

Florida's Early Learning Roadmap

Fall 2023



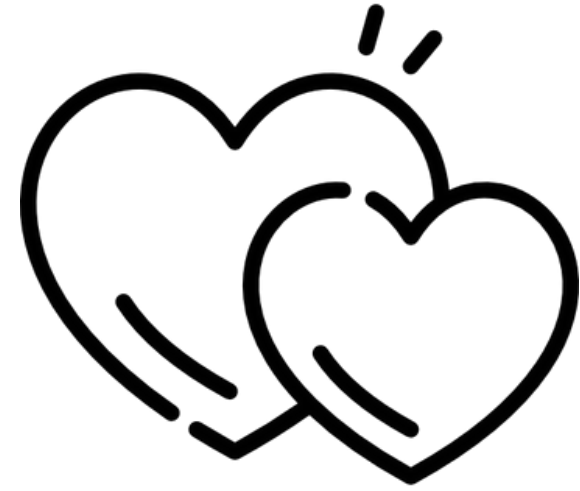
2024 Legislative Session Update The Future Call: Jan 23, 2024

*Madeleine K. Thakur
President & CEO*

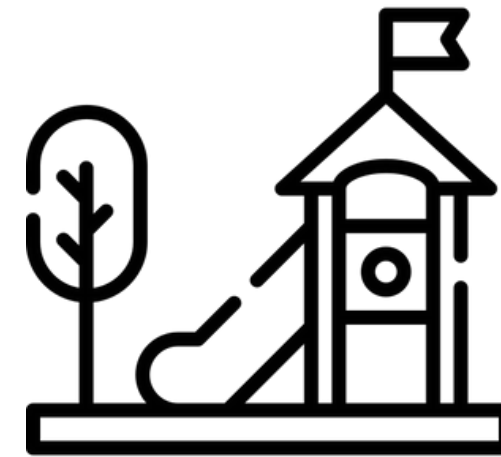
The Children's Movement of Florida



KEY COMPONENTS



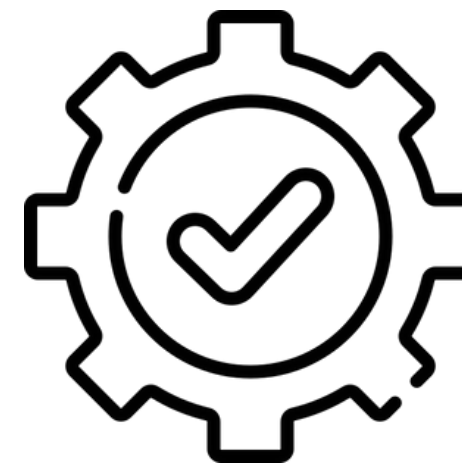
1. Thriving Parents



2. Impactful Learning Experiences



3. A Respected Workforce




**4. A Well-Coordinated, Resourced,
and Data-Driven System**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Relationships are the foundation.** An effective early learning system functions on strong and healthy relationships, not just between adult educators and children, but also between caregivers and teachers, and professionals across agencies designed to support the success of Florida's young children.
- **Mental health is fundamental.** The mental health of children, caregivers, and early learning providers is critical to the success of Florida's early learning system. Yet, too many caregivers and early learning professionals struggle with their mental health in isolation, amidst stigmas, and without support. An effective early learning system requires us to ensure a wide range of accessible and non-intrusive mental health supports are available – from peer groups to more clinical interventions.
- **Families' basic needs must be met.** Child care is but one of several basic needs a family must address to support the healthy development of their children. Addressing early learning in Florida will have limited impact without ensuring families are healthy, economically secure, have food on their tables, and have safe and affordable housing.
- **High expectations are coupled with sufficient support.** All of Florida's children can achieve. Florida's early learning system must maintain high expectations for the quality of early learning experiences across settings AND provide the support needed to help early learning providers, teachers, parents, caregivers, and young children meet these expectations.
- **Adequate funding is required.** A high-quality early learning system requires adequate funding – from a combination of federal, state, local, and private sources – to ensure each family can access early learning programs that are affordable and financially sustainable.
- **It takes all of us.** Achieving this vision for Florida's early learning system requires all of us – from families and early childhood educators to early learning center owners and directors, from pediatricians to business leaders, from elected officials, government agency staff, and policy makers to Early Learning Coalition leaders, and health and social service partners. This roadmap is designed to help all of us work together toward a shared vision for early learning in Florida.


The recommendations that follow have symbols to indicate how best to enact change:

 through government action or policy change

 action from community or civic organizations



4. A Well-Coordinated, Resourced, and Data-Driven System

- ii. **Expand eligibility** to match Florida's economic reality and **coordinate enrollment and follow through** across state and federal programs that respond to the needs of families with young children. 

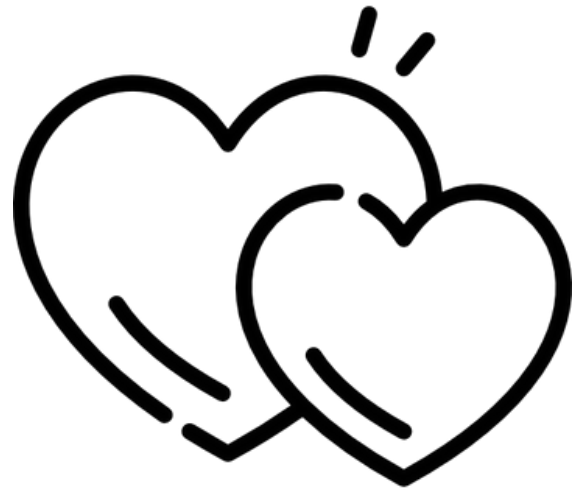
HB 929/SB 916: School Readiness Program



Rep. Dana Trabulsy
(R-Port St. Lucie)



Sen. Alexis Calatayud
(R-Miami)



1. Thriving Parents

C. Expand the availability and accessibility of services that support the **mental health, economic well-being, and overall success of mothers, fathers, and other caregivers.**

HB 635/SB 820: Child Care and Early Learning Providers




**Rep. Fiona McFarland
(R-Sarasota)**



**Sen. Erin Grall
(R-Vero Beach)**



4. A Well-Coordinated, Resourced, and Data-Driven System

- iii. Expand the availability of federal and state funding to increase access to and the supply of **specialized instruction and therapies for young children with disabilities and special health care needs.** 

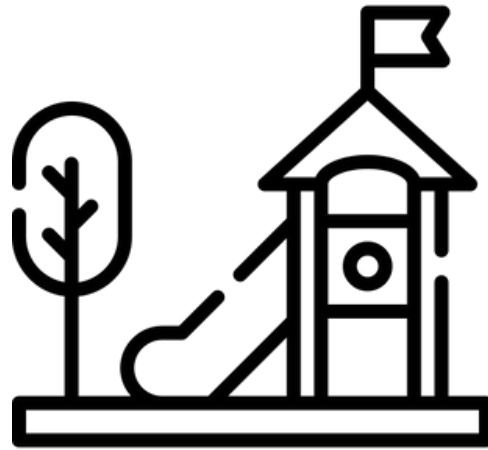
HB 847/SB 1400: School Readiness Program




**Rep. Robin Bartleman
(D-Broward)**



**Sen. Shevrin D. Jones
(D-Miami Dade)**



2. Impactful Learning Experiences

- vi. Strengthen coaching and support for teachers to enhance **Florida's accountability system** and advance high-quality, and developmentally appropriate instruction. 

HB 1353/SB 1026: Early Learning



Rep. John Synder
(R-Palm Beach)



Sen. Erin Grall
(R-Vero Beach)

Questions?
Comments?

