



**Early Learning
Coalition**
OF PINELLAS COUNTY

Important Update: School Readiness Provider Rate Increases!

The Early Learning Coalition would like to alert you to important changes in the rate increase chart that was sent to you last week. We are working diligently to make sure you have the most accurate payment rates for every qualifying School Readiness contracted provider. We are sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for working with us.

The new rates are effective January 1, 2021, and will be processed with your January 2021 School Readiness reimbursement. If the increase in rates for January 2021, results in a decrease in a parent's private pay differential, please provide a credit for future services.

The new statewide provider rates resulted in an increase in the payment rate schedule for both contracted centers and family childcare homes; school-age children rates were excluded. Updated copy of new rate chart [HERE](#).

Important: If the new approved base rate is higher than a provider's private rate, there will be no increase. ([See *Statewide SR Contract, SR 20, VII. 45.\(pg.12\)*](#)) Also, the payment rate - inclusive of the base rate, Gold Seal and quality differentials - can't exceed 20% above the provider's private rate.

Providers with private rates lower than the new payment rate, may want to adjust their private rates after March 1, 2021. Please consider the impact that a rate adjustment will have on the families, including private pay, School Readiness and VPK (those requiring wrap services).

Important Note:

Contract amendments resulting in a change in a provider's private rates require a 14-day notification period. ([See Statewide SR Contract, SR 20, VII. 52. \(pg.12\)](#)) The 14-day notification period will allow you sufficient time to notify parents/guardians of the pending rate change and time to provide written notice of any difference between the new private pay rate and School Readiness reimbursement rate, if applicable. ([See Statewide SR Contract, SR 20, VII. 53. \(pg.13\)](#))

If you are interested in adjusting your private rates, or you have questions about the contract amendment process, please contact your SR Contract Specialist. Your Early Learning Coalition Contract Specialists has already emailed the instructions for the amendment process with instructions for any requested rate changes. If you have any questions, please contact your Contract Specialist:

North County:

Melody Fernandez - SR
Email: mfernandez@elcpinellas.org or Phone: 727-400-4412

Mid County:

ReAnna Maroudis – SR
Email: rmaroudis@elcpinellas.org or Phone: 727-400-4415

South County:

Kayla Boland - SR
Email: kboland@elcpinellas.org or Phone: 727-400-4447

We appreciate the Florida Legislature's decision to invest more funds into Florida's early learning system. Your hard work has not been overlooked. We acknowledge the pivotal role you have in shaping the lives of the children and families you serve. On behalf of the Coalition's Board of Directors and Coalition staff, we would like to thank you for serving the children and families of Pinellas County



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Email: info@elcpinellas.net