

Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County



Agenda

- Structure & History
- Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County
- Programs & Services
 - Funding
- Finance



Structure

- 501(c)(3) non-profit
- Fiscal year: July 1 – June 30
- Department of Education ➡ Independent Education and Parental Choice ➡ Office of Early Learning ➡ Early Learning Coalitions



History

Prior to 1999 – Subsidized child care program administered by DCF

1999 – Florida Statute establishing School Readiness Coalitions

2002 – Florida voters approve VPK Constitutional Amendment

2004 – Legislature implements VPK, sets criteria for VPK, houses program in Agency for Workforce Innovation

2004 – School Readiness Coalitions renamed Early Learning Coalitions; responsible for oversight of School Readiness and VPK programs at the local level

2012 – AWI becomes Florida's Office of Early Learning

2013 – the OEL was moved under the Independent Education and Parental Choice within the DOE. We have operated in this same manner until the current changes take place July 2021

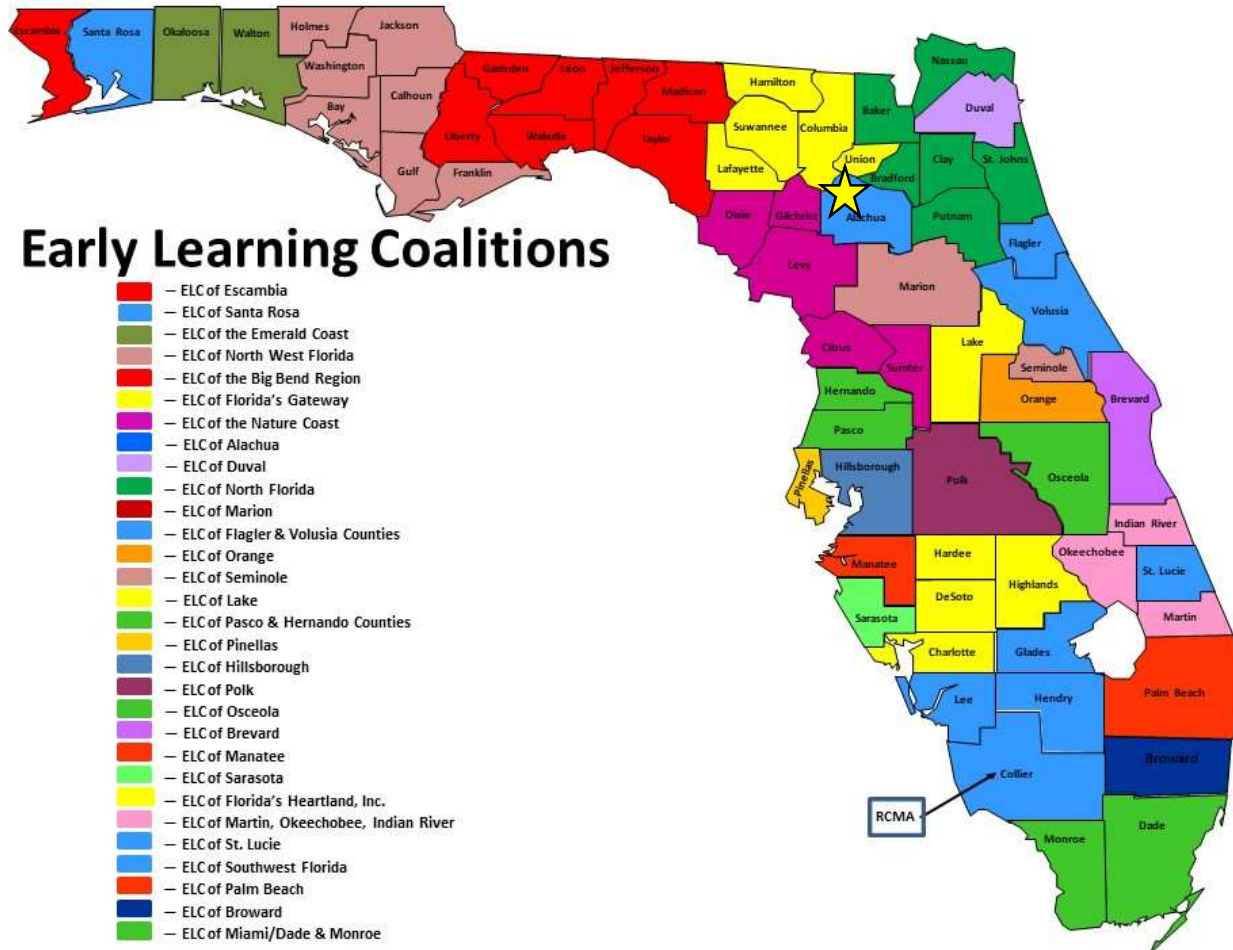
2021 – The OEL will be dissolved and a Division of Early Education will be created within the DOE.





Map of Coalitions

30 Coalitions in
67 counties





Mission

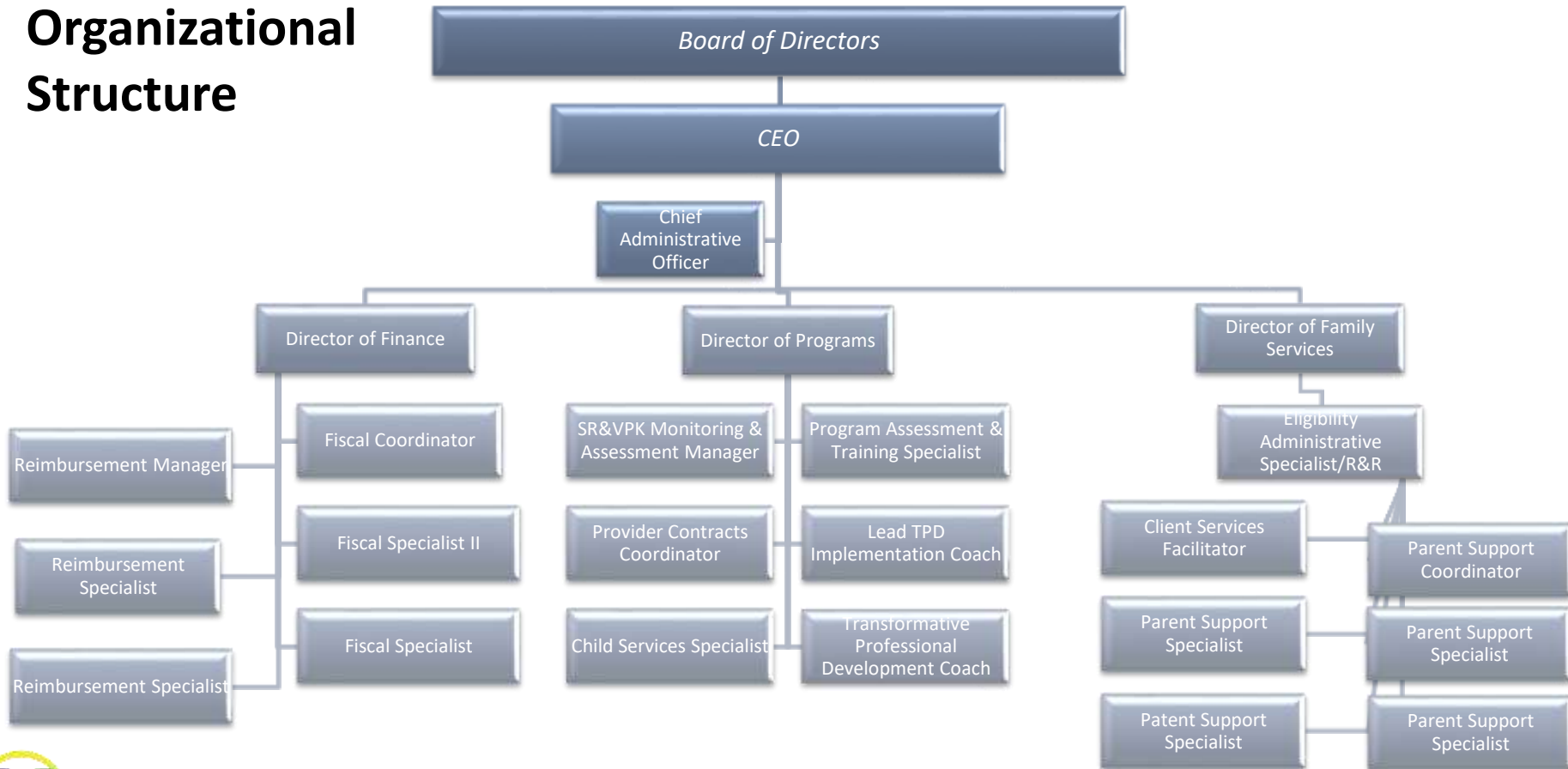
*To promote **high-quality** school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten, and after-school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of **achieving future educational success** and becoming **productive members of society**.*

Vision

Ready for school, ready for life!



Organizational Structure





Programs & Services



School Readiness Child Care Assistance

- Financial assistance for child care for qualifying families with children ages 0-13



Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)

- Free Pre-K for all 4- & 5-year-olds in Florida



Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)



Inclusion/Warm-Line



School Readiness Program

State and Federal Funds

Program Benefits:

- ✓ Prepares young children to start kindergarten.
- ✓ Helps working families afford quality early learning services.
- ✓ Keeps parents in the workforce and/or going to school.
- ✓ Helps families become financially independent.
- ✓ Recognizes parents as the child's first teacher.
- ✓ Provides families with information about child development.



School Readiness Program

- Serve children ages 0 – 13 and children under the Child Care Application Authorization (CCAA) program.
- Available full-day and year-round.
- Services are offered at public schools, private child care centers, faith-based programs and family child care homes (both formal and informal).



School Readiness Program

Eligibility is based on:

- Parents/guardians must be working at least 20 hours per week or attending school full time.
- Gross income must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. Eligible families may remain in the program up to 200% of the FPL.
- Families pay a minimal parent fee/copayment for child care based on income and family unit size.



Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)

- Child must be four years old on or before September 1st to participate in the program. If their fourth birthday falls Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 in a calendar year, parents can postpone enrolling their child in VPK that year and wait until the following year when their child is 5, or if the child is 5 with an IEP.
- Parents may enroll their child with any approved VPK provider.
- Public, private, faith-based and family child care homes may offer this program.
- Families must choose between the school-year or summer program; they cannot participate in both.
- VPK is open to all 4-year-olds in Florida, regardless of income.
- Providers and schools must meet specific eligibility criteria to participate.



Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)

School Year Program:

- Offers 540 instructional hours.
- Each class must have at least 4 VPK children, but no more than 20 children total.
- Utilize a curriculum that meets the educational goals adopted by DOE.
- Have a qualified VPK instructor and meet the approved adult/child ratios.



Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)

Summer Program:

- Offers 300 instructional hours.
- Each class must have at least 4 VPK children, but no more than 12 children total.
- Utilize a curriculum that meets the educational goals adopted by DOE.
- Have a qualified VPK instructor and meet the approved adult/child ratios.



Federal & State Grants



School Readiness Grant: \$14,770,952



VPK state funding: \$4,234,667



Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act:
\$1,635,000



Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act:
\$2,260,729



Children Served



School Readiness: 1951



Voluntary Pre-kindergarten: 834



School Readiness Funding

- The Office of Early Learning distributes eligible funds to the local early learning coalitions for the funding of local programs and services.
- Funds are budgeted for each county and a pro rata share and administrative costs are allocated to the coalition



Grants

- Community Agency Partnership Program (CAPP)
- City of Gainesville (COG)
- Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC)
- Other Grants we apply for:
 - UF Campaign for Charities (UFCC)



Eligibility/Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

- School Readiness financial assistance enrollment, eligibility, and wait list.
- VPK enrollment and eligibility.
- Provide Resource & Referral to all families regardless of income.
- Conducts VPK provider round-ups to enroll children into the program, making it convenient for parents.
- Outreach & Awareness.



Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

- ✓ Maintains and updates service information for all childcare providers.
- ✓ Provides free CCR&R to ALL families – a clearing house dedicated to helping families receive support and information on food, shelter and employment.
- ✓ Parental referrals are customized to meet the family's needs.
- ✓ Quality customer service.
- ✓ Information to help parents make an informed choice.
- ✓ Information about how to access licensing inspection report.



Finance

- SR & VPK Provider reimbursements, adjustments, provider contracts
- Child care center attendance monitoring, review sign-in/sign-out sheets
- Procurement, vendor payments, contracts
- Payroll, travel arrangements and reimbursements
- ELCAC annual budget, grant budgets
- Financial reporting, compliance, internal controls, grant agreements
- Cost Allocation Management
- External Single Audit, Internal (OEL) fiscal monitoring and desk reviews



Questions?