



# Division of Early Learning

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Chancellor of Early Learning



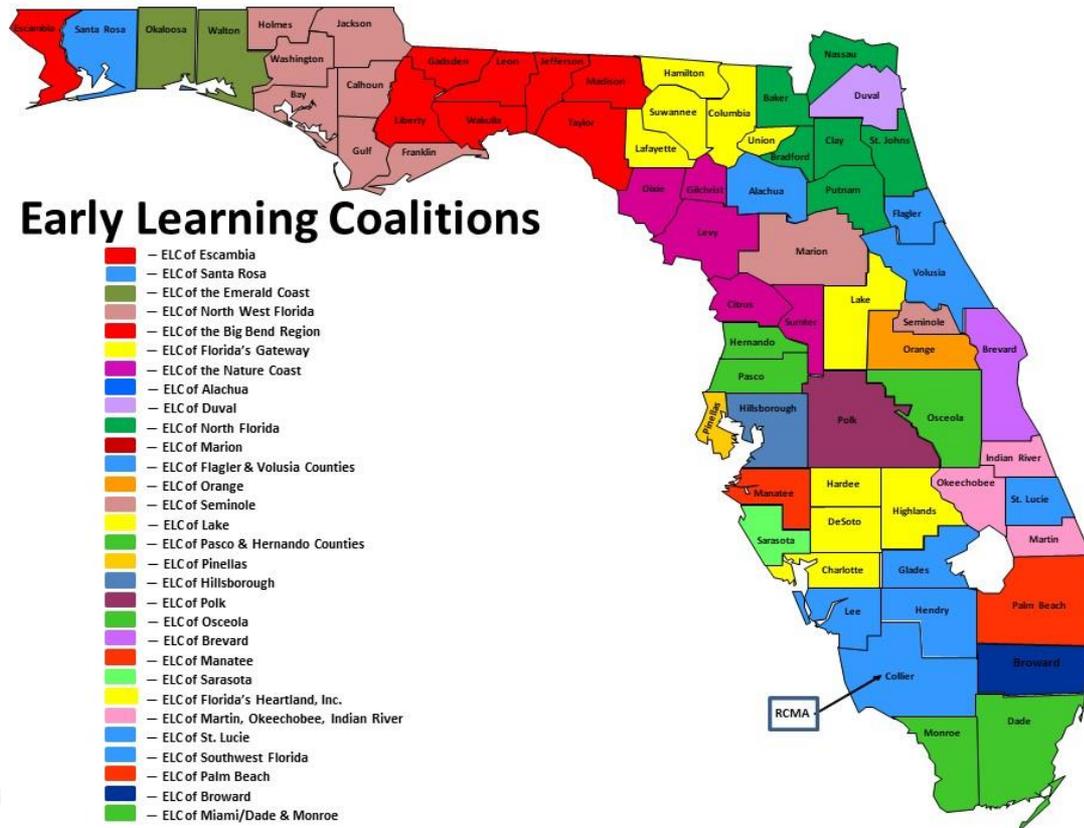
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# Structure for Early Learning

- In 2021, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) was brought into the Department of Education to provide coordinated and seamless educational services and supports to children from birth through K-12 and beyond.
- The division is the lead administrator for federal and state childcare funds. As such, DEL:
  - Oversees Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) network which helps parents identify and select quality child care options that best meet their needs, and provides technical assistance that improves the quality, availability and affordability of child care.
  - Implements School Readiness (SR), Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and the Gold Seal Quality Care program.
  - Develops, adopts, and implements quality standards and measures to improve Florida's comprehensive early childhood care and education system.

# Early Learning Coalitions and RCMA

The Department of Education’s DEL, administers SR and VPK programs statewide, in partnership with thirty (30) early learning coalitions (ELCs) and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA).



## DEL Goals:

1

Increase Kindergarten readiness, setting children on a path to learn, graduate and succeed.

2

Engage families as their child's first teacher and support them in making informed decisions on high-quality child care that best meet their family needs.

3

Support families by providing high-quality child care as they work to become financially self-sufficient.

4

Build high-quality early learning programs to meet the individual needs of all children.

5

Increase knowledge and skills of early learning professionals to provide high-quality care and education.

# Importance of Kindergarten Readiness

- For children who enter kindergarten behind, **roughly 75%** will never catch up to their classmates.
- The **strongest predictors of later achievement** are school-entry math, reading and attention skills.
- State and local **prekindergarten programs**, almost without exception, **improve academic readiness for school**.
- Participants in the prekindergarten program **scored higher on third-grade language arts tests** than did nonparticipants.
- Participation in an **early childhood experience** (child care or preschool) **increases high school graduation rates**.



# Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan

- The CCDF Plan describes how states use federal funds to provide School Readiness (SR) services to low-income families for child care.
- Florida receives an estimated \$610 million annually for services to families, reimbursement to providers, quality initiatives and administrative functions.
- 2022-2024 plan – Currently in effect.
- 2025-2027 plan – Under development.

# CCDF Revision Process

- Review and revise the plan triennially.
- Identify Florida's early learning stakeholders based on agencies required in the plan.
- Convene a stakeholder sub-committee to review and provide input on the draft plan.
- Update the plan with stakeholder input.
- Hold a public hearing.
- Submit the final plan to the Office of Child Care (OCC) by June 30, 2024.

# 2025-2027 CCDF Plan Revision

- 2025-2027 CCDF Plan – Draft written and reviewed within DEL.
- Next steps:
  - Sub-committee meeting - Feb. 7, 2024
  - Public hearing - TBD
  - Final plan - Submit to OCC by Jun. 30, 2024.
- 2025-2027 CCDF Plan – Once OCC approves, the new plan is effective Oct. 1, 2024.

## Early Learning and K-12 Schools Online Portal

- Pursuant to Section 1002.82(2)(q), Florida Statutes, the Department of Education is to create and deploy an online, forward facing early learning provider search that integrates with the online portal for K-12 schools under s. 1001.10(10), F.S.
- The integrated online portal enables parents to choose the early learning provider or K-12 school that best meets their child's needs.
- The online portal will be available in English and Spanish and will provide families with real-time, searchable information on child care openings, tuition and fees, curriculum utilized, health and safety violations, inspection reports, quality initiatives, CLASS scores, openings and other services offered.

# Emergent/Elementary Literacy Micro-Credential

- **Emergent – Designed for instructional and child care personnel who work in a public or private early learning program.**
  - 60 hours/3 components (20 hours each)
  - \$2,000 stipend for completion
  - Meets the VPK instructor emergent literacy course requirement
- **Elementary – Designed for PreK-Grade 5 instructional personnel who work in public schools.**
  - 60 hours/3 components (20 hours each)
  - For child care and instructional personnel who work in a public or private early learning program: \$2,000 stipend for completion
  - For K-5 instructional personnel: \$1,000 stipend for completion
  - Satisfies Competency 1 of the Reading Endorsement
  - Satisfies the 40-hour reading requirement for teacher certification renewal
  - Allows instructional personnel to teach intensive reading intervention if supervised by a certified or reading endorsed teacher



# New Worlds Reading Initiative

**New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI)** is expanded to include eligible VPK students.

## What is NWRI?

- Eligible VPK-Grade 5 students receive free books monthly until the students exit fifth grade.
- Eligible students include VPK-Grade 2 students scoring below 40%ile on FAST Star in early literacy/reading or grades 3-5 students scoring below a Level 3 on FAST (PM1, PM2 or PM3).
- Distribution of books begins no later than October and continues through at least June.
- Parent resources are included.
- Teacher resources around books being distributed.





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