

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

PRC Meeting Agenda

March 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Zoom Meeting

Members are reminded of conflict-of-interest provisions. In declaring a conflict, please refrain from voting or discussing and declare the following information: 1) Your name and position on the Board, 2) The nature of the conflict, and 3) Who will gain or lose as a result of the conflict. Please also fill out form 8B prior to the meeting.

		PAGE	
1.	Call to Order		Monica King, PRC Chair
2.	Roll Call		Melody Martinez, Board Liaison
3.	Consent Agenda 1. Approve December 5, 2024, Committee meeting minutes	2	Monica King, PRC Chair
4.	Regular Business		
	1. PRC253RB1 - School Readiness Enrollment/Redetermination Update (Goal 1 of Strategic Plan)	8	Amy Moore, Sr. Director of Family Services & Customer Services; Howard Bakalar, CPO
	2. PRC253RB2 - VPK Enrollment Update (Goal 2 of Strategic Plan)	11	
	3. PRC253RB3 - Education/Quality (Goals 3 and 4 of Strategic Plan) a. Broward Early Childhood Education Conference b. Help Me Grow Florida Update c. CLASS update (School Readiness and VPK) d. VPK Performance Accountability Update	12	Allison Metsch, Sr. Director of Education & Quality Initiatives; Howard Bakalar, CPO
	4. PRC253RB4 - Outreach/Advocacy Update	15	Ancel Pratt III, Sr. Director of Communications & Howard Bakalar, CPO
5.	Unfinished Business New Business		
6.	Next PRC Meeting: TBD		
7.	Adjourn		

Please Note: Agenda is subject to revisions and additions at the discretion of the Chair of the Coalition. Notification will be sent of any such revisions or additions. **Members of the Public:** Please sign up at the entry desk for public comments to be made on any particular agenda items no later than five minutes after the Coalition meeting has been called to order.

“As per [§286.0105, Fla. Stat.](#) Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.”



Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM
[Zoom Meeting](#)

Members in Attendance	Chair, Monica King; Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer; Richard Campillo; Dawn Liberta; Renee Podolsky; Ellie Schrot
Members Absent (Excused)	Laurie Sallarulo; Krystie Castillo
Members Absent (Unexcused)	
Staff in Attendance	Renee Jaffe, CEO; Christine Klima, CAO; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Hubert Cesar, CIO; Melody Martinez, Board Liaison; Amy Moore, Sr. Director of Family Services and Provider Relations; Allison Metsch, Sr. Director of Education & Quality; Ancel Pratt, III, Sr. Director of Communications & Outreach; Erica Accilon, Outreach Specialist Communications & Outreach; Gracy Haladjian, Dir. of Family & Customer Services; Renier Potts, Financial Analyst
Others in Attendance	

Item	Action/Discussion
Welcome & Call to Order	Chair Monica King called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.
Consent Agenda	
1. Approve August 28, 2024, Committee meeting minutes	There was a Motion to move the Consent Agenda by Ellie Schrot and Seconded by Dawn Liberta. Unanimously approved. Motion Passes.
Regular Committee	School Readiness
1. PRC252RB1 - School Readiness Enrollment/Redetermination Update (Goal 1 of Strategic Plan)	<p>Amy Moore provided an update on School Readiness enrollment and redetermination efforts. This year, we successfully enrolled 1,816 children from the School Readiness waitlist. However, due to projected budget deficits, we have paused further enrollments. As of November 25, there are 1,812 children still on the waitlist.</p> <p>While enrollment has stopped, we continue to analyze attrition data to identify trends and areas for improvement. In collaboration with Miami-Dade ELC, we discovered that they categorize attrition differently. Specifically, they use the termination code "Failure to Revalidate" to identify families that did not submit the necessary documentation for redetermination, meaning they did not even begin the process. This is distinct from other termination reasons, where families either engaged in the process but did not complete it or were deemed ineligible. By excluding "Failure to Revalidate" families, Miami-Dade ELC significantly reduces their overall attrition rate, particularly for families who did not complete the process or were found ineligible for other reasons.</p> <p>Upon further analysis of our data, we observed similar trends. Excluding the 375 children (30%) who were terminated for "Failure to Revalidate," we found that the</p>

termination rate for families not completing the process for other reasons is around 20%. This insight helps us refine our approach to reducing attrition. We have implemented a mechanism in our CRM that allows us to communicate directly with families about missing items in their redetermination packets, enabling us to target these families more effectively. We aim to reduce attrition by addressing this issue. Additionally, we plan to examine families who have not yet started the process to identify any emerging trends.

Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer expressed her appreciation for the insight, noting that this information is valuable and will allow us to address and resolve the issue effectively.

Chair Monica King requested that, of the 859 children in the blue category, we identify and remove those who failed to provide the necessary documentation or were deemed ineligible. She inquired if this type of data, along with age and geographic information, is typically included in the reports. Additionally, she asked what other factors are being considered in the analysis.

Amy Moore stated that with Hubert's assistance, we can further analyze the data.

Renee Jaffe, CEO, noted that it is unclear whether parents are choosing not to redetermine because they believe their income exceeds eligibility, or if they are withholding income information. As a result, these families remain in the program but are not reflected in the fiscal cliff population.

While we will continue to report overall attrition figures, breaking down these numbers allows us to target specific areas for improvement. For example, we plan to investigate families who fail to submit required redetermination documentation and explore potential trends related to child age or other demographic factors that may affect families' completion rates.

Our primary focus is on maintaining care for eligible families, managing the growing waitlist, and providing resources to families seeking affordable childcare options while they await enrollment into School Readiness services. Enrollment in smaller programs, such as at-risk and other mandated categories, remains stable. Additionally, local programs funded by CSC, such as those for vulnerable populations, have shown steady enrollment. These children are often in the program longer than in the past, with the goal of transitioning families into School Readiness funding or supporting those who are stable enough to pay for childcare. We anticipate an increase in overall program enrollment as we continue accepting new referrals.

Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer inquired about the predominant barriers to enrollment. She noted that, since this process has just begun, the primary concern may be families transitioning from School Readiness to SR Plus. She asked if there are any specific challenges to enrollment and where other obstacles might lie. She emphasized that understanding these barriers would help make advocacy efforts more effective.

<p>2. PRC252RB2- VPK Enrollment Update (Goal 2 of Strategic Plan)</p>	<p>Howard Bakalar, CPO, responded that while an immediate answer is not available, further insights will be provided soon. He mentioned that they will assess where the average families fall within the 85th percentile.</p> <p>Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer requested that a clearer understanding of the barriers to enrollment be provided by the next meeting, if possible.</p> <p>VPK Enrollment</p> <p>Amy Moore provided updates on VPK. As of August 2024, we have approved 14,232 VPK school-year applications for FY24-25, and 172 summer applications. Currently, 12,343 students are enrolled in the VPK program for FY 24-24.</p> <p>We anticipate further enrollment, as eligible children continue to join the program throughout the year. The 25-26 program year opens up on Jan 1, 2025. We anticipate an increased volume of applications, so we developed an operation plan to ensure a smooth and efficient application process. This plan is designed to accommodate the seasonal surge in applications while maintaining high levels of service and support for families as they navigate the application process.</p>
<p>3. PRC252RB3- Education/Quality (Goals 3 and 4 of Strategic Plan)</p> <p>a. ARPA Discretionary Funds Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help Me Grow Florida • CLASS Observations Update • VPK Performance Accountability Update 	<p>Education & Quality:</p> <p>Allison Metsch reported on Education and quality. In the last three years, our inclusion team and relationships with the community have grown. We went from 9 inclusion staff in 2022 to 16 in 2024. This has given us the ability to better respond to concerns in the classroom.</p> <p>Every Friday, educators can call into Zoom with questions about how to respond to specific behaviors they see in their classrooms. The information is provided in English, Creole, and Spanish.</p> <p>If you cannot attend the meeting, we also have Behavior Bites Tidbits, a series of short videos featuring our Inclusion staff. These videos provide information and advice on what to look for and effective strategies that may help address these issues. They are available on our website to everyone.</p> <p>We also launched Behavior Bites for Parents, which mirrored the model we use for Behavior Bites for Educators. We do this twice on Tuesdays. We haven't seen a huge response to this yet. We are working to see what works best for parents.</p> <p>There is still constant turnover in childcare facilities. In focus groups conducted with our Providers, they pointed continually to their new staff's inability or inexperience in dealing with behavior issues in the classroom.</p> <p>Childcare facilities face high staff turnover, and new staff struggle with behavior issues. To help, ELC offers ongoing training and tailored support. We provide CLASS training in English and Spanish, host a Spanish New Educator Bootcamp, and run CDA Academy cohorts. Programs like Directors in Action (DIA) and CLASS Through the Administrative Lens support leadership. The "Behavior is Communication" training, focused on replacing maladaptive behaviors, will be repeated. Additional training covers ASQ, ASQ-SE3, and Full Circle Classroom Strategies to reduce challenging behaviors.</p> <p>Help Me Grow Florida</p>

ELC Broward applied to become an affiliate of Help Me Grow Florida (HMGF), which will allow us to expand developmental screening services to all families with young children, not just those receiving childcare subsidies. HMGF partners with pediatricians and primary care providers to promote awareness of developmental stages, guiding families to use screenings like ASQ, ASQ SE, PSC, and the (Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers) M-CHAT-R/F. HMGF funding will support outreach, follow-up, and guidance for families with developmental concerns. We are pleased to announce that ELC Broward was selected as a successful applicant, and services will begin once the contract is signed. Two staff members will focus on expanding relationships with families, healthcare providers, and referral sources.

Other System Supports

The AD Henderson Foundation has supported several initiatives to assist children and families:

- **Mobile Eye Exams:** Over 700 Pre-K to 3rd-grade children received free vision exams and glasses and replacement glasses if necessary through Miami Lighthouse for the Blind.
- **Mobile Hearing Screenings:** Around 300 children (ages 3-8) have received hearing screenings in 15+ childcare facilities, funded by AD Henderson and provided by the Center for Hearing and Communication.
- **Expanded Assessment Options:** Nova Southeastern University's Unicorn Children's Foundation offers free developmental assessments for children with autism-related behaviors, now increasing capacity with a new psychologist.
- **Peer Support Specialists:** Funded by AD Henderson, assist families referred for evaluations or assessments through Child Find. They help families stay engaged throughout the emotional and sometimes challenging process. Both FDLRS and Early Steps have praised the Specialists for improving follow-through, fostering collaboration with teachers, and supporting children's progress.
- **Other Classroom Supports:** include Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) and Board-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), funded through parents' insurance. These professionals provide therapy in the classroom and one-on-one, based on each child's individual needs.

Richard Campillo shared that he runs a program called Glasses for the Homeless, which is seeing an increase in the number of homeless children. He also highlighted the need for hearing amplifiers for homeless individuals. He suggested scheduling a meeting to explore ways to help fill these gaps.

Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer asked to please include CSC in that when you meet since we are funding the lighthouse for the blind as a match for the school-age kids.

Renee Podolsky expressed that she would like to be included when you meet because there are other opportunities through the relationship with Broward schools.

Ellie Schrot added that it was a great report and is happy with everything happening. She also shared that last Fiscal Year, 23-24, their monthly average of referrals was 33. I had only had 2 months in data for this FY, July, and August, and we are up to 51 monthly referrals. The other thing is that the percentage of children we connect with and get evaluated has increased by 9%. We are excited and continue tracking the referrals and what happens. Thank you, and great work.

CLASS Observations Update:

Our current SR CLASS score average is 5.59, and we have completed 389 of approximately 1000 SR observations.

We also observe every VPK classroom in the county, including our public school classes. No payment differential is currently associated with the VPK CLASS score.

We have completed 241 of an estimated approximately 950 VPK observations to date. We are comfortable with this number, and we are confident we will have all VPK CLASS scores completed on time. The current VPK CLASS score average is 5.57.

Additionally, Allison Metsch reported on the VPK Performance Accountability Update. The state Board of Education approved a new Rule 6M-8.622, which details procedures for DEL to calculate each VPK provider's accountability using performance metrics and assign performance designations. The rule outlines the methodology for assigning performance designations to VPK providers, using metrics like quality, achievement, and learning gains. This new accountability system will begin at the end of the 2024-25 VPK year. DEL must calculate performance metrics and assign designations within 45 days after the program ends.

Florida's Committee for Early Grade Success has developed a more accurate Kindergarten Readiness scoring system, replacing the old method that combined VPK and kindergarten data. The new progress monitoring holds providers accountable for quality instruction and student growth. School year programs assess children three times using the FAST Star Early Literacy test (PM1, PM2, and PM3). Summer programs assess at the start and end of the program. Scores are used to provide targeted support to students, and a score of 707 or higher at PM3 indicates kindergarten readiness. The combination of FAST scores, CLASS scores, and growth from PM1 to PM3 determines the provider's designation.

Starting in January, we'll conduct workshops for Providers to understand Performance Accountability scoring. We're collaborating with Age of Learning, Inc. and Marco Polo Learning to enhance VPK children's education, with 101 in Age of Learning and 87 in Marco Polo. Both programs are offering on-site and Zoom training. Most VPK programs have completed Progress Monitoring 1, and we'll use this data to set baselines and track progress through PM 2 and PM 3. We'll analyze data from schools using the technologies and those that didn't and conduct a general review to better support the county.

Howard Bakalar added that overall, we like these measures. It underscores for the providers the importance of getting a good CLASS Score since CLASS is 50% of the

<p>4. PRC251RB5- Outreach/Advocacy Update</p>	<p>overall measurement. It also brings learning games, like for children who start far behind; it's not just that they get to 710; it's the gains they've made.</p> <p>Monica King asked if there were consequences for those who scored unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Allison Metsch replied that yes, there is. It's called a POP, "Provider on Probation," like an action plan. It's not that immediately you lose your VPK program, it's more of lets give you an improvement plan, with our support, and see how you do next year.</p> <p>Outreach/Advocacy Update</p> <p>Ancel Pratt provided an update on outreach and Advocacy.</p> <p>ELC services and building community relationships, securing additional School Readiness match grants through local outreach and municipal presentations.</p> <p>ELC Broward is excited to join the Help Me Grow Florida network, offering free developmental screenings, care coordination, and parenting resources. A landing page will launch in December 2024, providing families with key tools for child development. The team is preparing through training and collaboration with the Education team.</p> <p>In November, Family Engagement Month was celebrated with a social media campaign to inspire parents with learning tips. The Outreach team has also engaged with the community to promote ELC services.</p> <p>The Broward Bookworms program has distributed 24,000 books in three months, with 4,921 orders processed. For the first time, Scholastic offers bilingual Creole books. Currently, 65% of the program's budget has been spent for the fiscal year.</p>
Unfinished Business	
New Business	Howard Bakalar, CPO announced we will be having our first in-person conference since COVID on Saturday, Feb 22, 2025, at Boyd H. Anderson High School.
Matters from the Chair	None
Matters from the Committee	None
Public Comments	None
Next Meeting	Last week of February 2025
Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM

These minutes contain the action items of the Board meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward. They do not include all of the Committee's discussions or comments on each matter or issue raised during the meeting. A tape recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Corrections from the Committee will be taken before approval at the next meeting.

ITEM #/MEETING:	PRC253RB1 / Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING DATE:	03/03/2025
SUBJECT:	School Readiness Enrollment/Redetermination Update
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Amy Moore, Howard Bakalar

Background Information:

During FY23/24, our team successfully enrolled 4,277 children from the School Readiness waitlist. These enrollment activities enabled us to meet our overall target for the total number of children served within our system. We continued to enroll steadily throughout the year to approach a consistent census of almost 16,000 children in care.

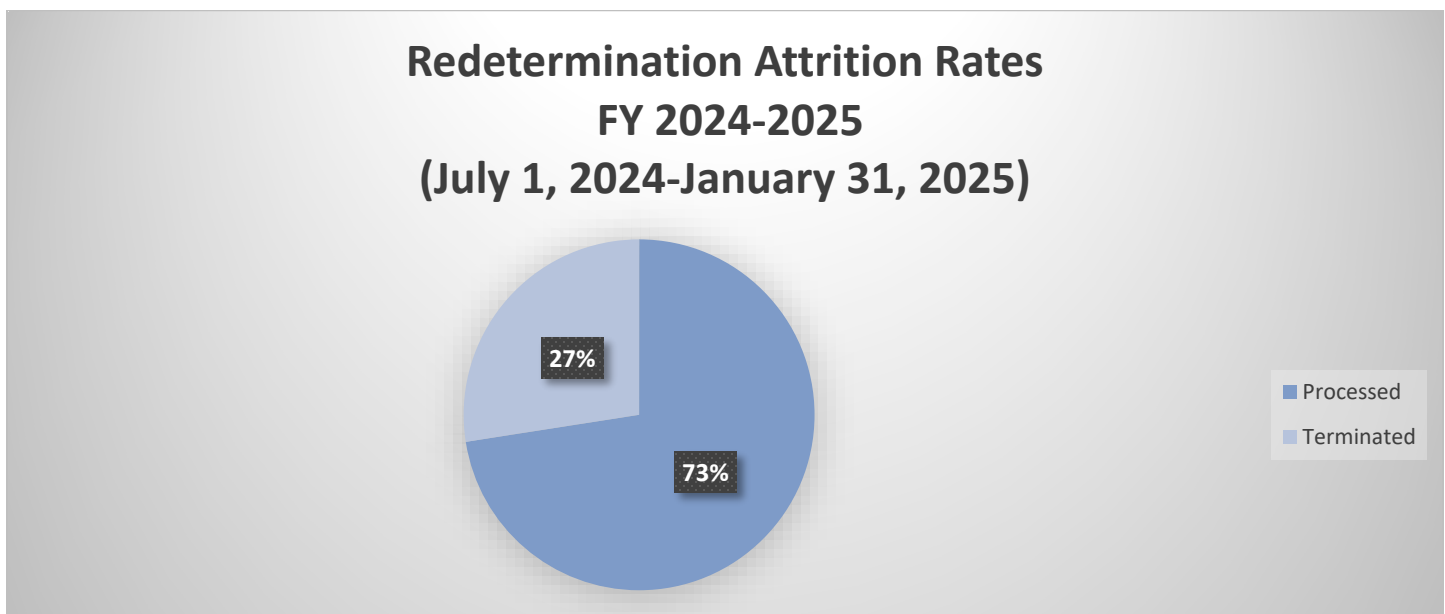
By maintaining a steady pace of enrollments, we have ensured that our system can support a stable amount of children in care at any given time.

Current Status:

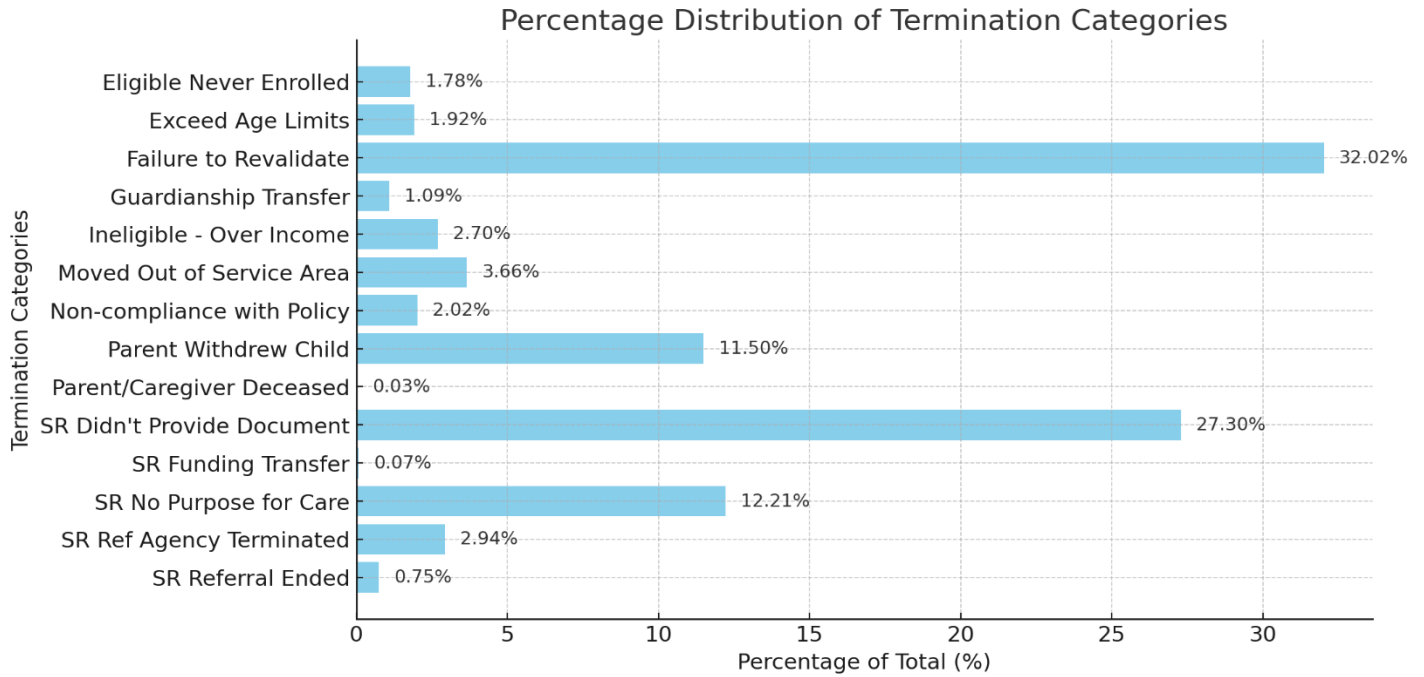
After pausing new enrollments from the Sr wait list in October 2024 we resumed enrolling children from the waitlist on January 29th, 2025. We have since pulled 694 children from the School Readiness (SR) waitlist. To date in this fiscal year, we have selected 3,545 children from the SR waitlist, which has resulted in 1,833 children successfully enrolled in the program. As of February 24, 2025, there are 2,508 children on the SR waiting list.

The number of families we are selecting from the waitlist is smaller compared to our previous activities. While we have resumed pulling potentially eligible families, the selection size is lower than in the past. Our enrollment goals are primarily focused on at least replacing drops, making the rate of attrition a key factor in the overall census of children in the Broward subsidized childcare system.

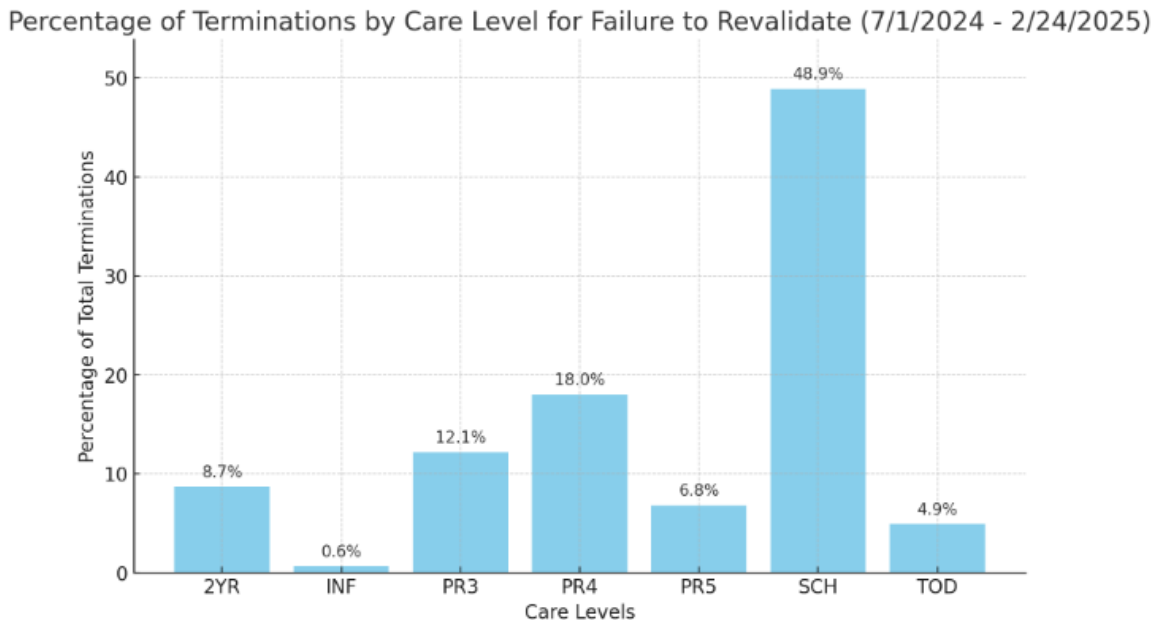
Regarding attrition so far, this fiscal year (July 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025) there were 10,023 children due for School Readiness redetermination. We were able to process (maintain) 7,321 children or 73% of children in service. During the same period 2,700 children or 27% were terminated through the redetermination process.



This fiscal year remains consistent that the number one reason for termination because of the redetermination process remains “failure to revalidate” or otherwise failure to submit **any** documentation to reapply for services, accounting for 32% of all terminations. Additionally, 27% of terminations resulted from families who started the process (submitted some documents) but did not provide all required documents (“SR Didn’t Provide Document”). To help eligible families remain in the program, we have multiple outreach efforts, including phone calls, text messages, and emails, reminding them to submit their required documentation. Additionally, our customer service team is available on the phone and in person to assist families with the submission process if needed.



Despite our efforts to minimize challenges for families to submit for redetermination, we continue to see this trend month after month, which led us to analyze the age distribution of children impacted by terminations. Based on data in the statewide reporting system Tableau from the past three quarters covering the period from **July 1, 2024, through February 24, 2025**, we looked at terminations for the #1 reason “Failure to Revalidate” by the child’s care level. The data suggests that almost half (48.9%) of the children terminated with the reason code “Failure to Revalidate” are school aged children:



Families with school-aged children may not engage in the redetermination process, due to a lower perceived urgency for subsidized care as children have transitioned into school settings which may offer more options for childcare. Our goal remains to reduce preventable terminations wherever possible while ensuring compliance with program guidelines. While we will continue to examine this data to identify potential areas for adjustment, it is important to note that we are limited in our ability to determine how many of these families may still be eligible if they do not submit any documentation or complete the redetermination process. We will develop survey questions for families who fail to revalidate or do not complete the process to better understand why. Based on the results we will make additional adjustments in our case management and outreach efforts as needed.

Data continues to suggest at least compared to other reasons that termination from services due to families being over-income remains low (2.7%) so far, this fiscal year. We currently have 26 children enrolled in the SR PLUS program. The number of eligible families is growing incrementally in our local system and across the state. There are some early indicators that additional money will be made available for this program into the next fiscal year, including rolling over any unspent funds to further support implementation across the state. Broward remains one of the coalitions with the highest number of children enrolled in this new program and remains committed to offering it to families who meet the established criteria.

As anticipated, our pause on enrolling new children from the SR waitlist has slightly increased the net number of monthly enrollments in the Vulnerable Population childcare program, funded by CSC. Now that we have slowly begun to enroll children from the School Readiness waitlist, we are transitioning some SR eligible families from the Vulnerable Population program. We continue to partner with CSC keeping them up to date regarding enrollment activities. Enrollment in smaller state funded programs, such as at-risk and other mandated categories, remains steady. Our enrollment strategy is continuing to at least replace drops because of attrition adjusting the number of children selected from the wait list to align with budgetary allowances or constraints. Our operation remains nimble with the ability to pivot as needed in response to any future developments.

Customer Service Call Center and Child Care Resource and Referral

Our Customer Service team is a critical component in carrying out our enrollment activities, serving as the “front door” to all our services. Customer Service Specialists are available to assist families in person, over the phone, and through chat, ensuring they receive the necessary support and information to apply for or maintain their services. In addition to assisting families, the team also supports childcare providers and partner agencies.

We handle a high volume of calls daily. Through our new phone system provider, Intermedia, we continuously monitor call data throughout the day to provide coaching, operational support, and assistance with escalated inquiries. If a team member cannot fully address a customer’s question, they utilize a “ticket” system in our CRM to route the inquiry to the appropriate staff member, who has up to 48 hours to respond. Additionally, families can access Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) services through the call center to receive guidance on selecting a quality provider or accessing community resources. For those who prefer self-service, CCR&R requests can also be submitted online, allowing families to conduct a childcare search independently if they choose not to engage in a full CCR&R consultation.

To provide perspective on our call volume this fiscal year, we have handled a total of 51,476 calls, answering 86% of them. Of these, 4,097 calls were related to CCR&R services, resulting in 1,980 childcare listings provided so far this fiscal year.

Our Customer Service team is truly the heartbeat of our operation, as call volume and lobby traffic are directly influenced by activities within Family Services and across the organization.



ITEM #/MEETING:	PRC253RB2 / Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING DATE:	03/03/2025
SUBJECT:	VPK Enrollment Update
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Amy Moore, Howard Bakalar

Background Information:

Florida’s Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program is free for all 4-year-old children living in the State of Florida. During the school year, 540 instructional hours (usually 3 hours per school day) are allotted for VPK learning. While the vast majority of families who take advantage of VPK do so during the school year, Summer VPK is also available in a much smaller number of preschools and School District sites. During the summer, 300 hours are allotted for learning.

For the 2023-2024 program year, we approved 15,272 school-year applications and 632 summer applications. This resulted in 13,824 children enrolled in the school-year program and 397 children enrolled in the summer program, bringing the total number of children participating in VPK for FY 2023-2024 to 14,221.

Current Status:

As of February 25, 2025, we have approved 14,232 schoolyear VPK applications for the 2024-2025 program year, as well as 172 summer applications. Currently, there are 12,343 students enrolled in the VPK program for FY 2024-2025.

With the launch of the 2025-2026 program year applications, we have approved 5,791 school-year VPK applications and 72 summer VPK applications. Our Communications and Outreach team is actively working to increase awareness of the program. We are on track to approve a similar number of applications compared to the previous year. The VPK Estimating Conference is scheduled for March 6, 2025, and we look forward to receiving the conference results and aligning with the estimates set for our county.



ITEM #/MEETING:	PRC253RB3 / Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING DATE:	03/03/2025
SUBJECT:	Education & Quality
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	N/A
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Allison Metsch, Howard Bakalar

A. The Broward Early Childhood Education Conference 2025

We held the biggest and best early childhood conference at Boyd H. Anderson High School on February 22, 2025. It was the first time since 2019 that we held the conference in person. We are proud to share that it was a successful day of learning for all. We had approximately 560 attendees, 25 workshops which were presented by both our education staff and community partners and 14 vendor tables. We partnered with the Department of Health on Vaccinations, KidCare and Tobacco Prevention, Early Steps, Children’s Services Council, The Journey Institute and more. The feedback was positive and that is mostly due to the enthusiasm and excitement from **ALL** the ELC staff that worked the event. Even though it was an educational training event, several other ELC departments participated and volunteered. Thank you to Laurie Sallarulo for speaking and several other board members that attended.
#elcbroward #browardisthebest

B. Help Me Grow Florida

As was discussed at the last meeting, ELC Broward had applied and was awarded to become a Help Me Grow Florida (HMGF) affiliate. Being an HMGF affiliate would allow us to expand our developmental screening services to serve the general population of families with young children, rather than only those families receiving childcare subsidies. HMGF believes in building partnerships with pediatricians and other primary care providers serving families with young children to promote both knowledge of and focus on developmental stages for young children. Families are encouraged and guided to utilize the developmental screens ASQ and ASQ SE which are found on their statewide website and additional screens such as the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) and the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT-R/F) are available in person. Funding from HMGF will allow ELC Broward to provide outreach to families to utilize these screens. We will also provide follow-up and guidance for families whose screens show possible developmental concerns.

We have hired a part-time manager, who will oversee the contracting requirements and implementation. We have also hired a full-time Care Coordinator, per HMGF this position must be full-time. We have secured our first Physician Champion (PC) through Pediatric Associates and will be working to add at least one other PC. The staff is almost finished with all HMGF onboarding and training. The HMG Broward website is scheduled to be live on February 27th. We will now start planning/implementing our outreach events and doctor visits!

C. CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) Update

School Readiness

As required by the Division of Early Learning, all ELC’s use the CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) tool to assess School Readiness (SR) Providers who have more than 20% School Readiness enrolled children and/or those who have received a CLASS 1 violation. The tool looks at the interactions between the children and the teachers, and overall classroom management. We observe 50% of each care level and schools receive a composite score between 1 and 7, any school scoring less than a 4.0 cannot contract with the ELC. A provider may receive an additional Quality Performance Incentive (QPI) differential payment for each enrolled School Readiness child based on their score. If you score between a 4.5 to 4.99, the differential is 4%. If you score between a 5 to 5.99, the differential is 7% and lastly, scoring between a 6 to 7 is a 10% differential.

To date, we have completed 681 of an estimated approximately 1000 School Readiness observations. Our current countywide average score is 5.51.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

In July 2022, the Division of Early Learning required that all VPK classrooms be observed also using the CLASS tool, both

during the school year and summer. We observe every VPK classroom in the county, including our public-school classes. There is no payment differential currently associated with the VPK CLASS score.

To date, we have completed 518 of an estimated approximately 950 VPK observations. We are comfortable with this number, and we are confident we will have all VPK CLASS scores completed on time. The current countywide VPK CLASS score average is 5.56.

D. VPK Performance Accountability Update

The State Board of Education approved a new Rule 6M-8.622, Florida Administrative Code, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Provider Performance Metric and Designation on August 21, 2024, with a September 24th effective date. The new rule details procedures for DEL to calculate each VPK provider’s accountability using performance metric and assignment of performance designation. The rule outlines the methodology, and three components and metrics used to calculate and assign the performance designations, which includes quality, achievement and learning gains. New VPK program accountability will be applied at the end of the 2024-25 VPK program year. DEL is required to calculate performance metrics for each VPK provider and assign each provider a performance designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the VPK school year and summer programs, respectively.

Florida’s Committee for Early Grade Success has been working for the past few years to create a more accurate scoring system for Kindergarten Readiness. The prior measurement relied on a combination of data obtained during the VPK school year and during the first 30 days of kindergarten.

The new VPK provider progress monitoring holds providers accountable for quality instruction which leads to children learning growth and readiness for kindergarten. To track progress, school year programs test their children three times using the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Star Early Literacy. The first progress monitoring (PM1) occurs in the first 30 days of the program year, progress monitoring 2 (PM2) occurs at the midway point and progress monitoring 3 (PM3) occurs the last 30 days of the program (PM3). In summer, students are tested at the beginning of the program (PM1) and at the end (PM3). Each assessment provides information for the program to prompt support for their students. If students need extra help, the program can direct resources to help them before kindergarten.

The FAST STAR Early Literacy is scored on a Unified Scaled Score (USS) between 200 to 1100. Children in Florida who receive a score of 707 or higher at PM3 demonstrate kindergarten readiness. This is in combination with the CLASS score and how much growth children demonstrate from PM1 to PM3, determines the school’s designation.

- The quality classroom instruction score uses the CLASS Composite Program Assessment Score. (50%)
- The child achievement score is calculated as the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate kindergarten readiness on their progress monitoring 3 (PM3). (20%)
- The learning gains score calculates learning gains as a growth rate of 12 points or more between their PM1 and PM3. (30%)

Using the data from the 2022 – 2023 VPK year for **informational purposes only**, we are proud to report that the majority of our schools either meet expectations or are higher in their designation. We are also seeing the correlation between a higher CLASS score and a higher program designation.

Program Designation	Provider Performance Metric	# of Providers In category	Average CLASS Score of Providers in category	Final Metric Average
Excellent	61 – 100	153	5.74	70
Above Expectations	46 – 60	177	5.34	53
Meets Expectations	28 – 45	117	5.00	38
Below Expectations	16 – 27	26	4.70	22
Unsatisfactory	0 – 15	6	4.43	14



We started facilitating workshops in January for our Providers to understand the Performance Accountability scoring. In March we plan to conduct a few more workshops, a mix of in-person and zoom.

We are also working with both Age of Learning, Inc. and Marco Polo Learning, the two technology resources we have contracted with to enhance VPK children's learning. We have 101 in Age of Learning and 87 in Marco Polo. Both programs have been doing a mix of on-site and zoom trainings. The majority of our VPK programs have just completed their Progress Monitoring 1. We will use this data, once it is available, to set the baseline for the participating schools and track subsequent learning through the additional Progress Monitoring (PM 2 and PM3). We will be looking at data from schools that participated in one of the technologies, those that did not participate and a general review to see how we can best support our county.



ITEM #/MEETING:	PRC253RB4 / Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING DATE:	03/03/2025
SUBJECT:	Outreach/Advocacy Update
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Ancel Pratt III, Howard Bakalar

Background Information:

The Communications and Outreach team has adjusted its focus this fiscal year due to budget constraints and the pause in School Readiness enrollment. While we had scaled back a bit on active promotions for the School Readiness program, we have continued prioritizing awareness-building efforts and strengthening relationships with community stakeholders. Now that we are enrolling again, those relationships have helped us get back on track quickly. Additionally, we have focused on promoting other key services, particularly the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program, to maximize enrollment and ensure families are aware of the free educational opportunities available for their four-year-olds.

Current Status:

Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

The Communications and Outreach team has increased its efforts to promote VPK, aiming to exceed the **VPK Estimating Conference** enrollment goal for Broward County.

- **Digital Marketing:** A paid advertising campaign began on **January 1, 2025**, driving higher traffic to the VPK landing page compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. Paid ads are scheduled to run through **June 30, 2025**, ensuring consistent outreach.
- **Community Engagement:** VPK flyers and materials are distributed at all outreach events, as well as during the **Provider Leadership and Networking (PLAN) meetings** to encourage providers to support awareness efforts among parents.
- **Partnerships:** The team continues leveraging relationships with community partners and childcare providers to promote VPK enrollment, ensuring that more families take advantage of this free program.

With these ongoing efforts, ELC Broward aims to **meet or exceed** the VPK enrollment target for the fiscal year, reinforcing our commitment to ensuring access to quality early learning opportunities for all eligible children in Broward County.

Broward Bookworms Program

The Broward Bookworms program continues to be a vital initiative in promoting early literacy and increasing access to books for young children in Broward County. Under our new contract with Scholastic, the **annual program budget is set at \$200,000**, allowing for **approximately 6,500 Bookworm bundles** to be shipped to children throughout the county. As of **February 27, 2025**, we have successfully shipped and paid for **over 6,100 Bookworm bundles**, reaching thousands of young readers in our community.

Given the high demand and the program’s popularity, the **ELC Finance team is preparing a request for board approval for an additional \$75,000 in funding**. If approved, this will allow us to sustain the program through the remainder of the fiscal year, ensuring continued access to books for Broward families through **June 30, 2025**.

The Communications team continues to promote Broward Bookworms through social media, email campaigns, and community outreach events to ensure more families can take advantage of this opportunity.