



**Early Learning
Coalition**
OF PINELLAS COUNTY

Policy: ELCPC-61.2.5	Contracted Slots Program Policy	
Coalition Plan: II.J.	Board Approved: Pending OEL Approved: 6/26/19	Effective Date: 6/26/19



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References:

Child Care and Development Block Grant funds this project through the Florida 2018-19 General Appropriations Act, Specific Appropriation 85 of Chapter 2018-9, and Laws of Florida.

6M-4.610, F.A.C,

OEL-SR20 School Readiness Provider Contract

Purpose:

The Contracted Slots program has been established to provide School Readiness children with a steady, high quality-learning environment while also providing incentives and financial stability to Providers serving at-risk populations and participating in quality improvement activities.



Background:

In Pinellas County, there is a shortage of emergency care for children that are removed from their homes by child welfare. These children are transported to other counties to receive childcare services prior to permanent placements. To address this gap in the service, the Coalition established a contracted slots program. The Coalition contracts for a limited number of slots to provide childcare services to children birth through five-years of age removed from their homes.

Policy

I. Provider Eligibility:

To be eligible to participate in the Contracted Slots program, the provider must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a SR Provider in good standing and in compliance with the terms and conditions of the School Readiness Contract with the Coalition.
2. Have no Class I licensing violations and no more than three Class II licensing violations as cited by the Department of Children and Families or the Local Licensing Agency as applicable, within the last two years of contract execution.
3. Meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Be an active SR Provider participating in a quality improvement initiative and located within a high-needs area and serving infants and toddlers;
 - Be an active SR Provider participating in a quality improvement initiative and located within a high-needs area and not serving infants and toddlers;
 - Be an active SR Provider participating in a quality improvement initiative and located within a census poverty area or a high poverty zip code and serving infants and toddlers;
 - Be an active SR Provider participating in a quality improvement initiative and located within a census poverty area or high poverty zip code and not serving infants and toddlers;
 - Be an active SR Provider located within a high needs area and serving vulnerable populations; or
 - Be an active or new SR Provider located in an area where capacity is need to serve infants and toddler

II. Restriction to Care Levels:

- Contracted Slots shall only be filled with children ages birth through five years old.
- The SR child selected to receive a transferred Contracted Slot may be from a different care level than the child prior to the vacancy (restricted to age's birth through five years old).



III. Provider Reimbursement:

- The Contracted Slot Rate is calculated 10% above the Prevailing Market Rate.
- Provider reimbursement for children participating in the Contracted Slots is in accordance with the Provider's SR Contract.
- Participating providers agree to accept the Contracted Slots reimbursement rates for the participating number of children established by the Coalition and approved by the Office of Early Learning.
- The Contracted Slots reimbursement rates will be paid for all scheduled days during the contract period for each contracted slot, regardless of whether the child is in attendance or not.
- Providers participating in contracted slots will still receive a Gold Seal differential.
- The Contracted Slots reimbursement rates supersede the reimbursement rates established within the SR Provider Contract for the children identified as participating in Contracted Slots.
- The number of slots will be determined by the Coalition.
- Reimbursement is paid based on budget availability, at the approved Contracted Slots reimbursement rate less any assessed parent co-payments as reflected on the child care certificate.
- The Provider will be paid up to a maximum of 60 consecutive calendar days for an absent child in the Contracted Slot program.
- The absence days will be paid at the reimbursement rate for the care level of the child enrolled in the Contracted Slot for the number of slots approved by the Coalition based on a reasonable method as determined by the Coalition.
- Provider is prohibited from charging the differential between the Provider's private pay rate and the Contracted Slots reimbursement rates
- Provider is prohibited from charging any fees to parents/families other than the parent co-payment or late fees.