated due to violations of Florida Statute or provider misconduct will be ineligible to execute a new VPK Provider Contract for five (5) years from the date of termination.

Probationary Licenses

A provider whose license is on a probation status is not eligible to begin a VPK program. A provider may apply for a Contract once their license is removed from probation status.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)
Pinellas Readiness Summary
2016-2017

On May 16, 2018, the State Board of Education approved [Rule 6M-8.601, F.A.C., Voluntary Prekindergarten \(VPK\) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate](#).

FLKRS

2016-2017	Pinellas	Florida
% Kindergarteners "Ready" Total Population	57.35%	55%
% VPK Completers "Ready"	66.8%	64%

VPK Readiness Rates

	School Year	Summer
# Providers >= 60	186	2
# Providers <60 Did NOT meet rate	89	14
No Rate	15	1

Provider Type	Average Readiness Rate
Nonpublic Schools	77
Public Schools	67
Private Centers	66
Head Start	45

Important information about the 2016-17 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate:

- The [Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener \(FLKRS\)](#) tool used to create the 2016-17 readiness rate, Star Early Literacy, is new and therefore the score standard is new. To be considered ready for kindergarten, a child's score must be at least 500.
- The 2016-17 readiness rate is based on a scale of 0-100.
- The minimum score a provider must earn to have successfully implemented the VPK program is 60, meaning 60% of a provider's VPK children scored at least 500 on Star Early Literacy.
- Providers that were already on probation and earned a rate of 60 or higher will no longer be a provider on probation.
- Providers that were already on probation and earned a rate of 59 or lower will remain on probation.
- **FOR THE 2016-17 AND 2017-18 READINESS RATE, NO NEW PROVIDERS WILL BE PLACED ON PROBATION. However, a readiness rate of less than 60 is low performing and providers should strongly consider rigorous, yet developmentally appropriate improvements to their VPK instructional practices for the 2018-19 program year.**

6M-4.741 Program Assessment Threshold Requirements for the School Readiness Program.

(1) Contract Minimum Threshold.

(a) In accordance with Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C. providers must have a program assessment conducted and meet the Contract Minimum Threshold prior to executing a School Readiness Contract. The provider must receive a minimum program assessment composite score of 2.51 (rounding two decimals) to participate in the School Readiness Program.

(2) Quality Improvement Threshold.

(a) In accordance with Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C. providers that meet the Contract Minimum Threshold score but do not meet the Quality Improvement Threshold shall be placed on a Quality Improvement Plan, in accordance with the School Readiness Contract, for 12 months. The Quality Improvement Threshold is a program assessment composite score of 3.00 (rounding two decimals)

(b) Providers that have been on a Quality Improvement Plan for 12 months and do not meet or exceed a 3.00 (rounding to two decimals) composite program assessment score at the next annual program assessment will have their School Readiness contract terminated by the coalition in accordance with Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C.

(c) Beginning with the 2019-20 School Readiness contract year and subsequent years, providers who have not previously been placed on a Quality Improvement Plan that have program assessment results that fall below a 3.00 (rounding to two decimals) composite program assessment score, as defined in Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., but meet the contract minimum threshold will be placed on a Quality Improvement Plan for 12 months. Providers shall not be on a Quality Improvement plan for more than one 12 month period.

(3) Program Assessment Scores and Annual Program Assessment Exemption.

(a) Providers that receive a composite program assessment score, as defined in Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., of a 5.00 (rounding to two decimals) shall be considered exempt from the annual program assessment requirement, pursuant to Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., and shall have a program assessment conducted biennially.

(b) If a provider falls below a composite program assessment score, as defined in Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., of a 5.00 (rounding to two decimals) during the biennial program assessment, the provider will no longer be considered exempt and shall have a program assessment conducted annually.