



ELCHC Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting Agenda Packet

Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm

6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100 Tampa, FL 33619

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86545883785?pwd=JCuuulokKaVnFXF0pGa1niEHxd99FS.1>

Meeting ID: 865 4588 3785

Passcode: 786239



ELCHC Legislative Affairs Committee Agenda

Thursday, December 12, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

G. Casanova

A. Roll Call/Quorum Verification

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

G. Casanova

Individuals wishing to address the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County Board of Directors must complete a Public Comment Request Card and submit it to the official recorder prior to the noticed start time of the meeting. Said comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per individual on a first-come, first-serve basis, and only at such time as is identified on the official meeting agenda for public comment.

III. ACTION ITEM

G. Casanova

A. Approval of December 12, 2024 Committee Minutes - 3

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G. Casanova

A. Hillsborough Day 2025: March 26

A. AELC Priorities - 6

B. Children's Week 2025: April 14-18

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

G. Casanova

A. ELCHC Board of Directors Retreat: February 1, 2025 at HCC Ybor City Campus at 8:00 am

VI. ADJOURNMENT

G. Casanova

Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 3:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100
Tampa, FL 33619

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Gino Casanova, Chair

Committee Members Present:

Aakash Patel, Gino Casanova, Amanda Jae, Brian Mays, Commissioner Myers and Tracye Brown*

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

None.

Committee Members Absent:

None.

ELCHC Staff:

Dr. Fred Hicks, Nancy Will, Alison Fraga, Kelley Minney*, Sabrina Ruiz* and Gary Meyer*

Other Attendees:

Paul Quin, and Dennis Hebert

**Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification

Noting a quorum had been established, Chair Gino Casanova called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Nomination of Legislative Committee Vice Chair

A motion to approve Brian Mays was made by Amanda Jae. A second was made by Commissioner Myers. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Committee Goals

Mr. Casanova shared with the committee his previous experience as a lobbyist and his firm's experience and connections could be beneficial to the ELCHC's interest in reaching legislators. Mr. Casanova also shared anything he could possibly do to serve the interest of the ELCHC; he



was more than able and willing to serve in any capacity within the parameters set forth by the coalition's bylaws and state constraints as an ELCHC Board Member.

There was committee discussion on how the committee could help in representing all coalitions statewide for the cause of early education awareness and goals.

Chair of the ELCHC Board of Directors, Aakash Patel shared with the committee that the Tampa Chamber would be renting a bus and would like as many business leaders/ representatives as possible to attend Hillsborough Day on March 26, 2025.

Commissioner Gwen Myers, Gino Casanova, and Brian Mays stated they would be in attendance for Hillsborough Day.

B. AELC Priorities

Dr. Fred Hicks, CEO of the ELCHC spoke to the list of priorities Association of Early Learning (AELC) Coalitions would be taking to the legislative session in 2025. Dr. Hicks did note that the list of priorities had not yet been published by the AELC to date, however, the list would be published soon.

There was committee discussion on different avenues to make the needs of all coalitions known to state legislators.

There was also committee discussion on the ways the ELCHC could specifically help in awareness in the local community of Hillsborough including phone calls in multiple languages, e-mails, and text messages so that local families are made aware of the services the ELCHC provides.

Sabrina Ruiz, Director of Family Services reported on the current enrollment numbers.

C. Letters & Financial Support for Military Initiative

Dr. Hicks also explained the need for military families to have childcare, especially for young families. Dr. Hicks reported that the letters for financial support for providing early childcare for military families were in progress. Dr. Hicks also explained the need for childcare that could include overnight care as military personnel have weekend training.

The committee discussed legislators that have shown support for military families in the past and would be likely to support a bill that would include additional funding for childcare for this cause.

D. Elected Official(s) Support

There was committee discussion on legislative connections and meetings with legislators ahead of the 2025 session.

- E. Military Childcare Act (MCA)
Covered in Discussion item C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Approved schedule of ELCHC Board & Committee Meetings FY24-25 attached in agenda packet

ELCHC Board of Directors Retreat: February 1, 2025, at HCC Ybor City Campus at 8:00 am.
Thank you to Dr. Larissa Baia for assisting in securing a location for the retreat. Reminder to let Nancy Will know if you have any dietary requirements as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Citing no further business, Amanda Jae made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 pm. Aakash Patel made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved by: _____

Date



2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Preserve access to **promote early learning** for children and **support working families** on their path to economic self-sufficiency

ALIGN THE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM TO STATE MEDIAN INCOME (SMI)

To preserve parental choice and access for Florida's working families and create a system that is dynamic with FLORIDA'S economy and reflects the realities of our growing state

REALITIES

- Lack of affordable childcare is a top barrier to working parents entering or remaining in the workforce
- FL loses **\$5.38B revenue annually due to child care issues***
- Of low-income families, 24% were **forced to leave the workforce** due to lack of access to affordable child care*
- FL has **1 of the 6 lowest** income eligibility thresholds in the nation
- **Two parent working families are penalized** by current eligibility threshold
- Current structure **disincentivizes** economic mobility and creates a system that keeps working families in poverty
- Creates hammock of social services rather than ladder to economic self sufficiency
- **FPL is an outdated metric** based on federal minimum wage of \$7.75

Family Profiles*	CURRENT	PROPOSED	2024	2025	2026		
	150% FPL ~ 48% SMI	65% SMI ~ 200% FPL	\$13/hr	\$14/hr	\$15/hr	\$16/hr	\$17/hr
2 Parents, 1 Child (3)	\$ 38,370	\$ 53,529	\$54,080	\$58,240	\$62,400	\$66,560	\$70,720
2 Parents, 2 Children (4)	\$ 46,800	\$ 63,725	\$54,080	\$58,240	\$62,400	\$66,560	\$70,720
2 Parents, 3 Children (5)	\$ 54,870	\$ 73,921	\$54,080	\$58,240	\$62,400	\$66,560	\$70,720
2 Parents, 4 Children (6)	\$ 62,940	\$ 84,117	\$54,080	\$58,240	\$62,400	\$66,560	\$70,720
2 Parents, 5 Children (7)	\$ 71,010	\$ 86,028	\$54,080	\$58,240	\$62,400	\$66,560	\$70,720
1 Parent, 1 Child (2)	\$ 30,660	\$ 43,333	\$27,040	\$29,120	\$31,200	\$33,280	\$35,360
1 Parent, 2 Children (3)	\$ 38,370	\$ 53,529	\$27,040	\$29,120	\$31,200	\$33,280	\$35,360

*Both Parents working Full-Time (40 hours) at minimum wage for each year

SOLUTION

- **Preserve access for working families** by aligning the eligibility threshold to **65% SMI**
- This will capture a number of children **who would otherwise be ineligible** due to the mandatory minimum wage increase in **2026 of \$15/hour**

AELC GUIDING PILLARS



With a vision to ensure Florida's children are provided every opportunity to reach their full potential



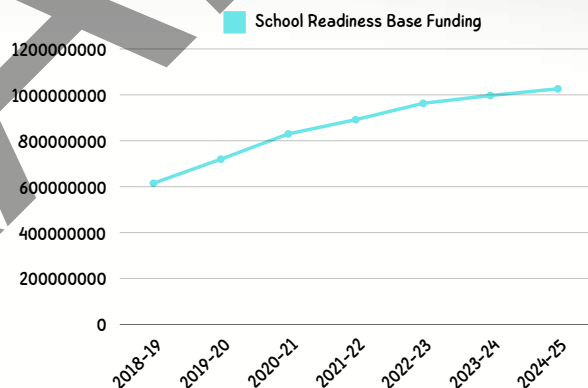
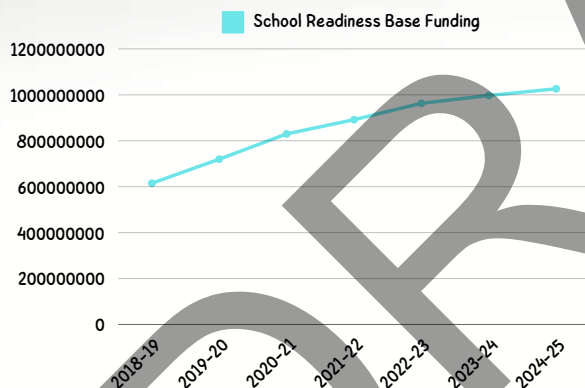
2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

REVISE THE SCHOOL READINESS ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

To ensure funds are distributed to meet community needs and create stability in funding across the state

REALITIES

- Huge swings in funding have impacted individual communities over the last several years
- Creates inefficiencies in ELC operations
- Child care community - starting to feel impacts of waitlists (gap in new enrollments, financial impact to small businesses)
- Population shifts (FL home to 4 of nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas)
- Last year's modification was a step in the right direction by including FTEs first
- AELC proposes to expand on this progress by including other factors to create stability in funding to local communities
- Add TP re: Impact to Children (avoid disenrollment) and working families
-

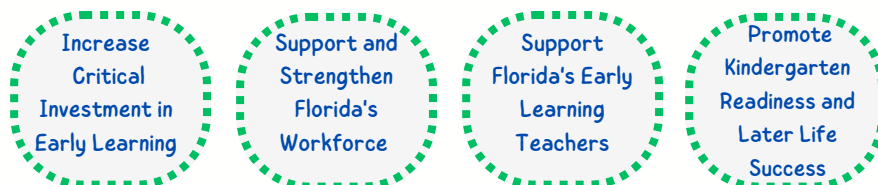


SOLUTION

Clarify in statute that the following factors will be considered in the SR allocation methodology, in addition to current FTEs:

- All Potentially Eligible Population (0-12)
- Unique community needs (i.e. waitlist, capacity, child care deserts, etc.)
- Stabilization factor

AELC GUIDING PILLARS



With a vision to ensure Florida's children are provided every opportunity to reach their full potential