



The Agency for Workforce Innovation

Florida Children & Youth Cabinet
August 31, 2011
Orlando, Florida



Transition Effective October 1st



Agency for Workforce Innovation

Major Divisions:

1. Unemployment Compensation
2. Workforce Services
3. Early Learning



AWI Transition

Department of Economic Opportunity (SB 2156)

1. Strategic Business Development
2. Community Development
3. Workforce Services (including Unemployment Compensation)
4. Finance & Administration

The Office of Early Learning is administratively supported by the Department of Education

- Director appointed by Governor and confirmed by the Senate
- New OEL Director will serve as a member of the Children & Youth Cabinet



Office of Early Learning

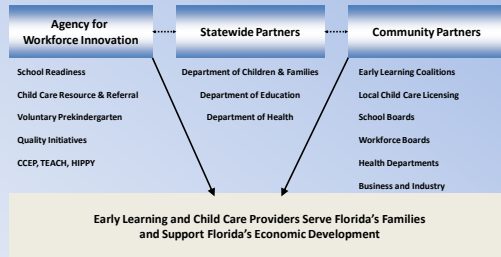
**Birth to Eight
Programs and Partnerships**



Early Learning Programs & Services

- School Readiness Program
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK)

Partnerships for Florida's Families



Early Learning Coalitions



- 31 non-profit organizations
- Created in 1999 by the School Readiness Act
 - Section 411.01, Florida Statutes
- Each coalition board chair serves on the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) as the Governor-Appointed local business leader



Florida's School Readiness Program



School Readiness Program

- Child care assistance to income-eligible families paid to early learning providers.
- Crucial program to support Florida's economic development and family self-sufficiency goals.
- More than \$687 million in federal and state funds are spent on the School Readiness program statewide.
- Nearly 240,000 children received School Readiness services in FY 2010–2011.



Child Care Resource and Referral Network



Provides Florida with a comprehensive network of information for families with young children.

- Local CCR&R programs answered more than 387,000 requests from families, teachers and community members seeking information in 2010–2011.
- The State Network housed within the OEL maintains a database with current information about child care options, how to select quality care, and referrals to other needed community resources

2011 Early Learning Report Card. All numbers reflect 2010–2011 data.

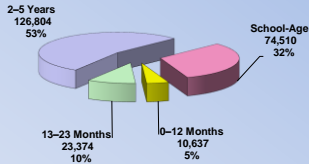
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Developing Strong Families and Communities

- School Readiness programs increase access to quality child care programs and services in all communities for all families.
- Supports community economic development with a strong early learning network for today's working families
- Programs support parents:
 - With information about child development
 - In being their child's first teacher and lifelong partner with schools in their child's education
 - In preparing their children to enter school ready to learn
 - In being able to attain self-sufficiency while staying employed and remaining in the workforce

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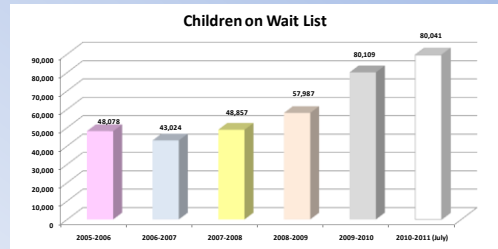
2010-2011 Child Participation by Age



Percentage of Age Group Participating in School Readiness

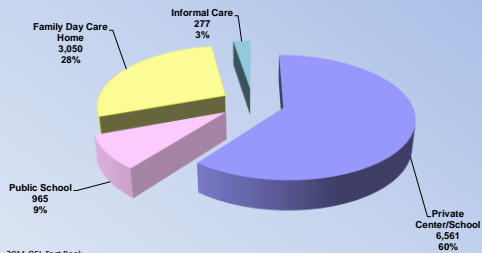
Wait List Monthly Average

Coalitions maintain wait lists locally for eligible families.



Note: Children from Priority 1 (TCA) and Priority 2 (PS) are not placed on wait list.

2010-2011 School Readiness Providers by Type



Early Learning Information System (ELIS)

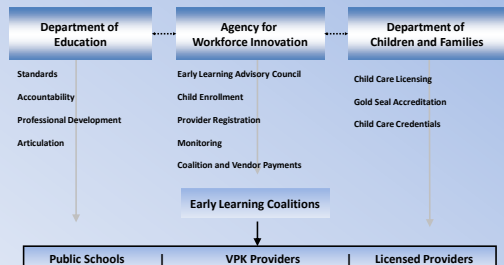


- Creates a centralized technology system
- Currently no interconnected technology system exists
- Real-time data vs. weeks of lag time
- Various levels of access including interfaces for parents, child care providers, and partner agencies

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program



VPK Interagency Coordination



VPK Program Options Ensuring Parental Choice



School Year Program

- 540 hours
- 4-20 children per class
- 1:11 staff-to-child ratio
- 12-20 requires an additional adult
- Child Development Associate Credential for lead instructor

Summer Program

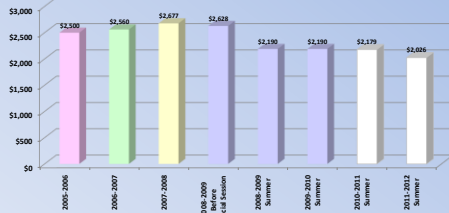
- 300 hours
- 1-12 children per class
- 1:12 staff-to-child ratio
- Certified teacher
- School districts must offer program
- Private providers may offer the program if they meet the staffing requirements

Historical VPK Student Funding – School Year (Allocation per Student/Program)



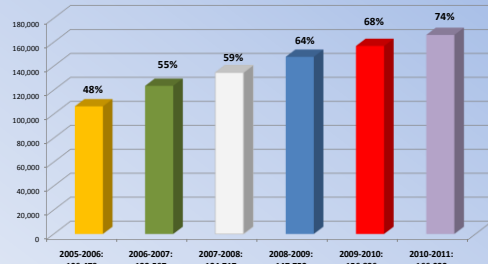
Each year, actual per-student VPK funding available to each Early Learning Coalition is determined by multiplying the Base Student Allocation by the legislatively established Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and district cost differential, plus the statutorily mandated maximum coalition administrative percentage (currently 4.5%).

Historical VPK Student Funding - Summer (Allocation per Student/Program)



Each year, actual per-student VPK funding available to each Early Learning Coalition is determined by multiplying the Base Student Allocation by the legislatively established Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and district cost differential, plus the statutorily mandated maximum coalition administrative percentage (currently 4.5%).

Historical VPK Child Participation Data



VPK Children Served from Total Number of Four-Year-Olds

VPK Program Growth



- An increasing percentage of Florida's four-year-olds participate in VPK programs.
- There has been a 46% increase in the number of providers from 2005–2006 to 2010–2011.
- For Program Year 2010–2011, approximately 73% of VPK providers also provided School Readiness services.
- Children who participate in VPK consistently perform better on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener than children who did not participate in VPK.

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Workforce

Youth Programs & Partnerships



Youth Program Employment Services



In partnership with Department of Juvenile Justice (2010) – a pilot project was launched designed to provide employment opportunities for youth with criminal backgrounds.

- \$1 million was awarded to Regional Workforce Boards serving 4 counties:
 - Pinellas
 - Hillsborough
 - Sarasota
 - Manatee

Youth Program Employment Services



By AWI and DJJ working together, in the first program year AWI data shows:

- 216 youth were provided work-readiness training,
- 129 youth were placed into work experience (subsidized employment),
- 86 youth earned a credential, and
- 26 earned employment (non-subsidized).

Foster Care Youth Project



- In partnership with Department of Children and Families (2010), AWI launched a project to serve youth aging out of foster care.
- The purpose of this funding was to assist youth aging out of the foster care system in obtaining the life skills and education necessary to become self-sufficient and maintain employment.
- Through a RFP process to the RWBs – three awards were made totaling \$876,904:
 - Workforce Development Board of Flagler and Volusia counties
 - WorkNet Pinellas
 - Polk Works

Foster Care Youth Project



- A total of 229 youth participated in the program and on average nearly 90% of those youth successfully completed the program.
- The program offered youth opportunities in paid work experiences, post secondary education, work readiness training, tutoring, mentoring, and support services.
- Businesses were supportive in helping the youth to develop strong work ethics and professional skills. Local job coaches and mentors helped monitor their participant's weekly progress.

Summer Youth Programs



- From 2009 to 2011, AWI has supported more than 17,000 youth statewide, ranging in age from 14-21, in summer employment and training programs.
- These summer career exploration programs connect young people with local employers for real-world work experience to get them engaged in planning for their future careers.
- Hundreds of private and public-sector employers in diverse industries participate.

Additional Responsibilities Impacting Children and Youth





State Advisory Council

Established as an “advisory group” to the Florida Children & Youth Cabinet as of September 2010

Purpose: To lead the development of a high quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education that ensures statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide array of early childhood education programs and services in the State, including Head Start, child care and prekindergarten.



Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge



Race to the Top

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health & Human Services announced that \$500 million of FY 2011’s Race to the Top appropriation would be used to fund a competitive grant program to improve state systems of early learning.

Florida is eligible for up to \$100 million



Race to the Top Requirements for Eligibility

- Operational State Advisory Council (advisory to Children and Youth Cabinet) ✓
- Participation in:
 - School Readiness Program (CCDF Grant) ✓
 - Early Intervention (Parts B & C of IDEA – DOE/DOH) ✓
 - Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program ?
- The “Challenge” is to invest in improvements to the early learning system infrastructure.
- No long term financial commitments after funds run end in 2015



Thank You