

# CEO Presentation

June 4, 2012



# **Auditor General's December 2011 Report No. 2012-061 - Update**

**Finding No. 2: Improper School Readiness Program  
Payments**



# Finding No. 2

## SR/UI Data Matches



# Finding No. 2

- **Finding No. 2: OEL [Florida's Office of Early Learning] did not conduct data matches between School Readiness Program information and Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit payment data. Our comparison of School Readiness Program information and UI data identified individuals who were improperly receiving School Readiness Program benefits under a work-dependent eligibility category while also collecting UI benefits. The information for these individuals was provided to OEL for further investigation of fraud.**

# Finding No. 2

- Clients did not disclose unemployment income at the time of eligibility and because eligibility staff do not have access to the UI database, they were unable to discover the UI benefit. This resulted in some families inappropriately received School Readiness Program benefits.
- Florida's Office of Early Learning identified 270 cases of improper payments in Miami-Dade. Follow up on these cases has been completed.
  - 265 were referred to the Florida Department of Financial services as a fraud referral.
  - 5 were found to be in compliance
  - In partnership with Miami-Dade County, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe achieved 100% compliance with this assignment
- Moving forward, FOEL has developed a data sharing agreement with the UI office and will be cross referencing cases periodically and forwarding suspect cases to the ELCs. The new Early Learning Information System also addresses this issue.

# Finding No. 12

## SR Funding Allocation Formula



# Background

- Chapter 411.01, Florida Statutes, requires that:
- The Office of Early Learning, subject to legislative notice and review under s. 216.177, shall establish a formula for the allocation of all state and federal school readiness funds provided for children participating in the school readiness program, whether served by a public or private provider, based upon equity for each county. The allocation formula must be submitted to the Governor, the chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee or its successor, and the chair of the House of Representatives Fiscal Council or its successor no later than January 1 of each year. If the Legislature specifies changes to the allocation formula, the Office of Early Learning shall allocate funds as specified in the General Appropriations Act.

# Background

- From Auditor General's December 2011 Report No. 2012-061
- Finding No. 12: School Readiness Funding Formula
  - Effective July 1, 2010, State law requires that OEL establish a formula for allocating all State and Federal funds for children in School Readiness (in a public or private provider) based upon “equity for each county”)
- Auditor General determined that OEL’s School Readiness Allocation Formula for the 2011-12 fiscal year could not demonstrate that it was based upon equity for each county

# Background

- Percentages included in the current formula for use in allocating the \$616,834,264 in base School Readiness Program funding were inherited in 2005 from DCF and the former Florida Partnership for School Readiness
- OEL provided historical factors used in developing the formula but, according to the AG, it did not adequately explain how the formula's allocation percentages were developed
- The data used to initially establish the allocation percentages was unavailable

# Background

- AG determined that OEL funding formula documentation acknowledges the inequity, noting that the *“allocation methodology for base funding has not changed in ten years, shifting demographics over time have resulted in certain levels of inequity among the coalitions in terms of how existing funds are distributed”*

# Proposed SR Allocation Formula

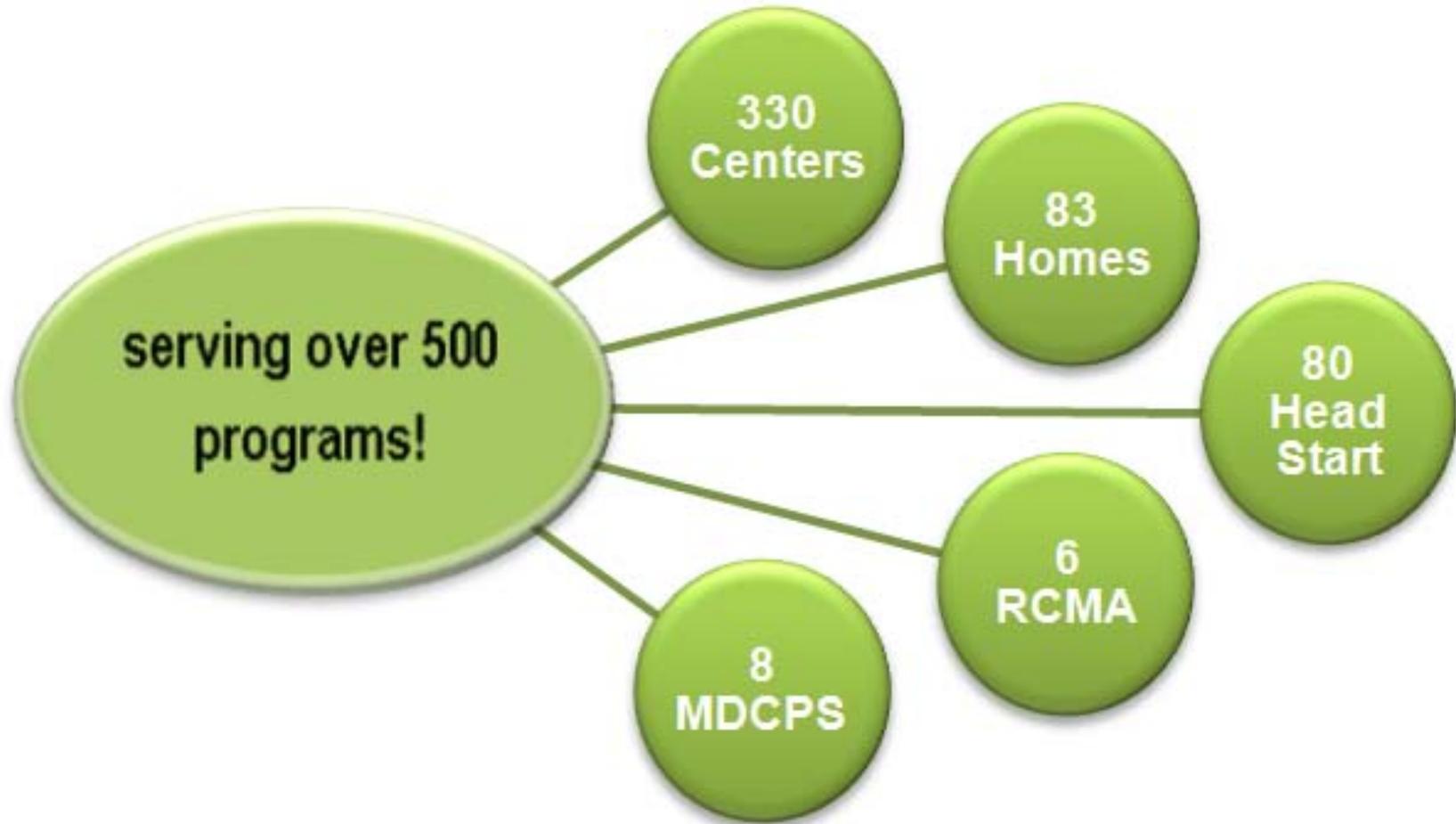
May 23, 2012 Update

- Florida's Office of Early Learning met with the Governor's Office. The Governor's Office will provide direction as soon as their legal office completes a full review of the statute and the allocation formula proposals.
- There is a chance that the final decision could be delayed until January 2013.

# Quality Counts Update



# Who do we serve?



- Quality Counts serves more than 500 early care and education programs across Miami-Dade County

# What do we offer?



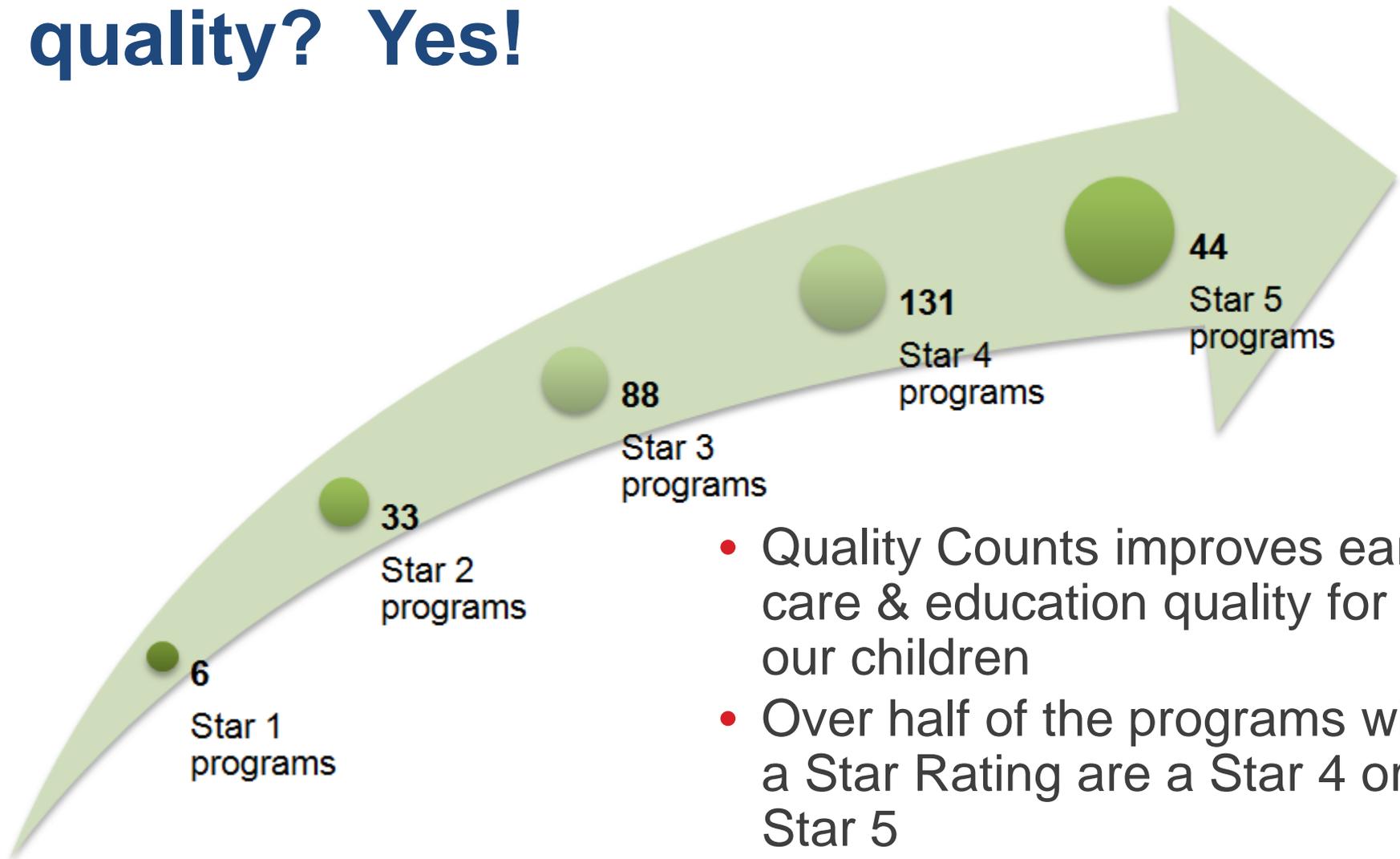
- Quality Counts provides individualized technical assistance to child care providers to improve their practice
- Career advising, training opportunities and scholarships are available for professional development
- Financial incentives are offered to assist quality improvement efforts

# How do we support other quality improvement efforts?



- Quality Counts supports child care accreditation and reaccreditation in Miami-Dade County
- Our work has facilitated 53 accreditations and reaccreditations so far this year

# Does Quality Counts improve quality? Yes!



- Quality Counts improves early care & education quality for our children
- Over half of the programs with a Star Rating are a Star 4 or Star 5
- About 60 percent of the programs have a Star Rating

# QUALITY COUNTS

Striving for Five Star Early Learning

## Accreditation & Gold Seal Quality Care Program



# History

- In 1996, the Florida Legislature established the Gold Seal Quality Care program to acknowledge child care facilities and family day care homes that are accredited by nationally recognized agencies and whose standards reflect quality in the level of care and supervision provided to children.
- In addition, the Legislature established provisions for Gold Seal providers participating in the subsidized child care program, a.k.a. school readiness and early Learning, to receive a higher reimbursement per child, than providers not receiving a Gold Seal designation.

# History

- In 1999, the Legislature revised the program to provide tax incentives through the Department of Revenue or county tax appraiser for participating in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program. Since then, the Legislature has revised the maximum amount of the reimbursement.

# Section 402.281, Florida Statutes

- Gold Seal Quality Care program.—(1)(a) There is established within the department the Gold Seal Quality Care Program.
- (b) A child care facility, large family child care home, or family day care home that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting association approved by the department under subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon application to the department, receive a separate “Gold Seal Quality Care” designation.
- (2) The department shall adopt rules establishing Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation standards based on the applicable accrediting standards of the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**, the **National Association of Family Child Care**, and the **National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission**.

# Section 402.281, Florida Statutes

- (3)(a) In order to be approved by the department for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care program, an accrediting association must apply to the department and demonstrate that it:
  1. Is a nationally recognized accrediting association.
  2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the department under subsection (2).
- (b) In approving accrediting associations, the department shall consult with the **Department of Education, the Florida Head Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child Care Management, the Florida Family Day Care Association, the Florida Children's Forum, the Early Childhood Association of Florida, the Child Development Education Alliance,** providers receiving exemptions under s. [402.316](#), and parents.

# Section 402.281, Florida Statutes

- (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large family child care home, or family day care home must meet the following additional criteria:
  - (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I violations, as defined by rule, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.
  - (b) The child care provider must not have had three or more class II violations, as defined by rule, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

# Section 402.281, Florida Statutes

- (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for the same class III violation, as defined by rule, three or more times and failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of the same class III violation three or more times and failure to correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III violations for a period of 1 year.
- (5) The Department of Children and Family Services shall adopt rules under ss. [120.536](#)(1) and [120.54](#) which provide criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care program, conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal Quality Care providers, and classifying violations.

# Administrative Rule

- Rule 65C-22.009 Gold Seal Quality Care Program;
- Rule 65C-20.014 Gold Seal Quality Care Program;
- CF-FSP Form 5315 Gold Seal Quality Care Accreditation Application
  
- (1)(d) 3. “Nationally Recognized” refers to an association whose accrediting body is recognized and is actively issuing accreditation certificates in at least five states at the time of approval.

# Benefits

After a program achieves accreditation through an approved agency, the program must apply for a Gold Seal Certificate through DCF.

Proof of the Gold Seal Certificate is required for two important financial benefits:

1. Property tax exemption for centers that are owned instead of leased
  - Note: If a center is leased they do not pay property taxes directly to the county, but as we know those taxes are included in the rent by the landlord. If the center is leased the child care operators do not get the tax benefit.
2. Up to 20% above the standard reimbursement rate for children in the School Readiness program.
  - Note: The total reimbursement rate cannot exceed the private pay rate reported by individual providers.

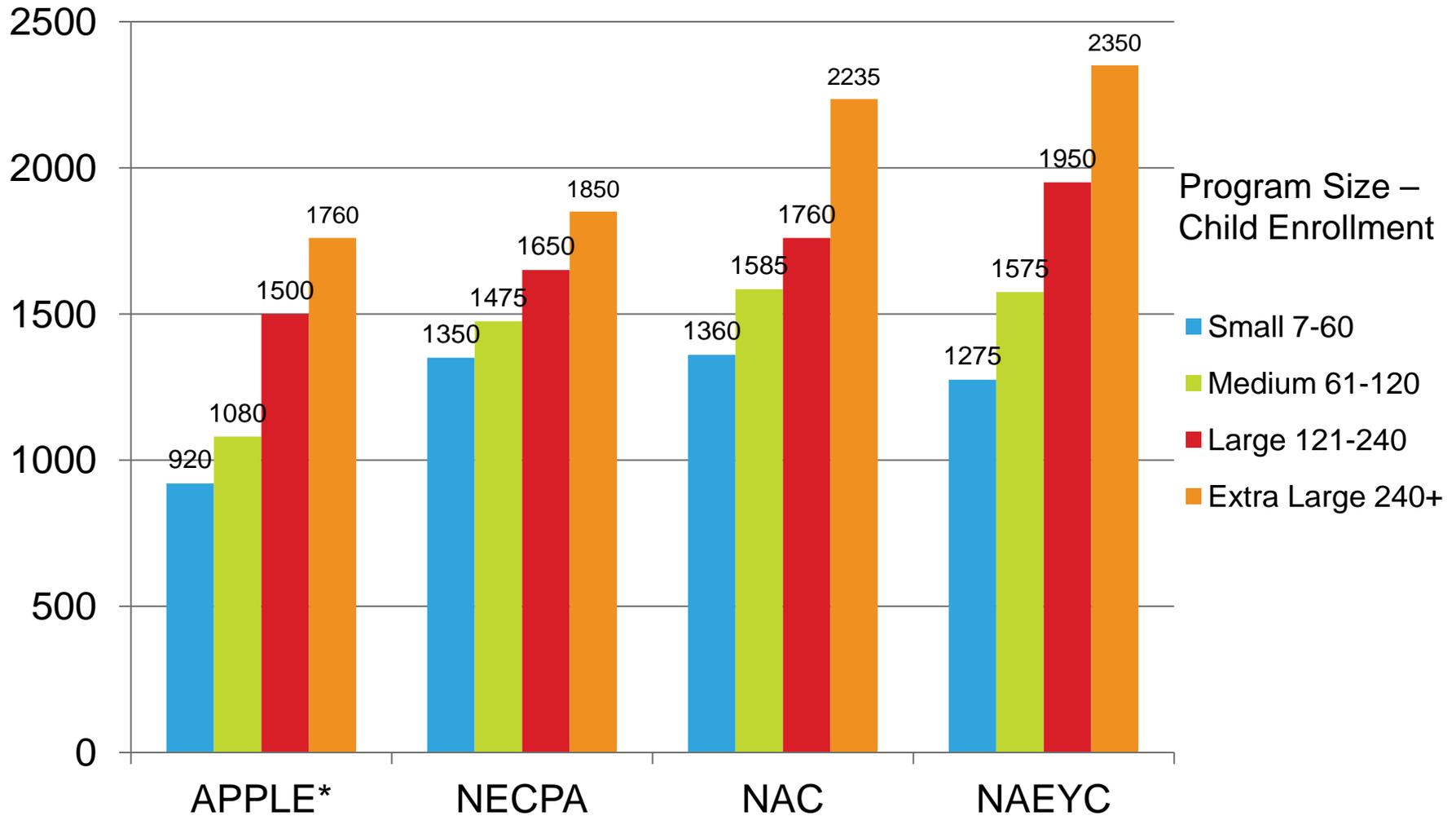
# Approved Accrediting Agencies (12)

- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS)
- Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment (APPLE)
- Council On Accreditation (COA) (multi-site, multi-program organizations only)
- National After-School Association (NAA)
- National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPISA)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- United Methodist Association of Preschools (UMAP)

# Accreditation Agency Timelines

<b>NECPA</b> <b>National Early Childhood</b> <b>Program Accreditation</b>	<b>NAC</b> <b>National accreditation</b> <b>commission on Early</b> <b>Care and Education</b> <b>Programs</b>	<b>NAEYC</b> <b>National Association for</b> <b>the Education of Young</b> <b>Children</b>	<b>APPLE</b> <b>Accredited Professional</b> <b>Preschool Learning</b> <b>Environment</b>	<b>NAFCC</b> <b>National Association for</b> <b>Family Child Care</b>
<p><b>*12 -18 Months Process</b></p> <p>Self Study - up to a Year</p> <p>Verification Visit: 120 Days from visit request form and fee submission date</p> <p>Final Result: 4 weeks from the date of Commission Evaluation a written notification will be send to providers.</p> <p><i>* Depends on time spent on self study</i></p>	<p><b>*10-28 Months Process</b></p> <p>Self study - 6-24 Months</p> <p>Validation Visit- 3 Months after receipt and approval of request. (4 Months for Spring visits)</p> <p>Final Decision: Within 4 Months of Commission review</p> <p><i>* Depends on time spent on self study</i></p>	<p><b>*12-18 Months Process</b></p> <p>Application to Candidacy - 7 to 11 months</p> <p>Site Visit Window - 1-5 months after Candidacy</p> <p>Decision made within 3 months of visit</p> <p><i>* Depends on time spent on self study</i></p>	<p><b>*21-24 Months Process</b></p> <p>Self-study- must be completed in 18 months. *The program has 3 months to resubmit any documentation that is requested for completeness, accuracy, and quality to meet APPLE requirements.</p> <p>Verification Visit – within 3 months of successful review of portfolio</p> <p>Decision within 6 weeks</p> <p><i>* Depends on time spent on self study</i></p>	<p><b>*6-8 Months Process</b></p> <p>Self study- No limited submission date</p> <p>Observation-- Within 3-4 months of receipt of documents.</p> <p>Final result: within 12 weeks of observation</p> <p><i>* Depends on time spent on self study</i></p>

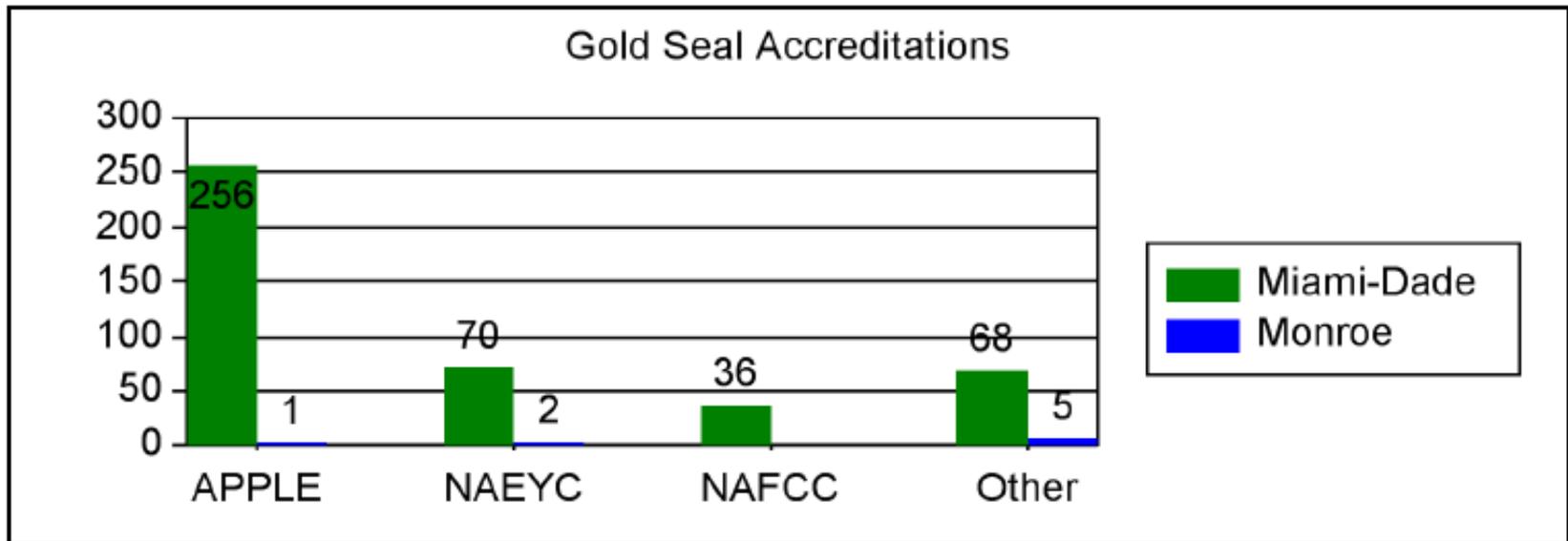
# Cost Comparison



Cost Includes:  
Self-Study/Application Fees,  
Site/Verification Fees

\*Includes Membership Fee charged only by APPLE

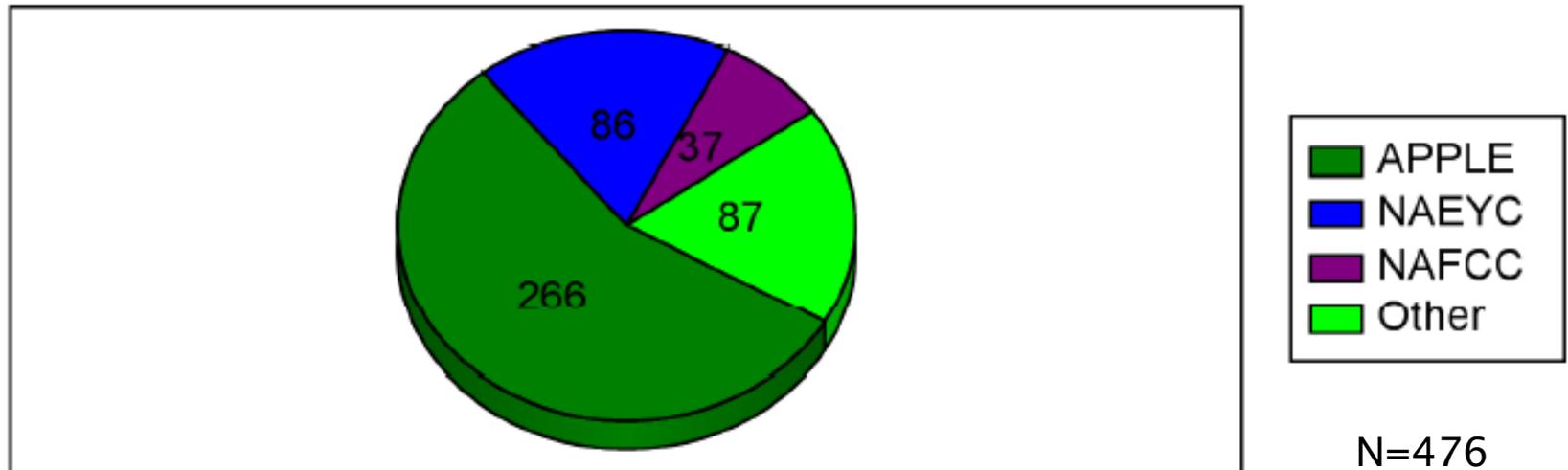
# Gold Seal Certificates Miami-Dade and Monroe



Source: United Way of Miami-Dade as of 5/17/12

# Accreditation Miami-Dade

Miami-Dade - List of valid accreditations



Source: United Way of Miami-Dade as of 5/17/12

# Broward QC Accreditation Crosswalk

Accreditation Agency	Total Points at Alignment	QC Star Rating Equivalent
NAC National Accreditation Commission	35.5	Star 3
NAEYC National Association Education Young Children	32.3	Star 3
APPLE Accredited Preschool Learning Environment	26.75	Star 3
COA Council on Accreditation	26.58	Star 3

Based on Broward Quality Counts Rating Scale with a Star 3 range of 25-36 points on a 53 point scale.

# Point Range Scale for QC Stars

## Broward QC

- 4-12 points **Star 1**
- 13-24 points **Star 2**
- 25-36 points **Star 3**
- 37-42 points **Star 4**
- 43-53 points **Star 5**

## Miami-Dade QC

- 4-12 points
- 13-20 points
- 21-28 points
- 29-35 points
- 36-40 points

# Communications Update



# New Team Member

- Tarnell Carroll joined us as the Communications Manager on May 25<sup>th</sup>

# Media Coverage



- ELC's Ana Pizano promoting the VPK Program on Telemundo's "Buenos Dias Miami"

# Media Coverage

- Telemundo filmed a segment at the ELC in order to promote the VPK program, AcadeMir Preschool was featured
- The ELC was featured in a segment on GenTV. The segment included an interview with the ELC's CEO and another interview with Claudia Uribe, the Director of Cherry Blossom Learning Center. The segment focused on how to enroll children in the program and the benefits of VPK.

# Media Coverage

- The ELC has two articles in the South Florida issue of *Sprinkles Magazine* for June/July
- “Sowing the Seeds of Science with Your Toddler,” by Yesenia Reyes, highlights the importance of teaching toddlers science through hands-on activities

*Sowing the Seeds*  
OF SCIENCE WITH YOUR TODDLER

BY YESENIA REYES, EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

*No matter the project, the idea is to spend time with your child. Fostering a love of science early on can make a considerable difference in his or her future scientific endeavors.*

Spring is a wonderful season to venture into science activities with your toddlers. The weather is warm, the sun is shining and you can feel the energy in the air and running through your kids. This is the perfect opportunity for parents of young children to bring science lessons home. Many parents don't realize the importance of promoting science education. Bethany Sands, Director of Inclusion and Assessment at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and a one-time Special Education (SPED) teacher, believes hands-on activities can really make a huge difference when teaching toddlers about science. "What many people don't understand is that you can teach science to the little ones," she said. "It's all in how you develop the activity."

Early Ed Watch, a blog from New America's Early Education Initiative, agrees that encouraging toddlers to explore their surroundings through science is important. In a post titled "Seeding Early Science in Northern Iowa," Lisa Guenssey emphasizes the importance of children's questions like "Why do leaves fall?" and "Where do rainbows come from?" These are opportunities to guide children's curiosity and cultivate new interests. It can be difficult for parents to figure out when to start teaching their kids about science. Here, Sands offers a couple of her favorite activities to spark some interest. Remember to ask your child questions that can lead to discussions.

**Grow a Lima Bean in a Cup**  
This simple project can be done in two ways. First, you can place two lima beans in a cup of soil with water. Or you can wrap the beans in a damp cotton ball and place that inside a plastic bag. Place your preferred bean holder in a sunny area and remember to water it or keep the cotton ball moist. You should see some growth in a couple days. Through this project, you and your child can observe the growth of the lima bean, make predictions and describe changes. Keeping a notepad or observation book is a great way to recap the activity and discuss measurements and other observations.

**Plant a Garden**  
According to Sands, planting a garden is a great activity for all ages. It provides a variety of opportunities to explore the field of science. Your garden can be any size, from a pot on your balcony to a corner of your yard. You and your toddler can discuss the growth of plants, identify a variety of insects your garden will be home to and classify the different plants you will grow as herbs, fruits or flowers. A great way to record your garden observations is by keeping a scrapbook. Take pictures of the plants at different stages, while they grow or change colors. Kids will especially enjoy eating fruits and vegetables they have had a hand in growing.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring high-quality early care and education for children of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Through a variety of affordable and innovative early education and enrichment opportunities provided, the Coalition serves more than 20,000 children and their 25,000+ parents and their families.



www.sprinklesmagazine.com June/July 2012

# Media Coverage

- “Look Before You Lock: Setting a Routine to Save Your Child’s Life,” by Christina Vila, shines a light on the importance of our Look Before You Lock campaign. You can find the issue at the following link:  
<http://www.sprinklesmagazine.com/miami/issues/junjul2012/>



# ELC in the Community

**Family Summer Kick-Off**  
**Early Childhood Health, Education and Safety Expo**  
**Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo**  
**(THE YOUTH FAIR GROUNDS)**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND DON'T MISS OUT!**  
*All activities are indoor-under A/C. Will occur rain or shine\**

**Performance of: Little Red Riding Hood**  
Meet Elmo, Pooh and Tigger.  
Reading Corner with storytelling and free book giveaway.

**Saturday**  
**JUNE 9, 2012**  
**9am-3pm**

**FREE Event!**  
**FREE Parking!**  
Pre-Registrations Encouraged

**FREE Giveaways and Raffles** throughout the day

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Fair Expo Center**  
10901 SW 24 Street, Miami, FL 33165  
For more information and/or pre-registration, call Miami-Dade AHEC at (305) 597-3666  
[www.hscmd.org](http://www.hscmd.org)

Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade Early Learning Coalition

- Our Family Summer Kick-Off Event is almost here.
- It is taking place on Saturday, June 9, at the Miami-Dade County Fair Expo Center
- The event is in partnership with the Healthy Start Coalition

# Partnerships

- Our Look Before You Lock Campaign continues to gain momentum.
- The Houston Fire Department has asked to use our ideas/materials in their heat safety campaign, which will include billboards and information around Houston, Texas.
- They believe our campaign materials will enhance their efforts to bring awareness to caregivers and avoid incidents involving children being left in hot cars.
- They have a press conference scheduled for June 19 to launch their campaign and are hoping for national coverage.

# Partnerships



- On May 17, Blythe Robinson and Pam Hollingsworth joined members of the School Board to promote an exciting partnership with Purell®.
- More than 250 Purell® dispensers will be installed with refills for one year throughout local childcare centers within Quality Counts.

# Ambassador Program

- On May 18, we visited 80 centers and distributed approximately 800 books in one afternoon through our Goodwill Ambassador Program.
- To date, we have visited approximately 450 providers and distributed about 4,500 books.

# The End

