

ANNUAL REPORT



FY 2007/2008

Contents

Section 1.	Introduction and History	page 3
	Mission	page 4
	Vision	page 4
Section 2.	Programs	
	School Readiness	page 4
	Voluntary PreK	page 6
	Florida First Start	page 6
	CCEP	page 6
	CCR&R	page 7
	Program Performance	page 7
Section 3.	Analysis	
	Regional Facilitator Grant	page 8
	P.E.R.K.S.	page 8
	Step Up Scholarships	page 8
	S.E.E.K.	page 9
Section 4.	Financial Analysis: Total Allocation	page 10
Section 5.	Summary	page 13
 Tables.		
Table 1.	Number of Unduplicated Children Receiving School Readiness Scholarships by Billing Group	page 5
Table 2.	Number Receiving SR Scholarships By Age Category	page 5
Table 3.	Funding Sources	page 11
Table 4	Financial Analysis	page 12

Section 1- Introduction and History

The Pinellas County School Readiness Coalition filed its bylaws with the state in September 2000.

As a result of Florida House Bill 1A, the School Readiness Coalition was renamed by the legislature with the signing of the Bill in January 2005 by the Governor.

New amended articles of incorporation and other relevant documents were filed with the appropriate agencies. The School Readiness Coalition became the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. The bylaws were also amended to support the requirements of the new House Bill.

The House Bill redefined Coalition Board membership, eliminated the statewide School Readiness Partnership Board and created specific guidelines for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program. Many Coalitions were required to merge per the House Bill. The Pinellas Coalition is large enough (in budget and number of children served) to stand as a single Coalition.

The Coalition contracts with Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. to provide direct and indirect services for the School Readiness program. Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc provides client eligibility services, provider support services, training, Child Care Resource and Referral, Child Care Purchasing Pool and multiple quality initiatives such as the Infant Toddler program, Caring for Kids, A.N.G.E.L.S., developmental screening of children, pre- and post-assessments, family involvement and a resource library for providers.

Per statutory requirements the Coalition awarded the School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten contracts to Coordinated Child Care through a competitive process that solicited Request for Proposals in Fiscal Year 2006/2007.

The Coalition also contracts with Pinellas County Public Schools for Florida First Start services, the Pinellas County Health Department for vision and hearing screening and the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative for the Born To Read program. The Coalition also has an agreement with St. Petersburg College for teacher scholarships.

Our mission is:

Mission Statement

To facilitate an efficient, comprehensive, high quality system of school readiness services, to include early care and education and school-age programs, that enhances the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development of all children through collaboration with the community, early care providers and families.

Our vision is:

Vision

To unite the community in the development and delivery of a high quality integrated school readiness system, which includes screening, assessment and support services to families in order to maximize each child's school readiness potential and promote the economic self-sufficiency of families

Section 2 - Programs

School Readiness

The School Readiness program provides scholarship assistance to low income families, families entering the workforce (welfare to work) and children at risk of abuse, neglect or abandonment. School Readiness services are provided at 92 contracted facilities and 129 licensed homes. An additional 98 programs provide school-age care. A small percentage of children receive informal/relative care. Certificate/voucher care is also available throughout the community. A total of 14,601 unduplicated¹ School Readiness children were served during the year. Children served are birth to 13 years of age.

¹ Unduplicated refers to the number of children who received a school readiness service even if it was only one day. The Coalition has funding to provide 7,000 fulltime full year scholarships.

Table 1

**Number of Unduplicated Children Receiving School Readiness Scholarships
2007/2008**

Care Level	At Risk	Low Income	Child Care Purchasing Pool	Workforce Development	Total School Readiness Funded Children
Total Children	3,444	5,969	1,482	4,079	14,601*
Total Families	2,284	3,699	853	2,385	9,051*

*Totals are unduplicated. Numbers within specific funding groups are not and therefore do not sum to totals.

Table 2

**Number of Unduplicated Children Served By Age
2007/2008**

Care Level	Total Served
Infants	1,358
Toddlers	1,735
2-Year Olds	1,971
3-Year Olds	1,877
4-Year Olds	1,661
5-Year Olds	940
School-Age	5,055
Special Needs	4
Total	14,601

Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

The Voluntary Prekindergarten program provides free quality Pre-K experience for every 4 year old residing in the state of Florida. The School Year program is 540 hours and most providers offer a 3-hour day. The summer program is 300 hours long and most providers offer a 7- to 7.5-hour day.

Year three of the Voluntary Prekindergarten program continued to be a success in Pinellas County with 5,811 children served during the school and summer programs (5,303 school year and 508 summer session). 5,811 children out of 5,922 slots available represents an achievement of 97% to goal. 245 providers offered the Voluntary Prekindergarten program, which reflects a continuing rise in the number of providers and an increase of 49% over the first year's 165 providers.

The Department of Education identified 24 low performing Voluntary Prekindergarten providers in Pinellas County. These included 5 public schools and 19 private schools. 1 private school closed and 4 did not reapply to provide VPK. The remaining programs all submitted Improvement Plans and continue to offer the program.

Florida First Start

In FY 2007-2008 the Coalition continued funding the Florida First Start program. Florida First Start is a home visitation program for children birth through five years of age who demonstrate risk factors related to school failure. The Coalition contracts with the Pinellas County School Board for this program. Just over 90% of Florida First Start families who were enrolled in the program for more than 6 months showed an increased score using the H.O.M.E. scale, which evaluates school readiness. The FFS program completed:

- 3,340 home visits
- 56 play groups and family meetings and,
- 182 children 0 thru 5 years in 125 families received services.

79% of the participating families are non-English speakers with Spanish, Terazco (used by Indians from Mexico), and Arabic being the most common languages. All children participating in the program were evaluated for development using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ). 90% of the families focused on self-sufficiency. 100% of the families participated in a home safety checklist and demonstrated a continued commitment to making changes to the home environment, including implementing more free floor space for child exploration. 92% of the families focused on family literacy activities during home visits.

Child Care Executive Partnership Program (CCEP)

The Child Care Executive Partnership Program (CCEP) is a 12-year old public-private assistance program designed to help employers meet the childcare needs of their workforce. The Child Care Executive Partnership Act was established by the legislature, section 409.178, Florida Statutes to expand childcare subsidies for low-income working families by utilizing state and federal funds as incentives for matching local funds from

local governments, employers, charitable foundations and other sources. Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. (our primary contracted provider) has been effective in attracting additional dollars to the system through the procurement of local match. During FY 2007/2008, a total of \$2,200,000 in local match dollars was procured, mostly from the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County for both the Child Care Executive Partnership and the low-income eligible portion of the school readiness contract. Other sources of local match were the United Way of Tampa Bay and the City of St. Petersburg. In FY 2007-2008, ELCP staff began meeting with early childhood centers to explain the benefits of the CCEP as a means of offering tuition subsidies to families just over the limits set for School Readiness.

Simplified-Point-of-Entry and Resource and Referral

Families have the option to use either an automated or manual system to apply for services. All eligibility staff and resource and referral staff are cross-trained. A parent seeking services through the School Readiness program or Voluntary Prekindergarten may also receive information on quality and availability of early education services with a single appointment.

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program responded to 14,765 total service requests for parent education and other resources. The CCR&R services and unified wait list process further assisted participants in identifying other funding resources and child care providers (such as Head Start) whose programs locations and features best suit the needs of the participants. This service also provides consumer information on recognizing and selecting quality childcare. The CCR&R services have been integrated with eligibility services in an effort to provide enhanced customer services at all locations for both the School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs. The majority of staff has achieved their Level II certification.

All children referred for services as At Risk or TANF (WAGES) were provided care.

Program Performance

The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) is currently being used to assess the readiness of each student for kindergarten based upon the adopted Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Educations performance standards and requires each public school to administer the statewide screening to each kindergarten student in the school district within the first 30 days of each school year.

FLKRS is made up of a subset of the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS), an observational instrument that is used to monitor the skills, knowledge, and behaviors a student demonstrates or needs to develop; and two probes of the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), Letter Naming Frequency and Initial Sound Fluency.

A summary of the screening results is as follows:

- Of the 6,982 students screened by the ECHOS™ in 2007, 90 percent were considered to “consistently demonstrate” grade-level learning development or

“emerging/progressing”. This is higher than the statewide average which was 88 percent.

- Of the 6,995 students screened on the DIBELS Letter Naming Fluency in 2007, 73 percent were determined to be above average/low risk. This is higher than the statewide average, which was 72 percent.
- Of the 6,736 students screened by the DIBELS Initial Sound Fluency in 2007, 67 percent were above average/low risk.

The Florida Department of Education/State Board of Education is required to calculate a kindergarten readiness rate every year for each private or public school VPK provider of either the school-year (540-hour) or summer (300-hour) program. The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate measures how well a VPK provider prepares four-year-olds to be ready for kindergarten based upon Florida’s VPK Education Standards as measured by the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS).

Section 3 - Analysis

Regional Facilitator Grant

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. was awarded the grant for the Regional Voluntary Prekindergarten Facilitator position for a third year. VPK teachers and instructors were offered training in curriculum, Performance Standards for 4-Year-Olds, Emergent Literacy and the VPK Director’s Credential.

Emergent Literacy and the VPK Director’s Credential are available on-line through the Department of Education. In Pinellas County, 8 face-to-face trainings were provided to 323 VPK teachers on the Performance Standards.

Partners in Education and Research for Kindergarten Success (P.E.R.K.S.)

The Coalition continued the PERKS program for the second year. Twenty-seven (27) VPK teachers received scholarships to attend classes at St. Petersburg College and received technical assistance and coaching. The VPK attendees in these classrooms were pre- and post- assessed. The classroom received an Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) evaluation.

STEP UP Scholarships

In addition to the P.E.R.K.S. scholarships the Coalition continued their mutual agreement with the St. Petersburg College Foundation. By depositing teacher scholarship funding in the Coalition’s established Foundation account, the funds were then matched by the state through the college on a \$1 for \$1 basis. During FY 2007/2008 this fund paid for 111 scholarships for degree-seeking early childhood educators to attend classes at St. Petersburg College.

Hearing and Vision Screening

Screening Eyes and Ears of Kids (S.E.E.K.) is a program that provides vision and hearing screenings for *all* children, in the absence of signed refusal slips from the parents, at early education and care sites. SEEK screenings are provided by the Pinellas County Health Department. Vision and hearing are critical factors to a child's ability to learn and as with all other programs of the Early Learning Coalition, early intervention is our goal. From July 1, 2007 through June 2008, 5,166 children were screened at 132 provider centers. Of those children screened, 711 were referred for vision, 765 were referred for hearing and 146 children were referred additional screening in both vision and hearing.

Section 4 - Financial Analysis Regarding Total Allocation

The Coalition received \$33,422,900 from the Office of Early Learning for the school readiness program for FY 2007/2008. Total budgeted administrative costs equaled \$431,143.

Administrative costs include:

Budgeted Administrative:

Coalition Administrative \$430,994 (1.2%) 99.7% utilized

The total budget amount of \$33,422,900 includes the base allocation in the amount of \$31,636,586, CCEP allocation in the amount of \$1,564,703, and Quality Initiative allocation in the amount of \$221,611. The Coalition administrative budget lapsed \$149.11.

Non Direct Costs include:

Consumer Eligibility Determination	\$1,613,791	(8%)	100% utilized
Coordinated Child care Non- Direct	\$2,623,858	(5%)	100% utilized
Purchasing Pool Non-direct	\$ 165,011	(11%)	100% utilized
Quality Initiatives	\$2,004,028	(6%)	99.99% utilized
Resource and Referral	\$ 320,647	(1%)	100% utilized
Inclusion Services	\$ 83,469	(0.26%)	100% utilized

Direct Services (Child Care slots)

At Risk children	\$ 5,621,479	(18%)	100% utilized
T.A.N.F.	\$ 7,830,355	(25%)	100% utilized
Working Poor	\$10,025,407	(31%)	100% utilized
Purchasing Pool	\$ 1,399,692	(89%)	94% utilized

Direct services are defined as child care slots in centers or homes. During the year, 18% of the budget served 3,444 At Risk children; 25% served 4,070 T.A.N.F. (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) children and 31% served 7,451 Working Poor and Purchasing Pool children.¹

Pages 11 and 12 provide complete cost breakdowns.

¹ Unduplicated children served = total of 14,601

Table 3
Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.
Funding Sources FY 2007/2008

Grant Name	School Readiness/Office of Early Learning
Total Contract Amount	\$ 33,422,900
Sub-recipients July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008.	1. Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. 2. PCSB (Florida First Start) 3. PCHD (S.E.E.K) 4. PPLC (Born To Read)
Grant Name	Voluntary Prekindergarten/ Office of Early Learning
Total Contract Amount	\$ 14,441,254.29
Sub recipient July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008.	1. Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc
Grant Name	VPK Outreach & Awareness and Monitoring Initiative/Office of Early Learning
Total Contract Amount	\$ 68,071
July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008	
Grant Name	VPK Regional Facilitator/Dept. of Education
Total Contract Amount	\$ 85,000
July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008	

Table 4
Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.
Financial Analysis

	Allocation as Budgeted	Actual Expenditures	Percentages
1. Administrative	431,143	430,994	99.97%
97BBA - Coalition Administrative	431,143	430,994	99.97%
2. Non - Direct	7,178,959	7,178,666	99.99%
97 BDE - Eligibility Determination	1,613,791	1,613,791	100%
97 BBD - Non - Direct	2,623,858	2,623,858	100%
97QOO - Quality Budget	2,004,321	2,004,028	99.99%
97INT - Infant and Toddlers	340,418	340,418	100%
97Q14 - Resource and Referral	320,647	320,647	100%
97QIN - Inclusion Services	83,469	83,469	100%
97PPD - CCPP	165,011	165,011	100%
89JOO - Project Safety Net	24,597	24,597	100%
89JTR - Transportation	2,847	2,847	100%
3. Direct Services	25,812,798	25,812,759	99.999%
97LCO - Not Federally Eligible	31,710	31,710	100%
97ROO - At Risk and abuse	5,621,479	5,621,479	100%
97GOO - Working TANF	3,894,754	3,894,754	100%
97POO - Working Poor	10,025,407	10,025,407	100%
97GNW - Non-Working TANF	3,935,601	3,935,601	100%
97PPO - Purchasing Pool	1,399,692	1,399,652	99.998%
97GSD - Gold Seal	904,155	904,155	100%
Total	\$33,422,900	\$33,422,419	99.999%

Section 5 - Summary

Fiscal Year 2007/2008 was a very successful year for the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.

Our greatest challenge was to provide as many children as possible with a quality early learning experience. With that goal we managed to support open enrollment all year with children placed monthly as children left the program. Although a wait list still existed, every month children were enrolled off the wait list.

To enroll as many low-income children in VPK all eligible children received school readiness wrap-around care to allow for a continuous 9 or 10 hour day.

Our successes include:

- Over 14,000 children received school readiness scholarships
- 5,811 children participated in the VPK program
- Vision and hearing screenings were provided for 5,166 children.
- Renewal of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Regional Facilitator grant for third year
- Receipt of the **P**artners in **E**ducation and **R**esearch for **K**indergarten **S**uccess (P.E.R.K.S.) grant for year two
- 111 Step-up scholarships awarded
- Regional Facilitator grant awarded- third consecutive year