Agenda

- *Naptime News...* CEO scoop
- Provider Reimbursement
- Family Services
- Screening & Intervention
- Provider Contracts & Compliance
- Quality Programs
- Professional Development
Legislative Updates

HB419/SB1282 Early Learning
- Early Learning Governance & Accountability
- VPK Accountability
- VPK Program Assessment & Instructor training requirements

HB7011/SB1898 Student Literacy
- Screening & progress monitoring VPK-Grade 8
- Teacher preparation
- VPK to K Transition

- Budgets

- Other Bills
  - HB SB0252 Child Care Facilities – “Child Safety Alarm Act”
  - HB0297/SB0380 Child Restraint Requirements
  - HB0307/SB1096 Screening of Summer Camp Personnel
  - HB0575/SB1336 Gold Seal Quality Care Program (minor change to qualifying accreditation agencies)
  - HB1287/SB0252 Child Care Facility Transportation
COVID-19 Updates

- Provider Survey Highlights: Child enrollment is increasing, but still low. Teacher turnover & staff vacancies remains a big issue.

- Policy Waiver: Expanding purpose for care to establish School Readiness eligibility and for families applying to the waitlist. Effective May 13 through June 30, 2021.
  - Documented “Job search” can be used as a purpose for care.
  - The 20 hour per week of work/education requirements for initial eligibility are suspended.

- Financial Assistance: Stay tuned....
COVID-19 Updates

- **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA):** $624,538,869

- Florida is received the following **American Rescue Plan (ARP)** funding:
  - Expanded Child Care Assistance  $952,299,711
  - Child Care Stabilization Grants  $1,523,107,777
  - **Total Funding**  $2,475,407,488

- **Expanded Child Care Assistance** is defined as a fund to provide expanded child care assistance through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to support families and providers, including supporting the child care needs of essential workers.

- **Child Care Stabilization Grants** is defined as a stabilization fund for eligible child care providers, including those who haven’t previously received funding through CCDBG. Administered by state lead agencies, these funds can support providers who are currently operating or are closed for COVID-related reasons, as well as supply-building activities. These funds can stabilize child care programs by covering a range of expenses such as personnel costs, rent, facility maintenance and improvements, personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-related supplies, goods and services needed to resume providing care, mental health supports for children and early educators, and reimbursement of costs associated with the current public health emergency.
Strategic Planning

- Provider Survey: Due: April 2, 2021
  - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVBH8V8K

- Parent Survey: Due: April 2, 2021
  - English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T2ZM2RT
  - Spanish: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V6FV3T6
  - Phone interview (English or Spanish): Call Tamara Hernandez at 727-225-3766

- Parent Focus Groups
  - April 7 @ 7pm Registration required.
    https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcOyqrjsrEtKE21DKN10O9FzGQzeXz_8R?fbclid=IwAR1HWJfpK96Brxu6r1G1O2yUD7ULdx3-fYdIL4tAO7haelpEo1OyCOVmeik
What do I need to do in order to ensure that I am reimbursed for School Readiness children on or before the 20th of the month?

You need to record School Readiness attendance per your sign in sign out sheets and submit the attendance along with the sign in sign out sheets simultaneously, by the due date stated in that month's attendance screen in the Provider Portal.

Reimbursement Specialist will email providers with more specific information on why their attendance was rejected.
Reimbursement FAQ

- Why was all or part of my attendance rejected?

VPK attendance is rejected if there are absences for the whole month which indicates to the Reimbursement Specialist that the child might need to be terminated as child no longer attending. School Readiness attendance is rejected due to the sign in sign out sheets are not submitted for all or some children.

School Readiness attendance is rejected due to the sign in sign out sheets do not match the recorded attendance. The corrections can only be done by the provider, the Reimbursement Specialist cannot change most codes on the provider’s submitted attendance; therefore, the attendance has to be rejected so it can be corrected.

Reimbursement Specialist will email providers with more specific information on why their attendance was rejected.
Reimbursement FAQ

- Who do I contact if I have a reimbursement related question?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVIDERS REIMBURSEMENT</th>
<th>Reimbursement Staff Name</th>
<th>Reimbursement Staff: Phone Number &amp; Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – CL</td>
<td>Firouzeh Saffari</td>
<td>727-400-4448 or <a href="mailto:fsaffari@elcpinellas.org">fsaffari@elcpinellas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COH – KIDD</td>
<td>Bre (Subrenia) Ferguson</td>
<td>727-400-4421 or <a href="mailto:sferguson@elcpinellas.org">sferguson@elcpinellas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIDS – OAK</td>
<td>Adam Jotmoro</td>
<td>727-400-4462 or <a href="mailto:ajotmoro@elcpinellas.org">ajotmoro@elcpinellas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN – Z</td>
<td>Marva Florence</td>
<td>727-400-4477 or <a href="mailto:mflorrence@elcpinellas.org">mflorrence@elcpinellas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA – SUM</td>
<td>Kathy Disney</td>
<td>727-400-4438 or <a href="mailto:kdisney@elcpinellas.org">kdisney@elcpinellas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All VPK Providers 1 – Z</td>
<td>Karen Keene</td>
<td>727-400-4476 or <a href="mailto:kkeene@elcpinellas.org">kkeene@elcpinellas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement Supervisor</td>
<td>Rhonda Collier</td>
<td>727-400-4475 or <a href="mailto:rcollier@elcpinellas.org">rcollier@elcpinellas.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reimbursement FAQ

Who do I contact if I have a reimbursement related question?

Reimbursement Inbox

If you are having a technical issues you can now email the reimbursement team at providerhelpdesk@elcpinellas.org.

Issues we can help you with at the helpdesk:

- Unable to log in
- Unable to submit your site’s attendance
- A child is missing from the parent-fee registration queue
- A holiday is not populating correctly on your attendance roster with an ‘H’
- Unable to submit a temporary closure
- Any technical function in the Provider Portal that is related to reimbursement that is not working properly
Reimbursement Resources

- What resources are available to help me with attendance and reimbursement related issues? Or provider functions, processes and responsibilities as a subcontracted provider?


Sign In and Out Form (w/Meal) SAMPLE – https://elcpinellas.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SR-61F-20-Parent-Sign-In-and-Out-Form-with-Meal-SAMPLE.pdf

Sign In and Out Form (Before & After Care) SAMPLE – https://elcpinellas.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SR-61F-46-Before-After-Care-Parent-Sign-In-Out-Form-SAMPLE.pdf

Providers Helpful Links ELC Website - https://elcpinellas.net/for-providers/ (Bottom of Page)

Providers FAQ ELC Website - https://elcpinellas.net/covid-19/ (Bottom of Page)
Family Services Reminders

- Please collect the VPK COE from the family in order to enroll the child/children. Please do not enroll from the confirmation number only.

- If you are assisting a parent with signing up for VPK services please make sure that the parent's unique email is used to set up the account.

- It is that time of year again to update your provider profile! Please complete list all services you offer.

- **Chat Live Hours:** Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5pm
  ELC Website: [https://elcpinellas.net/](https://elcpinellas.net/)
How do I know that a client has eligibility?

For new enrollments, Family Services staff will contact the provider to verify openings and start date. A message will be left if the provider is unavailable. Once the enrollment has been processed, the parent must sign the payment certificate.

On the first day of care, please ensure the payment certificate is signed. Log into your OEL Provider Portal to view the signed Payment Certificate on the SR Enrollments screen.

- TIP: Families can log into their Family Portal account to view or print the Payment Certificate at any time.

If the family does not start care on the designated start date, please make contact with the family first to verify their intentions. Then, call Family Services at 727-400-4411 to cancel or update the enrollment start date.
Family Services FAQ

- **How do I know that client has been recertified?**
  Families are required to sign the Payment Certificate in order to complete the recertification process.

  Log into your OEL Provider Portal to view the signed Payment Certificate on the SR Enrollments screen.

  - **TIP:** Families can log into their Family Portal account to view or print the Payment Certificate at any time.

  If the family has any questions regarding their recertification, please direct them to their Family Services Specialist at 727-400-4411.
Family Services FAQ

How is a family aware of their next recertification date?

- Families and Providers can view the Payment Certificate at any time. This contains a family’s Eligibility End date.
- Email notification is sent via MOD 45, 30, and 15 days prior to the family’s recertification date.
- TIP: Families are encouraged to submit their School Readiness recertification at least 30 days prior to their expiration date. Filling this recertification early allows ELC to review the file, collect any missing documentation, and process the file within a timely manner.
Family Services FAQ

What happens if a parent doesn’t complete a recertification by the deadline?

- The family’s enrollment and eligibility will be terminated.
- The family can then apply for the wait list in their Family Portal account.

What do we do consider an eligibility appeal?

Families have the right to appeal a decision if they believe it was made in error and not based on policy. Decisions based on policy cannot be appealed. Families must submit an Eligibility Appeal Form to Family Services within 10 business days from their termination date to begin the case review process.

Eligibility Appeal Form: [https://elcpinellas.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/School-Readiness-Eligibility-Appeal.pdf](https://elcpinellas.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/School-Readiness-Eligibility-Appeal.pdf)
What happens if the parent doesn’t sign the Payment Certificate?

At the end of March, new enrollments in the PFA status will not be visible on provider attendance rosters. This means that families must complete all of the enrollment steps before attendance for affected children can be submitted and reimbursed.

There are a few exceptions:

- New enrollments for at-risk children (BG1) or at-risk children in relative care (BG3R) billing groups with the PFA status will populate on attendance rosters,
- Existing enrollments with the PFA status that have already been submitted for attendance in previous months will continue to populate on attendance rosters.

It is important to know, Providers will be able to process attendance and be paid for these enrollments, but not until the payment certificate is signed by the family.
Family Services Resources


Family Portal - How to Complete the School Readiness Enrollment Process Video:
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QK7BDxYYM8
Family Services Resources


School Readiness Helpful Links ELC Website - https://elcpinellas.net/for-families/school-readiness-programs/ (Bottom of Page)

VPK Registration Resources ELC Website - https://elcpinellas.net/for-families/vpk/ (Bottom of Page)

Family FAQ ELC Website - https://elcpinellas.net/for-families/school-readiness-programs/ (Bottom of Page)
Contract & Compliance FAQ

How are the Provider Profile and the Contract different, and why do I have to fill out both of these every year?

- The Provider Profile is the electronic platform providers use to enter all the information about their business, their program, their private pay rates, their chosen holidays. It provides program information to parents calling Child Care Resource and Referral for early education options and it provides the information to populate a provider’s contract.

- The Contract is the legal agreement between the provider and the State (Office of Early Learning) that outlines the requirements for providing SR and VPK services to children and families in exchange for compensation. The contents of the contract are based on the laws passed by the state legislature for SR and VPK fund use.

- Both documents must be completed in the OEL Portal each year to provide services for SR or VPK families.
Why are there two places in the OEL Provider Portal to put my documents?

- The Documents Tab in the Provider Profile contains documents required for providers to contract – (License, W-9, Proof of Insurance, Sunbiz). These documents must be provided prior to contracting each year.

- The Document Library allows for the storage of current and archived documents related to ELC communications such as Insurance reminders, Corrective Action, etc. It also has folders for the documents listed above, but not all of the folders in the Document Library must have documents provided to contract. The Coalition or the Provider may create additional folders for documents that either wishes to keep for future access or reference.
Contract & Compliance FAQ

What do I have to report to the Coalition?

VPK: Required notifications of changes are defined in the contract, Section XII:

- Class transfers of children at the same location must be reported within 14 calendar days.
- Any changes to OEL-VPK 10, 11A, or 11B Application information must be reported within 14 calendar days.
- Temporary closures must be reported by the close of business on the first day of the closing, and within 2 days after reopening.
- Notice and documentation specifying reasons for dismissing children from the program must be reported within 14 calendar days.
What do I have to report to the Coalition?

- SR: Required notifications of changes are defined in the contract, Section XI, including Unusual Incidents:
  - Changes in Contact or Program Information within 14 calendar days
  - Temporary Closings within 2 calendar days
  - Permanent Business Closing/Sale must be reported 30 calendar days PRIOR to changes (VPK also)
  - Unusual Incidents (Significant event involving health or safety of children) must be reported by the end of the next business day and a written report within 3 business days of the event (VPK also)
  - Changes in the Contact/Representative Person noted on the contract in writing within 10 calendar days
Why am I being visited by the Coalition staff?

VPK Providers:

OEL requires a minimum of about 40% of all contracted VPK Providers be monitored each year. Providers are chosen randomly each year. The percentage fluctuates based on the total number of contracted Providers. Providers on Probation are visited while on probation to ensure the chosen improvement plans are being managed and completed within the timelines required by the plan.
Why am I being visited by the Coalition staff?

SR Providers:

OEL requires a minimum of 25% of all contracted SR Providers must be monitored for compliance with the contract every year. Providers are chosen randomly each year. In addition to the 25% requirement – any provider for whom a parent has filed a complaint with the ELC is also required to be monitored. Providers who are considered “High Risk” (Providers who have 8 or more noncompliance issues during a monitoring visit) are visited twice each contract year until they are in compliance. The SR Monitoring tool is accessible on both ELC’s website and the OEL website in Provider Forms. The tool outlines exactly what the Contract Specialist will be reviewing during the visit.
Why during a visit do they ask to see records from children who attended years ago? And what happens if I don't have them?

VPK & SR Providers:

All records are required to be kept in confidence. Records must be maintained for the last 5 years of funded children attending a program. Upon termination of a contract, either by the Coalition or the Provider, those records must be transferred back to the Coalition. Failure to transfer requested documents will result in the Coalition withholding final payment until the documents are provided as indicated in the statewide contract.  
(SR Contract - Section VI., Item 43)
What is E-Verify?

- Online system operated by Homeland Security for employers to verify newly hired employees are authorized to work in the U.S.
- Florida passed a law requiring all contractors (including SR/VPK providers) to enroll and utilize the system. It is FREE.
- You will see this in your 21-22 contracts.
Contracts & Compliance Resources

- Resources
- Forms
- State Regulations
- Local Policies

https://elcpinellas.net/for-providers/
How can I earn a Child Development Associate (CDA)?

The Professional Development Institute offers high quality CDA programming that meets the CDA Gold Standard from the Council of Professional Recognition. The program offers an Infant/Toddler and Preschool track, and coursework is offered in a variety of formats (online, face to face and blended).

For more information on the Child Development Associate program for Infant Toddlers, contact Mallory Akers at makers@elcpinellas.org

For more information on the Child Development Associate program for Preschool, contact Liz (Dixon) McClendon at ldixon@elcpinellas.org
Where can I find other available courses and training programs?

ELC website Professional Development page offers training and scholarships opportunities.

https://elcpinellas.net/professional-development-institute/

For personalized training questions, please contact providertraining@elcpinellas.org and one of our trainers will be happy to assist!
Professional Development FAQ

- Are there any scholarships available to assist with furthering my formal education?

Yes! The Professional Development Incentive Program (PDIP) assists School Readiness Program Assessment (SRPA) staff in obtaining early childhood formal education degrees. Leveraging TEACH scholarships, the PDIP program covers all associated fees. Additionally, PDIP offers career advising.

For more information on the Professional Development Incentive program, contact Amanda Houston at ahouston@elcpinellas.org.
Are there any programs that offer ongoing financial incentives?

Our Elevate program rewards early childhood educators working at School Readiness Program Assessment sites with financial incentives based on their education through wage supplements based on the individual’s educational level.

For more information on Elevate, send us an email at elevate@elcpinellas.org
Are CLASS assessments starting again? Will I be assessed?

Starting in April we will begin assessing again. Between April 1st and June 30th, we will be assessing programs who have breached the enrollment threshold - 20% or higher School Readiness enrollment or more than 2 School Readiness children enrolled in a Family Child Care Home – and have not yet been assessed. Additionally, providers who have completed a Quality Improvement Plan will be assessed.

An Assessor will call you prior to your assessment to alert you to register and then give you your two week assessment window. You are able to indicate up to 3 days that don’t work for you in that window. The assessments take approximately 2 hours. We assess for teacher-child interactions. You will receive your results within 48 hours of your last assessment being completed. An Assessment Specialist will also follow up to explain your results and provide recommendations for support.

ELC staff will be following protocols to ensure safety. These protocols include each staff member doing a health screening checklist prior to the visit, washing hands upon arrival, wearing a mask, and social-distancing when possible. We ask that you do the same.
What is QPS and what do I need to do with it?

QPS is the state-defined Quality Performance System. Providers who participate in School Readiness Program Assessment (SRPA) must update their staff rosters once a month.

When it is time for your assessment, an ELC staff member will ask you to register in this system as well. When you register, you are confirming which staff members are in which classrooms. This information must be correct and reflect staffing on the day of the assessment.
What impacts could my CLASS Composite Score have on my SR contract?

- A score of 4 is required for contracting
- A lower score could result in the termination of your School Readiness contract
- Higher CLASS scores mean more income for the Provider in the form of Quality Performance Incentive differentials
Are there any programs that will assist with the cost of hiring new staff?

The Early Childhood Workforce Development Initiative (ECWDI) is a program that will reimburse School Readiness Program Assessment (SRPA) providers for many of the fees associated with bringing on new staff. These fees include Background Screening, Child Care Exams, First Aid/CPR, and Retention Bonuses.

For more information on ECWDI, contact Linda Townsend at ltownsend@elcpinellas.org
Who is responsible for completing the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2?

As soon as next week, parents will be requested to complete the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2 as part of the enrollment packet. ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2s will be required upon enrollment and annually at redetermination (no longer at birth month).

Videos on “How to Complete Screenings” can be found:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh31N2mFKf94CQHuUoT1fHQ
What if the parent chooses not to complete the screenings?
The parent has the option of deferring the screenings back to the Provider or to decline screenings all together.

Will I know if the parent completed the screenings?
Yes. The OEL portal will show complete and the ELC Provider Portal will be updated by ELC staff.

How long will I have to complete the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2 if the parent defers the screenings?
It is anticipated that you will have 45 days from enrollment/redetermination.
Screening & Intervention FAQ

- **What do I do if I am getting notifications for a child who is No longer in care or not in my care?**

  Please send us a message through ELC Provider Portal system with the child's name and last date of care.

- **What if I continue to get screening notifications during the transition?**

  Please complete screenings for any children you receive a notification for, as we do not want any children “falling through the cracks.”
What if the ASQ is deferred to the provider, but child is new in care, shy, or not willing to respond to ASQ questions?

Please fill out the screenings to the best of your ability. You can use daily interactions and observations of the child, or parent report to help. Please also feel free to make a note in the comment section if you had difficulties completing the screening or feel the results do not accurately reflect the child’s development.
What if a child doesn’t show concerns on a ASQ but we think the child has developmental delay or are concerned about behavior?

If you are completing the screening(s) you can make a note to express concerns in the comment section. If the parent completed the screening, you can complete a Request for Services form to request an observation from a Developmental or Behavior Specialist.

Request for Services Form - [https://elcpinellas.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Request-for-Services-2.pdf](https://elcpinellas.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Request-for-Services-2.pdf)
I have an SR child in my care with an IEP who needs more support than other kids do. Can I get a higher rate for her?

You may be eligible to receive the Special Needs Rate (SPCR). The SPCR gives up to a 20% rate increase for providing accommodations that exceed ADA requirements to qualifying SR children. If you are interested in applying for the SPCR, please obtain a current IEP/IFSP, complete the SPCR Matrix of Services and the Provider Reimbursement Rates form and send them to kmiller@elcpinellas.org

What if a child shows concerns on the AQS-3 but already is getting therapeutic services?

Please note on the screening what services the child is receiving (Speech, PT, etc). We can still provide Developmental Activities and Technical Assistance (TA) but will know not to re-refer the child.

What if there is a non-SR child in my care that has developmental or behavioral concerns?

The parent can call the Inclusion Specialist directly for resources, support and referral information through the **Warmline at (727) 545-7536**.
What happened to Community Screenings? Are they coming back?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not been deemed safe to continue holding monthly Community Screenings at this time. As mandates/requirements lessen and vaccinations increase, we hope to resume Community Screenings – possibly on a smaller scale (previously 30 families were being screened, in person monthly).

In the meantime, concerned parents can call the Inclusion Specialist on the Warmline for direct referral information. Warmline- (727) 545-7536.
TB5 Connects

- No one said raising children is easy. Many times, it takes a village. TB5 Connects helps Pinellas families access various programs and resources to ensure that their children thrive!

Families who complete a short questionnaire will receive a customized list of available services to meet their unique needs. They will receive a direct point of contact to call and will be linked directly to their program list online application to get connected with the help you need now.

Get connected at: https://tb5p.org/tb5-connects/