



OCTOBER PROVIDER MEETING AGENDA

Celebration Announcements- Lilianna Howard

- Give For Marion Results

Partner Updates- Lilianna Howard

ELC Updates – Elizabeth Deola

- Federal Reserve Small Business Survey

VPK/SR Program Assessment (CLASS) – Melissa Maysonet

- Important CLASS Reminders:
 - Two Weeks Window
 - Selection of three blackout dates
 - Classroom Schedules
- CLASS Tips:
 - Supporting Children's Thinking
 - Scaffolding Children's Learning

VPK Updates- Janet Honor

- Progress Monitoring- Instructional Planning-Student/Class Reports
- VPK Substitute Tracking Form
- VPK FAST Deactivation Form
- 3RD Annual Truckin It To Preschool-Provider Participation

School Readiness Updates – Mary Brewster & Cheyenne Fort

- CLASS Composite Scores/SR Contract Amendments
- 2027-2028-E-Verify Forms

Compliance Corner – Michaela Powell

- Attendance Documentation

Professional Development – Lilianna Howard & Leigh Anne Belcher

- Professional Development Updates
- SR Provider Staff Training Day & Prior approval for Agendas Required



2026 Small Business Credit Survey

Child care business leaders, be heard. What are your expectations for profitability, hiring, and more over the next 12 months? What have been your recent experiences in pursuing financing? Your input can shape policy. The Small Business Credit Survey is open through November 13. Take 12 minutes to complete it today!

https://fedreserveboard.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_38k9xZy8ayEERue?orgID=20261036

The survey is open to businesses currently in operation, those recently closed, and those about to launch. All responses are confidential.



RESPOND NOW!





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Hand-Up Tuition Assistance Program



Information for Early Learning Centers

What We Do

We offer local quality early learning centers with a published CLASS score of 4.5 or higher the opportunity to help provide a **HAND-UP** for hard-working families who are not receiving government pre-VPK assistance, and who are struggling to pay for preschool tuition for their child(ren) at quality centers. For families who qualify based on financial criteria, we will pay **\$200 per month** per qualifying child directly to the early learning center to help offset a portion of the family's monthly tuition for each child aged from birth until they enter VPK.

How Applicants Apply

We will provide centers with an Income Eligibility Chart and Pre-Eligibility Forms. Interested families will first consult the Income Eligibility Chart, and if their income fits within the stated parameters for family size, you'll give them our Pre-Eligibility Form. You or the parent can then email that completed form to us at margarita@santorofoundation.org. If we give preliminary approval, we'll send our full application to the family, and notify the family and the center of their approval status. If approved, our help will begin immediately! You'll then simply email a single itemized invoice to us each month for \$200 per approved child, which we will pay promptly directly to your center and which you will apply to that family's account.

About us

This private foundation was established to help ALL people become their best selves by promoting **essential personal life skills** education starting in early childhood and continuing into adulthood. We do this by ADVOCATING for quality early learning, EDUCATING about the need for students to learn **essential personal life skills**, and INVESTING in children and families in our community through our tuition assistance program.

Why we do it

We believe every child deserves quality early learning, including **essential personal life skills**, during early childhood and into adulthood.

We want to monetarily and emotionally support hard-working families with preschool-aged children by reducing some of their financial pressure so they can provide a quality early childhood education for their children, and in doing so, **help them to thrive!**



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Hand-Up Tuition Assistance

Procedures for Centers

First Steps

After identifying potentially qualifying participants (*new or existing enrollees*), give them: 1) our parent info flyer, 2) our income eligibility chart, and 3) our Pre-Eligibility Form so you and they can determine whether they qualify to apply. If they **DO** appear to qualify, you or they can email the completed pre-eligibility form to us, and if they qualify, we will then send them our full application.

*All completed pre-eligibility forms are to be emailed to
margarita@santorofoundation.org*

We will review the completed application and substantiating documents after the applicant provides them, and we will notify you and the applicant of their approval status. When approved, we'll have a virtual meeting and then our assistance begins immediately!

What We Need From You

- Each month you will email a "bill" or invoice to us including an itemized listing of all current participants, and we will then submit payment to your center for an amount totaling \$200 per approved participating child.
- Upon receipt of our assistance payment each month, you will apply a \$200 per month credit to the account of each child enrolled in our assistance program.
- When any participating child/family leaves your center or becomes eligible for VPK or enters kindergarten, you will immediately notify us that they are no longer participating in our program, and cease billing us for the child(ren) leaving the program.
- ***That's it!***

We will periodically reach out to participants to get their feedback about how this program is making a difference for their families.



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Hand-Up Tuition Assistance Program Info for Parents

About us

What We Do

We offer our program to local quality early learning centers and provide a **HAND-UP** for hard-working families who are not receiving government pre-K assistance, and who are struggling to pay for preschool tuition for their child(ren). For families who qualify based on financial criteria, we will pay **\$200 per month** per qualifying child directly to the early learning center to help offset a portion of the family's monthly tuition for each child from birth until they qualify for VPK.

This private foundation was established to help ALL people become their best selves by promoting **essential personal life skills** training starting in early childhood and continuing into adulthood. We do this by **ADVOCATING** for quality early learning for all children, **EDUCATING** about the need for **essential personal life skills** training, and **INVESTING** in children and families in our community through our tuition assistance program.

How Applicants Apply

To find out if your family is eligible to apply for our program: 1) check our Income Eligibility Chart your center received from us. If your family's financial situation falls within our guidelines, 2) complete our Pre-Eligibility Inquiry form, which your center also has. You or your center can then email the completed form to us at margarita@santorofoundation.org. If we give preliminary approval, we will email our full application to you; 3) return the completed full application along with the required supporting documents as instructed on the form. If approved, a few additional requirements must also be met, including a brief virtual meeting with us after you are approved; a review of our website and your feedback on two short videos; registering for the Vroom app and reviewing their site; and finally, we must receive a photo of your child for our file. We will notify you and the center of your approval status, and if/when you are approved and the above is complete, our help will begin immediately!

Why we do it

We believe every child deserves quality early learning, including **essential personal life skills** training, during early childhood and into adulthood. We want to monetarily and emotionally support hard-working families with small children by reducing some of their financial pressure so they can provide a quality early childhood education for their children and in doing so, **help them to thrive!**



Helping people become their best selves.

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Please provide the following information to see if your family is eligible to apply for our preschool *Tuition Assistance Program*. All information will be kept confidential and only used by the SELF committee:

Name of preschool aged child(ren) aged birth through 4 years (or until VPK qualification age, if applicable) for whom you are seeking tuition assistance:

Child 1 name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Child 2 name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Name of current preschool center if already enrolled: _____

If not already enrolled, name & location of preschool center you plan to enroll your child(ren) in:

What county do you live in? _____

Family's total gross yearly income: \$ _____

Total number of family members in the household: Adults (18+) _____ Children (0-17) _____

Number of working adults in the household: _____

Name of person completing this form: _____

Relationship to child(ren) _____

Best phone number: _____

Email address (**please write legibly so we can contact you**): _____

**Please email this form with all above information completed to
margarita@santorofoundation.org**

This section is to be completed by SELF:

Applicant is _____ Eligible _____ Ineligible to apply for the Hand-Up Tuition Assistance Program.

Applicant notified on: _____

Notes: _____ www.selfnow.org

Santoro Education Lifeskills Foundation Hand-Up Tuition Assistance Eligibility Determination *



Sumter County Residents

Annual income before taxes must be less than:	1 Child	One Adult 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (1 working) 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (both working) 2 Children	3 Children
	\$77,717	\$98,109	\$119,774	\$75,088	\$80,416	\$91,098	\$88,839	\$107,170	\$126,262

Figures based on 2026 chart found here: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/12119>

Marion County Residents

Annual income before taxes must be less than:	1 Child	One Adult 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (1 working) 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (both working) 2 Children	3 Children
	\$72,321	\$90,126	\$110,930	\$71,761	\$75,942	\$88,584	\$83,282	\$99,014	\$117,864

Figures based on 2026 chart found here: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/12083>

Lake County Residents

Annual income before taxes must be less than:	1 Child	One Adult 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (1 working) 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (both working) 2 Children	3 Children
	\$80,495	\$101,128	\$124,418	\$79,403	\$84,909	\$97,594	\$91,892	\$109,659	\$130,017

Figures based on 2026 chart found here: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/12069>

Pasco County Residents

Annual income before taxes must be less than:	1 Child	One Adult 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (1 working) 2 Children	3 Children	1 Child	Two Adults (both working) 2 Children	3 Children
	\$80,466	\$100,765	\$123,698	\$78,940	\$84,243	\$97,616	\$91,577	\$109,142	\$129,201

Figures based on 2026 chart found here: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/12101>

** We will consider some families with higher incomes based on extenuating circumstances, such as family member(s) with special needs, major medical expenses, etc. on a discretionary, case-by-case basis.*



CLASS Updates

Important CLASS Reminders

- **Two-Week Observation Window:** Review the observation window and ensure classroom schedules and staffing are accurate during this period.
- **Three Blackout Dates:** Select three dates when the program will not be available for observation, such as holidays, non-instructional days, or scheduled closures.
- **Classroom Schedules:** Ensure classroom schedules are current and accurately reflect the days and times classrooms are in operation.

Your communication and partnership help make the CLASS observation process smoother for everyone!

CLASS Tips:

Supporting Children's Thinking

Encourage children to explain their ideas, make predictions, and answer open-ended questions. Give children time to think and respond.

One of the areas we want to see during classroom interactions is that children are given the opportunities to actually think, rather than simply recall an answer.

For example, instead of asking a question where there is only one correct answer, think about how you can encourage children to explain their ideas. Questions like “Why do you think that?”, “How do you know?”, “What do you think will happen?”, or “What do you notice?” give children an opportunity to explain their thinking.

Another important piece is giving children enough time to respond. Sometimes we ask a question and, after two seconds, we answer it ourselves or just continue with the lesson because the child hasn’t responded yet. We want to give the children the time to process the question and formulate their response.

We also want to encourage children to make predictions, comparisons, and connections. For example, if you are reading a story about animals, instead of just asking, “What animal is this?” you might ask, “How is this animal different from the one we saw yesterday?” That takes the conversation a little deeper.

The goal isn’t to ask difficult questions just for the sake of asking them. It’s about creating opportunities for children to think, explain, and share their ideas.



CLASS Tips (cont.):

Scaffolding Children's Learning

Provide hints, prompts, and support when children are struggling instead of immediately providing the answer. Build on what children already know.

Scaffolding is really about providing children with the support they need to be successful without simply doing the work for them.

Think about a child who is struggling with a puzzle. We could immediately point to the correct piece and say, "That's the one." But instead, we could give the child a hint. We might say, "Look at the shape of that piece. Where do you think it might fit?" We are helping the child think through the problem.

Scaffolding can look different depending on what the child needs. Sometimes a child needs a hint. Sometimes they need a question. Sometimes they need a demonstration or a little assistance before trying again.

It's also important to recognize when children are confused or struggling. Those moments are actually opportunities for us to provide support and extend their learning.

We want to avoid doing everything for the child. Instead, think about asking yourself: "What can I say or do that will help this child figure it out?"

The goal is to provide enough support to move the child forward and, when they are ready, allow them to take over and do independently.

Supporting children's thinking and scaffolding their learning are important because these interactions help children become active participants in their own learning. When we give children opportunities to explain their ideas, solve problems, and work through challenges with the right amount of support, we are helping them develop confidence, independence, and deeper understanding. These everyday interactions can make a meaningful difference in how children learn and develop.

VPK Updates

Progress Monitoring- Instructional Planning-Student/Class Reports

The Instructional Planning - Class Report provides a list of recommended skills for a group or class based on the median Scaled Score from their most recent student activity. (The Instructional Planning - Student Report does this for individual students.) Providers may use these reports to help with large groups, small groups, and individual planning for VPK students.

VPK FAST Deactivation Form

VPK students tested outside of instructional VPK hours must be retested within the providers instructional hours. All VPK providers will need to use the VPK FAST Deactivation Request Form. ELCMC has received the following guidance from the Division of Early Learning.

1. Can the provider retest the students now, or must they wait until the assessment deactivation request has been processed and approved?
Providers **do not** need to wait for confirmation of deactivation to move forward with reassessing the child.
2. If multiple students require deactivation, can the provider submit all students on a single deactivation request form, or is a separate form required for each student?
The instructions are below to submit a bulk deactivation request if there are more than 5 deactivation requests for a single site.
 - Email vpkfast@del.fldoe.org with the subject line: VPK FAST Bulk Deactivation Request – PROVIDER NAME (PROVIDER ID #).
 - The email should contain an Excel spreadsheet with all fields from the VPK Provider FAST Testing Deactivation Request Form duplicated exactly, **except for child name**, which should be **substituted with the child's FLEID**. If the child does not have a FLEID, please use the Person ID.
 - In the spreadsheet, add a column that indicates the date of the assessment in need of deactivation.

VPK Substitute Tracking Form

- ❖ A VPK substitute instructor may be assigned to substitute for an absent lead instructor for no more than 30% of the VPK Program.

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- ❖ The maximum allowable hours for a VPK substitute teacher in a school year program are 162hrs.
 - ❖ The maximum allowable hours for a VPK substitute teacher in the summer program are 90hrs.
 - ❖ It is the VPK provider's responsibility to maintain the hours a substitute is assigned to each classroom. When submitting VPK attendance the provider must upload this from into Blue Jeans as well.

VPK Classroom Ratios

- ❖ VPK classroom ratios are 1:11, and it is important that providers remain in compliance with the required ratios at all times. If ELC arrives at your site for a monitoring, the assigned VPK lead instructor, and aide should remain in the classroom. Staff should not leave the classroom to assist with the monitoring visit or other matters if doing so would cause the classroom to be out of ratio.
- ❖ If an assigned VPK aide, or lead is absent, the provider must ensure appropriate coverage is in place. An approved substitute must be assigned to the VPK classroom and properly added to in the VPK APP to reflect the staff member covering the class.
- ❖ Please remember that maintaining the required VPK staff-to-child ratio is the provider's responsibility. Proper planning for staff absences and monitoring visits will help ensure your program remains in compliance.

3RD Annual Truckin It To Preschool-Provider Participation

- ❖ Our third annual Truckin It To Preschool event will take place on January 30th at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center. This event will support VPK providers with their recruitment efforts for children and families, your participation in creating an informative booth showcasing your Child Care program would be appreciated.
- ❖ Please let us know if you would like to participate in this event please email quality@elc-marion.org

Tips & Strategies for Maintaining Teacher Student Ratios for Child Care Providers

By Janet Honor; MAEd- Provider Relations Manager
Early Learning Coalition of Marion County



As a former Head Start teacher, I understand how busy the classroom can be. Between managing routines, meeting children's needs, and supporting families, it can sometimes feel challenging to stay in ratio at all times. However, maintaining proper ratios isn't just a compliance requirement; it plays a key factor in committed safety, quality, and trust for the children and families that you serve.

1. Start Your Day Prepared

Check staffing schedules before children arrive. Make sure all classrooms are covered, and substitutes are confirmed. Communicate early if you are short-staffed, so adjustments can be made before the day begins.

3. Use Supportive Staff Wisely

Floaters, kitchen staff, and aides are part of your team. Use them strategically. Have them deliver meals, assist with transitions, to cover short breaks when needed appropriately.

5. Keep Ratios Visible

Post your required classroom ratio in plain sight. Visual reminders play a key role in helping everyone stay accountable. This also makes it easier for substitutes or floaters to know expectations quickly.

2. Assign Clear Roles During Transitions

During bathroom breaks, outdoor play or center changes assign one teacher to lead and another to supervise. Always count children before leaving and after arriving. These small routines prevent mistakes.

4. Use Communication Tools

Keep walkie-talkies or phones available to request help when needed. Notify administration immediately if coverage is low.

6. Supervise During Nap/Rest Time

Ratios apply during nap time. Use that time for observation, planning, or note-taking but keep alert and supervise on your students in the classroom. If a child isn't sleepy, don't force them to nap. Instead, allow them to rest quietly on their mat with a soft book or comfort item that is age-appropriate and safe for rest time. This helps children learn self-regulation while maintaining a calm environment.

7. Keep Attendance Accurate & Updated

Sign-in and sign-out sheets are good tools for tracking ratios. Update them throughout the day to reflect who's present and verify counts regularly.

You can also assign an "Attendance Helper" in your classroom. Students love having classroom jobs, and this simple role helps them build responsibility and awareness of their peers. It is a fun and inclusive way to help students recognize who is present and who is absent while reinforcing classroom community and daily routines.

8. Stay Focused During Monitoring Visits

If licensing, ELC, or another organization visits your site, you may not have the ability to leave your classroom to escort them. Keeping your classroom in ratio takes priority. Have an assigned staff member available for record access or visitor assistance.

9. Teamwork Supports Ratios

Staying in ratios is not just about numbers. Supporting each other plays a key factor in building a solid foundation with your staff and students. A quick check-in, covering a short break, or providing help during transition can make a significant difference.

10. Communicate with Parents About Safe Classroom Practices

Partnering with families is an important part of maintaining safety and classroom ratios. For older students (ages 3 and up) encourage parents to talk with their children about the importance of staying with their class, listening to their teachers, and practicing safe choices throughout the day. Children this age are learning independence, reminders at home can strengthen routines at school.

Provider Updates

CLASS Composite Scores/SR Contract Amendments

CLASS observations are conducted annually. A provider's composite score determines the applicable payment differential. Please note the following Program Assessment CLASS score ranges:

- ❖ 4.00 to 4.99: Providers do not qualify for a differential.
- ❖ 5.00 to 5.99: Providers earn a 7% payment differential for all care levels.
- ❖ 6.00 to 7.00: Providers earn a 10% payment differential for all care levels.

When a provider receives a new composite score, the score and corresponding differential are reflected in the provider's SR contract through a contract amendment. For example, if a provider had a score of 6.13 for the 2025-2026 program year and then received a score of 5.99 for the 2026-2027 program year, a contract amendment would be initiated to remove the previous composite score and 10% payment differential and replace them with the new composite score and 7% payment differential.

After a contract amendment is initiated, the provider will receive an email from ELCMC staff with detailed instructions for signing the contract. The provider is responsible for signing and submitting the contract in a timely manner.

2027-2028 E-Verify Forms

January 1 marks the beginning of a new year and the creation of 2027-2028 provider profiles. To help providers prepare, we have created the 2027-2028 E-Verify Form. A copy is included in your packet, and the Provider Relations Department will also email providers a blank copy. As a best practice, please complete and notarize the E-Verify Form, then upload it to the provider profile. When the new profile is created, all documents will roll over, helping ensure that profiles are processed in a timely manner.



AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS

Provider Site Name: _____ ☐ Private ☐ Public

ELC: Marion County

EFSMOD Provider ID No. _____

The undersigned does, by his/her oath solemnly swear and affirm that he/she is

the _____ [title] of _____

[Provider/School District] and as such officer or agent of such entity and is duly authorized to make this affidavit on behalf of said entity. On behalf of such entity and pursuant to the authority recited herein, the undersigned does further solemnly swear and affirm and that said entity:

1. Has contracted with the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County to provide School Readiness and/or Voluntary Prekindergarten services, with a contract expiration date of _ June 30, 2028
2. Is enrolled and actively using the E-Verify system; and
3. Does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with any person who is an "unauthorized alien" as that term is defined in 8 U.S.C. 1324a (h)(3).*

The undersigned affirms, under penalty of perjury, that all statements made herein are true and correct.

Signature

Printed Name

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF [_____]

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me, by [] physical presence or [] online notarization, this _____ day of [_____], 20____, by [_____], who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Notary Public – State of Florida

My Commission Expires: _____

****8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3) Definition of unauthorized alien***

"As used in this section, the term "unauthorized alien" means with respect to the employment of an alien at a particular time, that the alien is not at that time either

(A) An alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or

(B) Authorized to be so employed by this chapter or by the Attorney General."



Compliance Corner

Per Rule 6M-4.500(1)(c): Daily attendance documentation must be maintained by each SR provider based on the terms of the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract, specified in Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C. **The provider must record daily child attendance using a paper sign-in and sign-out form or electronic attendance-tracking system** that is maintained at the provider site to validate the attendance data. For electronic attendance systems, the provider must backup records on a regular basis to safeguard against loss. **The sign-in and sign-out forms must contain the following information:**

1. Provider's name;

2. Child's first and last name;

3. Time signed in and signed out;

4. Date (month, day, year); and,

5. An authorized signature or electronic attendance-tracking system that records the date, child's name, and electronic signature, card swipe, entry of a personal identification number, or similar daily action taken by the parent or other person dropping off or picking up the child to, or from, the provider site. An authorized signature, paper or electronic, includes provider designee for children who are transported via school to or from the provider site or a parent or person authorized by the parent as documented in writing and on file with the provider.

For example, the SISO may show a child attending before school care from 7-9 and after school care from 2-5 on the same day. Providers are only to be reimbursed for authorized child care hours and not hours spent in the microschool or other program.

School aged children who are enrolled in online education or home education programs are not eligible for FT SR care. SR funds are limited to subsidizing child care services. Homeschooling or a home education is an alternative to K-12 public school.

Rule 6M-4.500, F.A.C., limits FT SR provider reimbursements for school-aged children who attend school to public school holidays, school closures, summer closures, or teacher in service days when FT care is authorized. Providers may offer different learning programs (for example, SR, VPK, K-12 micro schooling, etc.) and receive funds for the hours during which an eligible child receives services for each program. Providers cannot receive payment from two different programs for the same hours.

DCF Inspections/VPK

The Coalition receives licensing inspection reports upon completion and reviews them for Health and Safety violations, VPK staff-to-child ratios, and classroom teacher assignments.

Please ensure that your program consistently adheres to the required VPK staff-to-child ratios and that the teachers assigned to each classroom match the staff listed on your VPK application. Any days in which a provider is found to be over the required VPK ratio or has classroom staff who do not match those listed on the VPK application may be considered non-reimbursable days.



DATE: October 15, 2026

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT REMINDER: Timely Submission of Monthly Attendance Records

Dear School Readiness and VPK Providers:

The Early Learning Coalition of Marion County (ELCMC) has experienced an increasing number of issues related to the untimely submission of provider attendance records. These delays can directly impact the processing of provider payments and the Coalition's ability to meet its contractual and grant-related obligations.

As a reminder, the **2026–2027 School Readiness and VPK Statewide Contracts** require providers to accurately document daily attendance and submit monthly attendance reports for payment.

The contract states:

“PROVIDER agrees to document daily attendance and submit monthly attendance reports for payment. PROVIDER agrees to submit all required attendance records to COALITION on or before the third (3) business day of each month. If the due date falls on a holiday, PROVIDER agrees to submit all required attendance records to COALITION on the preceding business day. Records submitted late will be processed and paid in the next open payment cycle.”

Provider Responsibility: Attendance Must Be Submitted

When completing monthly attendance records, providers must:

- Ensure all daily attendance has been accurately documented.
- Review attendance records for completeness and accuracy.
- Click “**Submit**” to officially submit the attendance records.
- Verify in the portal that the records were successfully submitted.
- Ensure submission is completed by ELCMC's established deadline.

Please do not assume attendance has been submitted simply because the information has been entered or completed in the portal. Providers must verify that the submission process has been completed successfully.

Additionally, the Division of Early Learning Grant Agreement requires the Early Learning Coalition to submit monthly reimbursement requests for allowable expenditures no later than twenty-five (25) calendar days following the last day of the previous month. Failure to meet these reimbursement requirements may result in delayed reimbursement or the Coalition not receiving reimbursement. Therefore, timely and accurate provider attendance submissions are essential to ELCMC's ability to meet its reimbursement requirements, fulfill its contractual obligations, and maintain efficient payment processing.

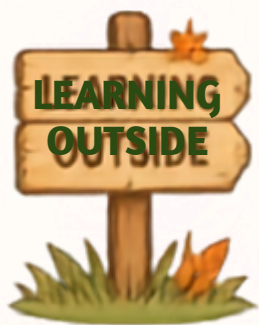
ELCMC appreciates your immediate attention to this matter and your continued partnership in serving the children and families of Marion County. Your cooperation is essential to ensuring accurate reporting, compliance with contractual requirements, and timely payment processing. Thank you for your continued commitment to the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

LaTrisha Sims

Chief Executive Officer

ELCMC 2nd Quarter Training Schedule



“Let’s Take it Outside” Trainer: Ana Gonzalez

Date & Time: Saturday, 11/21/2026, 9:30 am-2:00 pm, with break for lunch
Location: Fantastic Kids Child Care Center, 1606 NE 22nd Ave, Ocala, FL 34470
Class Description: This instructor-led training is designed for administrators, directors, and teachers of 3, 4, and 5-year-old children. Participants will learn how nature-based learning and outdoor play support child development and the Florida Early Learning and Development Standards (FELDs). The training provides practical strategies for using natural materials, creating engaging outdoor learning environments, and turning everyday outdoor activities into meaningful learning opportunities while actively supporting and supervising children during play.

Registration Directions: Register via DCF with Reference #11842 (LITO1) and Reference #11843 (LITO2). Must register for both.

Link: <https://childcaretraining.myflfamilies.com/studentsite/adminsignin>
Cost: Free
CEUs: 4 In-Service hours



“The Language of CLASS” Trainer: Ana Gonzalez

Date & Time: Tuesday, 12/08/2026, 6:45 pm-8:45 pm
Location: Virtual-Trainer: Ana Gonzalez VPK Regional Facillitator for DEL
Class Description: Gain introductory/general knowledge of the Pre-K 2nd edition CLASS° tool. Examine teacher-child interactions through the Pre-K 2nd edition CLASS° lens.

Registration Directions: <https://unf.zoom.us/meeting/register/-GoSfNeeSPmAWLVtXWQp6A>
Cost: Free
CEUs: 2 In-Service hours



“The Language of CLASS Instructional Support”

Date & Time: Tuesday, 12/15/2026, 6:45 pm-8:45 pm
Location: Virtual- Trainer: Ana Gonzalez VPK Regional Facillitator for DEL
Class Description: This section provides knowledge of resources and helpful strategies that align with the Florida Early Learning and Development Standards (FELDs), encourages teacher-child interactions and helps educators identify ways to improve their instructional practices.

Registration Directions: https://unf.zoom.us/meeting/register/rWuYkoJKQIurwluNT_zSIQ
Cost: Free
CEUs: 2 In-Service hours



We look forward to learning and growing together in 2026.

Professional Development Updates from Statewide VPK Program Administrator Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (EST)

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2027 **January 25-29, 2027**

- Theme: *Wild About Reading: Together, Readers Rule the Sunshine State!*
- Preschool Book: *The Koala Who Could*
- Infant/Toddler Book: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

COMING SOON in 2027! Professional Learning Community – Emergent Literacy (PLCEL) **20 hours, 2.0 CEUs**

- Instructor-led, collaborative professional learning experiences designed to support the use of evidence-based language and literacy strategies with young children.
- Facilitated by ELC trainers and the VPK Regional Facilitator Network.
- Approved for POPs Staff Development and VPK Instructor Emergent Literacy Requirement
- Additional details will be shared in the coming months

NEW! Phonological Awareness and Development for Preschoolers 2026 (VIPA26) **Expected Launch Date: October 18, 2026.**

- Provides 5 hours/0.5 CEUs
- Meets the 5-hour Emergent Literacy requirement for VPK educators
- No Virtual Reflection (VR) session required



Dear Provider,

Please review the updated 2026-27 approval and reimbursement requirements for your School Readiness Staff Training Day.

Before the training day, please review all attachments and ELCMC Staff Training Day Instructional video.

- Prepare and Submit a Detailed Agenda for prior approval at least two weeks before the training. Please submit your agenda early to allow time for revisions if needed.

New for 2026-27, DEL has required the coalition must Pre-Approve the Training *before* it occurs.

Training must align with at least one of the following:

- Child performance standards under Rule 6M-4.700, F.A.C.
- Florida Standards and Key Competencies under Rule 6M-4.735, F.A.C., and Form DEL-SR 735
- Department of Children and Families (DCF) child care training requirements

Email your Detailed Agenda to training@elc-marion.org for prior approval. Include your site name in your email.

You will receive email confirmation your Detailed Agenda was approved or if revisions are required prior to your Staff Training day.

The Following Business Day after your Staff Training Day: Upload to the SR Provider Training Back-Up Documents folder in the EFS MOD Profile:

- Approved detailed agenda.
- Completed sign-in/sign-out sheet.
- Any additional verification documents or certificates. For DCF Trainings certificates for each Staff are to be issued for the date and hours of your Staff Training.

Documentation must verify attendance by at least 75% of School Readiness staff as listed in QPS Staff Roster.

Send an email to training@elc-marion.org. Including your site name, confirmation training was held, and all documentation has been uploaded to EFS MOD Profile.

Link below to Staff Training Day Instructional video:

[School Readiness Provider Training Day Instructions.](#)

Please contact us if you have questions or need assistance with the reimbursement requirements. We hope you have a meaningful and successful Staff Training Day.