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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARION COUNTY, FL –In preparation of proposed funding cuts by the State of Florida to the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, it may be necessary to dis-enroll children from the school readiness program on July 1, 2011.

On May 2, 2011, an informational letter from Coalition Executive Director, Roseann Fricks, was mailed to all parents of children ages 6-13 currently enrolled in the Marion County subsidy (financial assistance for childcare) program for low-income, working families. Due to anticipated decreases in funds available to the Coalition through the State of Florida, it may be necessary for the Coalition to dis-enroll children in this age group effective July 1, 2011.

The Coalition Board of Directors wanted to provide this information as soon as possible to insure parents have adequate time to pursue other options for the summer months, if necessary.

Parents are encouraged to research other available summer programs. A parent summer planner is available at www.ocala.com – on the lower left side of the homepage. Additionally, Family Times Magazine (enjoyfamilytimes.com) will publish its annual Summer Activity Guide on May 20, 2011.

As soon as the Coalition staff is notified of Marion County's school readiness budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, parents will be notified if it will be necessary to dis-enroll children from the program. This would not affect children enrolled in the VPK program.

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