



Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Department of Economic Opportunity](#)



[Forward to a Friend](#) [Donate Now](#)

ELC News Alert

Issue 5
May 2013

President's Message



Dear Friends:

The legislative session ended this month. Overall, we had a much better year than we've had in at least the last 5 years. There was lots of activity on dozens of bills we tracked closely, but none as notable as the much improved (from last year's version) early learning bill - [HB 7165](#) - that passed this session. The other notable success is new funding for the School Readiness program. The increase is the first new money in 10 years and is specifically designated to restore dollars to counties who lost funding last year as the result of the state funding allocation formula.

The charge to restore the dollars was led by Representative Erik Fresen with support from other members of our legislative delegation. His efforts led to the restoration of \$2.1 million for Miami-Dade/Monroe, plus an additional \$3 million to restore losses in other counties. Because these are new dollars, every county who benefited from the funding reallocation got to keep what they received last year. Miami-Dade/Monroe's dollars will be used to restore child care slots.

To ensure that a more equitable funding formula is developed, Governor Scott has asked the Office of Early Learning to assemble a group of stakeholders. This group will begin meeting this summer and will provide specific recommendations on how School Readiness dollars should be distributed to counties each fiscal year. Our recommendations will include that counties with a waiting list of children 0 - 5 years old be held harmless, and that the new funding formula be applied only to new dollars.

In terms of HB 7165, early in the session Representative Marlene O'Toole brought stakeholders together to work on this early learning bill. She asked members of her education committee to visit early learning coalitions and child care providers outside their areas to make sure they had first hand information before voting on the bill. The end result was not a perfect bill, but certainly a much better bill than we had last year.

Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Finance
Wednesday, May 29
8:30 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board
Monday, June 3
8 a.m.
ELC Board Room

For a complete list of upcoming Coalition meetings and events, please visit our website at www.elcmdm.org.

Contact Us

Miami-Dade
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
5th Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-646-7220
305-447-1608 (fax)

Monroe
1111 12 Street
Suite 206
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-5557
305-296-5588 (fax)

info@elcmdm.org

Join Our Mailing List!

A big thank you to the members of the Miami-Dade and Monroe legislative delegation for their support of children's issues.

For a full summary of the 2013 legislative session highlights, please click [here](#).

Sincerely,
Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

Provider Recognition

Providers Recognized at May Board Meeting

The Early Learning Coalition and the Quality Counts Team would like to congratulate all the newly accredited and first time 5-Star rating providers. Thank you for all the hard work you do for the children and families of our community.



First Time 5-Star Rating

- ARC Project Thrive #4
- Beautiful Beginnings Preschool & Daycare
- Butler Family Day Care Home
- Children's Resource Fund
- Duck Large Family Child Care Home
- Fernandez Large Family Day Care Home
- God's Place 4 Kids Inc.
- Gomez Large Family Child Care Home
- Jimenez Large Family Child Care Home
- Kayleen's Learning Center
- Kids Learning Center of South Dade #2
- La Scuola
- La Scuola
- Lago Mar Pre School I
- Lambert Family Day Care Home
- Machado Large Family Child Care Home
- RCMA Centro Villas Child Development Center
- RCMA Redlands Child Development Center
- Rodriguez Large Family Child Care Home
- Stamp Large Family Child Care Home
- Swain Family Child Care Home
- Town Center Pre-School

First Time Accreditation

- Anderson Large Family Child Care Home
- Brown Family Day Care Home
- Countryside Learning Center
- Farah's Angels Day Care Center Inc.
- Jordan Family Child Care Home
- Kids Colors Learning Center
- Kidz Ark Learning Center & Day Care
- Kinderkids Learning Center & Preschool II
- La Scuola
- Lincoln Marti 84
- Little Kingdom Child Care Center II Inc.
- Little Steps II Inc.
- Osman Family Day Care Home
- Pinecrest Presbyterian
- Salcedo Large Family Child Care Home
- Sanchez Large Family Day Care Home
- Serna Large Family Child Care Home
- The Giving Tree Christian Learning Center
- The Guardian Angel Preschool
- Village Learning Center, Inc.
- Wonderful Paradise Learning Center Corp.

Programs Information

Important Redetermination Information to Share with Parents

Beginning July 1, 2013, eligibility services are transitioning from Miami-Dade County to the Coalition. Families will work directly with Coalition staff for their child care eligibility needs.

Families who have a service termination date of July 1 should have already received their redetermination paperwork in the mail from Miami-Dade County. This paperwork must be submitted in order to continue to receive services and payment for childcare. **Any lapse in service cannot be paid, and the parent will be responsible for any charges during the non-eligible time frame.**

Providers are encouraged to check with families whose care is ending July 1 or later and ask them if they have received their redetermination packet. The child's service termination date can be found on the attendance roster.

If your families have not received their redetermination packet in the mail, they should contact the Miami-Dade eligibility office they visit for services and request a packet. Eligibility offices are currently located at the following addresses:

Frankie Shannon Rolle Neighborhood Service Center

3750 South Dixie Highway, Miami, FL 33133

Phone: 305-694-3510

Fax: 305-441-9097

Miami Gardens Neighborhood Center

16405 N.W. 25 Ave., Room #101, Miami Gardens, FL 33054

Phone: 305-626-7969

Fax: 305-628-0130

Naranja Neighborhood Service Center

13955 S.W. 264 St., Miami, FL 33032

Phone: 305-258-5471

Fax: 305-258-5677

Note: These locations will change once the service transition is complete on July 1.

School Readiness Liability Insurance

Your School Readiness contract with the Coalition requires you to maintain appropriate liability insurance and to furnish the Coalition written evidence of general liability coverage. (Please see Section IV, Provider Responsibilities, Item 16 of your contract.)

If you are not an Informal Provider, you are required to maintain general liability insurance, including coverage for transportation of children if you transport School Readiness program children. Your policy must provide a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The Coalition must be named as a certificate holder and as an additional insured.

If you are an Informal Provider, you may maintain homeowner's liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If as an Informal Provider you choose to maintain a homeowner's policy, you must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The Coalition must be named as a certificate holder and as an additional insured.

In order for the Coalition to process and execute your 2013-14 School Readiness contract, you must provide written evidence of general liability coverage. A copy of your liability insurance certificate that reflects the terms of coverage and the expiration date of the policy will suffice to meet this requirement.

Please submit your insurance certificate through the provider portal:
<http://providers.elcmdm.org/>.

VPK Agreement Deadlines

The Coalition is accepting VPK Agreements for the School Year 2013-14 program. To submit a VPK Agreement, please visit the Provider Portal at <http://providers.elcmdm.org/>. Additional information regarding the VPK program can be found below:

VPK 2013-14 School Year Program

The deadline for submitting a VPK agreement to provide the School Year program to those seeking pre-payment was May 15, 2013. The deadline for those not seeking pre-payment is **June 1, 2013**. Please visit the [Provider Portal](#) to submit your 2013-14 School Year VPK Agreement.

Please use the timeline below as a reference.

April 1	Deadline for Summer 2013 VPK Agreements
May 15	Deadline for Prepayment School Year 2013-14 Agreements
June 1	Deadline for School Year 2013-14 Agreements

VPK Assessment Period 3

Florida statute requires all private and public VPK providers to use the Florida VPK

Assessment as a pre- and post-assessment. The Coalition is requesting providers to administer Assessment Period 1 (AP1), Assessment Period 2 (AP2) and Assessment Period 3 (AP3) in order to track child development over the course of the year.

For School Year Programs, VPK AP3 should be administered three (3) weeks before the end of school. All scores must be entered online at [Bright Beginnings](#) by **Wednesday, July 31, 2013**.

For Summer Programs, the VPK AP1 should be administered during the second full week of operation and entered into Bright Beginnings by **Wednesday, July 31, 2013**. AP 3 should be administered one week prior to the end of your program. All scores must be entered by **Friday, August 16, 2013**.

VPK Training Dates

To attend any VPK Training courses, you must register online at www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare. Only participants who register at this website will be admitted into training sessions. Double-check the training locations to ensure you go to the correct location for training. Please note that we have not scheduled any trainings at the Early Learning Coalition office in Coral Gables.

If a course reference number does not appear during registration, it means the class is full. Please choose another training.

All trainings begin at 5:30 p.m. Anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted.

The following training has available space:

Standards for Four Year Olds

Course Reference #3769

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Exploration Station, The Preschool at Miami Dade College, North Campus
11380 N.W. 27 Ave., Building 600, Miami, FL 33167

Conference Room Number: 602

VPK Absence Policy

When calculating a child's program attendance, the following are not included in the calculation:

- Days before a child's first day of attendance
- Days after a child's last day of attendance

The number of payable hours is either:

- A. Hours attended divided by 0.8, or
- B. The number of hours the child was enrolled

You are paid A or B based on which is less. This ensures a provider's payment is not for more hours than are offered.

Agas and Stages Questionnaire - 3 Update

Miami-Dade County has implemented the ASQ-3 online system where all ASQ-3s must be entered into the Miami-Dade County website. County staff provides

trainings to assist providers in accessing the County website; offers assistance inputting the AQS-3 child data online; and has provided training to more than 800 providers, including individual trainings at their centers.

Beginning July 1, 2013, the Early Learning Coalition will provide ASQ-3 online entry on the ELC website. ELC staff will provide training and assistance to all providers on-site and online. A Screening Specialist will also be available at each of the new service centers opening across Miami-Dade County. This transition will be relatively easy for all and will provide valuable information to both providers and families regarding each participating child's development.

If you need assistance with the current online system, please call 786-469-4517 to schedule an appointment for individualized training at your facility. If you still need an ASQ-3 kit, please call 786-469-4517.

For more information on child screening, contact Bethany Sands at 305-803-1272 or bsands@elcmdm.org.

Important Announcements

Summer Camp Listing Application

The Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Care Regulation and Background Screening, has released a new Summer Camp Listing Application. This list can reach hundreds of potential new campers.

To add your camp, visit myflorida.com/childcare. Once there, click "Add Camp Listing" on the homepage. All you need to add a listing is the background screening OCA number for your camp.

Max the Bear Available to Visit Your Center



Introducing.....
Max the Bear

Please join us in welcoming Max to the ELC Family! Max is our Community Outreach bear, brought into the world on April 26, 2013. His favorite activities are reading, learning and playing.

Max would love to spend time with each of you at your centers and family child care homes. At each center, Max will interact with the children, read, do activities and learn new things to share with the ELC and all our friends. His adventures will be shared on our Facebook page and added to his very own storybook.

If you want Max to spend a week at your program, please send us a handmade card from you and your kids explaining to Max why he should spend time with you. Cards can be mailed to Max at 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., 5th Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134 or emailed to contest@elcmdm.org.

If you have any questions or if you want to learn more about this community outreach program, please contact Christina Vila (cvila@elcmdm.org) or Leeana Sanchez (lsanchez@elcmdm.org).



Send Us Pictures of Your VPK Graduates

Congratulations Little Learners!

We're so proud of all the graduating VPK kiddos, and we want to share this moment with everyone.

If your child or childcare program is participating in a VPK Graduation Ceremony, we would love to see pictures. You can send them to contest@elcmdm.org for us to post on our Facebook page.

Please be sure all children pictured have a photo release form on file.

VPK **Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe**

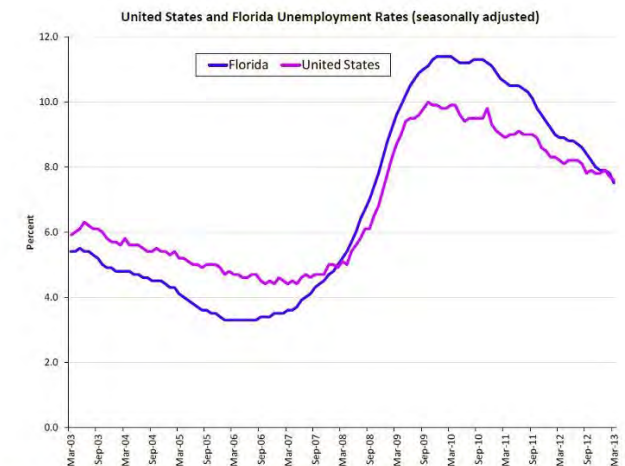
Please click here to access our VPK Graduation Certificate template.

For a copy of the photo release form, please click [here](#).

Florida Releases Its Employment Figures for March

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment dropped to 7.5 percent in March 2013, the lowest it has been since October 2008 when it was 7.4 percent. The March rate was down 0.3 percentage points from the revised February rate of 7.8 percent, and 1.4 percentage points lower than the March 2012 rate. There were 706,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 9,411,000. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in March.

In March 2013, Monroe County (3.8 percent) had the state's lowest unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for Miami-Dade County was 9.2 percent.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

For more information, visit the Department of Economic Opportunity's [website](#).

ELC Team Member Spotlight



Lauren Melley joined the ELC Team in March 2008. In her role as a Programs Monitor, Lauren provides technical assistance, monitors the School Readiness curriculum and pre-attendance and monitors the implementation of the VPK program.

Lauren has a Bachelor's degree in psychology, and worked as a kindergarten teacher for three years. During that time, she began working toward a Master's degree in mental health counseling. She wanted a career change that would provide her with different opportunities and experiences within the classroom setting, which led her to the ELC. She is currently engaged in applying for her Doctorate in psychology.

Lauren loves working with providers and seeing the progress that takes place at the centers after she provides them with VPK monitoring. "The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the constant progress within the child care centers and providing assistance to those who need extra guidance," Lauren said.

When away from the office, Lauren enjoys traveling, working out and spending time with her family and friends.

Monroe County News

New Service Centers Opening Across Monroe County

Effective July 1, the Early Learning Coalition will transition to our new service delivery model. In order to meet your needs, we are opening new offices across Monroe County. ELC Staff will be available at each of these new service centers to assist with child care resource and referral, child eligibility, and provider services. Our new hours and locations offer flexibility for all of you, our customers.

Key Largo

Location: Pink Plaza

Address: 103400 Overseas Highway, Suite 232

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday: Not open to the public
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (one Saturday per month, TBD)

Note: Closed daily from 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch.

Marathon

Location: Co-location with Keys AHEC, Gulfside Village

Address: 5800 Overseas Highway, Suite 36

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Note: Closed daily from 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch.

Key West

Location: Professional Plaza
Address: 1111 12 St., Suite 206
Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday: Not open to the public
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (one Saturday per month, TBD)

Note: Closed daily from 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch.

To contact any of these service centers, please call our Monroe office at 305-296-5557.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding through this transition period. We look forward to working closely with you. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Williams, Monroe Managing Director, at mwilliams@elcndm.org.

Quality Counts

Quality Counts 2.0: Unveiling New Standards

Quality Counts is hosting various meetings to unveil the new standards for Quality Counts 2.0. Meetings will take place in different locations and will be divided in two sessions (English and Spanish) for providers' convenience.

The next information session will be held on **Wednesday, June 5:**

Location: Miami Dade County Public Library - North Dade Regional
Address: 2455 N.W. 183 St., Miami, FL 33056
English Session: 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Spanish Session: 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Free Resources Available to Programs in Miami-Dade Through Shared Resources Florida

Shared Resources is a free, membership-based website that offers an array of resources and tools for program directors, owners, and teachers to enhance the business and educational environment of centers and family child care homes.

Program Benefits:

- Cost savings on child products, books, office supplies and more
- Quick links to DCF Regulations
- Helpful templates
- Free printable posters
- Community message boards

Classroom / Teacher Benefits:

- Free online training for teachers
- Literacy activity ideas
- Physical activity ideas and videos
- Parent handouts
- Teacher resources

To access the site, visit www.sharedresourcesfl.org.

- Click on "Interested in becoming a member?" and enter requested information.
- A login and temporary password will be emailed within two business days.

Shared Resources Florida is brought to you through the collaboration of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, and Quality Counts in partnership with The Children's Trust.

Early education. Lifelong success.

