



ELCHC Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting Agenda Packet

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 3:00 pm

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82719906329?pwd=YV4MQFIRNm87cqnaQImQbOAUfPDOnA.1>

Meeting ID: 827 1990 6329

Passcode: 307010



ELCHC Legislative Affairs Committee Agenda

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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 January 09, 2025 Committee Minutes - 3

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G. Casanova

A. Hillsborough Day 2025: March 26

A. AELC Priorities - 6

B. Lapel Pins & 1-Pager folders

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

G. Casanova

VI. ADJOURNMENT

G. Casanova



Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 3:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting

6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100

Tampa, FL 33619

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Brian Mays, Vice Chair

Committee Members Present: Brian Mays, Aakash Patel, Commissioner Gwen Myers, Tracye Brown

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gino Casanova

ELCHC Staff:

Dr. Fred Hicks, Nancy Will, Gary Meyer*, Sabrina Ruiz*, Rebecca Salgado*, and Alison Fraga*

Other Attendees:

Paul Quin, Dennis Herbert

**Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification

Noting a quorum had been established, Vice Chair Brian Mays called the meeting to order at

3:02 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of December 12, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Gwen Myers. A second was made by Tracye Brown.

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Hillsborough Day 2025: March 26

Dr. Hicks, shared with the committee that hotels were filling up quickly and if any committee members were planning to attend Hillsborough Day, travel arrangements needed to be made as soon as possible.

a. AELC Priorities

Dr. Hicks shared that the agenda packet, page 6, included the Association of Early Learning Coalitions (AELC) 2025 legislative priorities.

Dr. Hicks highlighted the following realities from the legislative priorities:

- Lack of affordable childcare as a top barrier to working parents entering or remaining in the workforce
- Florida losing \$5.38 billion in revenue annually due to childcare issues
- Florida having 1 of the 6 lowest income eligibility threshold in the nation
- Two parent working families are penalized by current eligibility threshold
- Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is an outdated metric based on federal minimum wage of \$7.75
- Creates hammock of social services rather than ladder to economic self sufficiency

Dr. Hicks highlighted some solutions:

- Preserve access to working families by aligning the eligibility threshold to 65% State Median Income
- This will capture a number of children who would otherwise be ineligible due to the mandatory minimum wage increase in 2026 of \$15/hour
- Clarify in the Florida Statute that the following factors will be considered in the School Readiness (SR) allocation methodology, in addition to current Full Time Employees (FTE's):
 - All potentially eligible population (0-12)
 - Unique community needs (i.e. waitlist, capacity, childcare deserts, etc.)
 - Stabilization factor

There was committee discussion on the points highlighted by Dr. Hicks with committee members agreeing that the challenges outlined in the AELC legislative priorities cover the concerns/issues held by the provider community and early learning organizations.

There was also committee discussion on an appropriations Bill filed by ELCHC for additional funding for military families. This effort has the backing of legislators in both the House of Representatives and the state Senate.

Children's Week 2025: April 14-18

There was committee discussion on how to execute time during Children's Week. There was additional conversation on the agenda of Children's Week.

Announcements

Approved schedule of board and committee meetings FY 24-25

ELCHC Board of Directors Retreat: February 1, 2025 at H.C.C. Ybor City Campus at 8:00 am. Huge, thank you to Dr. Larissa Baia for helping to secure the location.

Adjournment

Citing no further business, Aakash Patel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 pm. Tracie Brown made a second. The motion carried unanimously.



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



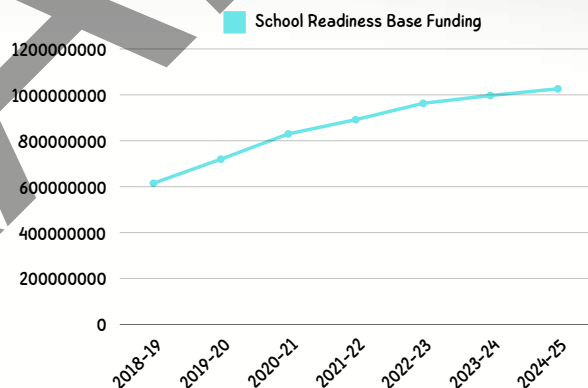
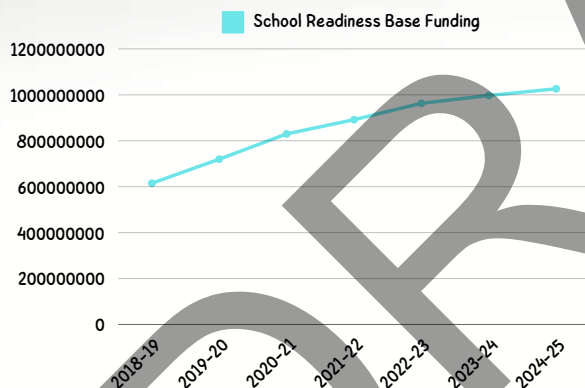
2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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
-

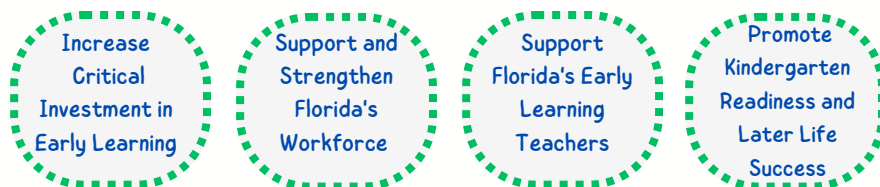


SOLUTION

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



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