



2017 State Legislative Priorities

Increase School Readiness funding to support the economic stability of working families, kindergarten readiness for children, and performance increases for providers

- There are over 37,000 children on the waiting list; performance funding has demonstrated increases in program quality

Increase Voluntary Prekindergarten Program per-child funding by \$50 for the school year and \$43 for the summer

- This change increases the school year base student allocation from \$2,437 (2015-16) to \$2,487; still below the \$2,677 allocated in 2007-08

Support local flexibility and decision-making to meet local needs and maximize the leveraging of local resources

- Allow greater flexibility in Coalition Board membership while maintaining that at least one-third of members are business representatives (e.g., allow community members such as those representing law enforcement and higher education to serve)
- Restore greater flexibility in determining eligibility categories based on local needs, returning to eligibility categories in Florida Statutes prior to 2012 legislative changes
- Ensure local flexibility in reviewing School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten contract violations and determining appropriate penalties and termination periods (e.g., allow terminations '**up to five years**' rather than requiring all terminations to be for 5 years)

Florida's economic growth strategy starts at birth by investments in early childhood; Lack of investment in the productivity of the next generation is a deficit strategy, not a growth strategy.

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