

Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. 2009-2010 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

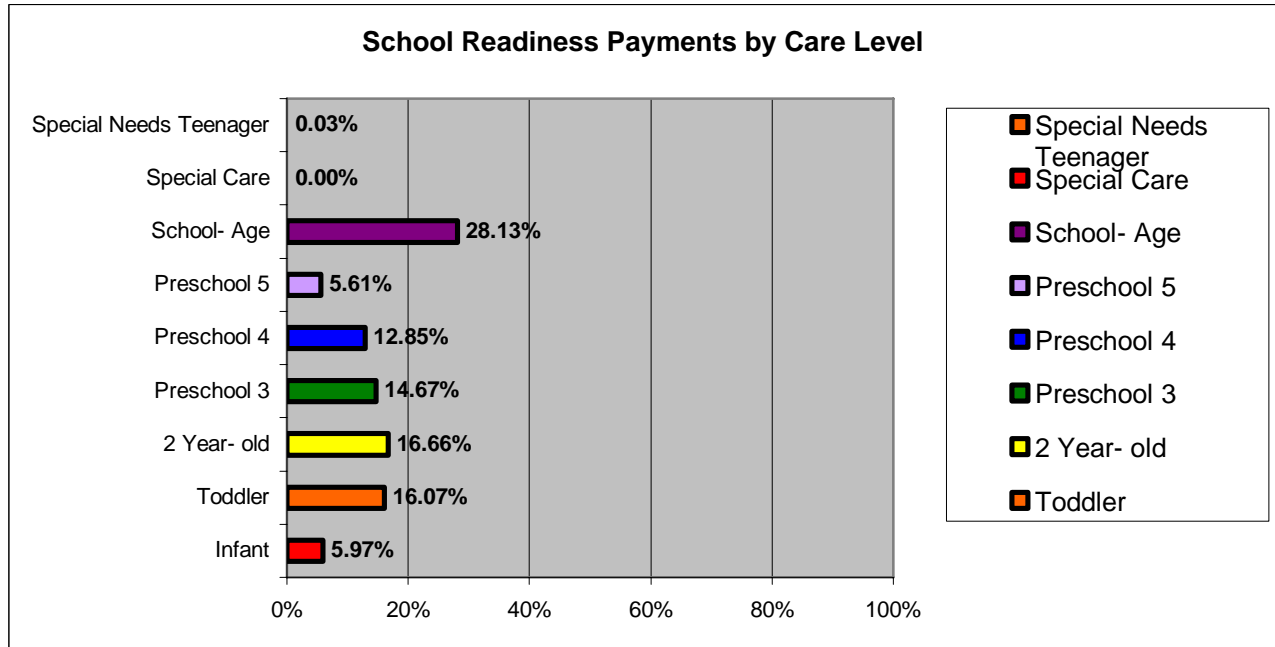
To provide a comprehensive, high quality system of School Readiness programs that enhance the emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of children through collaboration with families, providers and the community.

Data Summary: The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010.

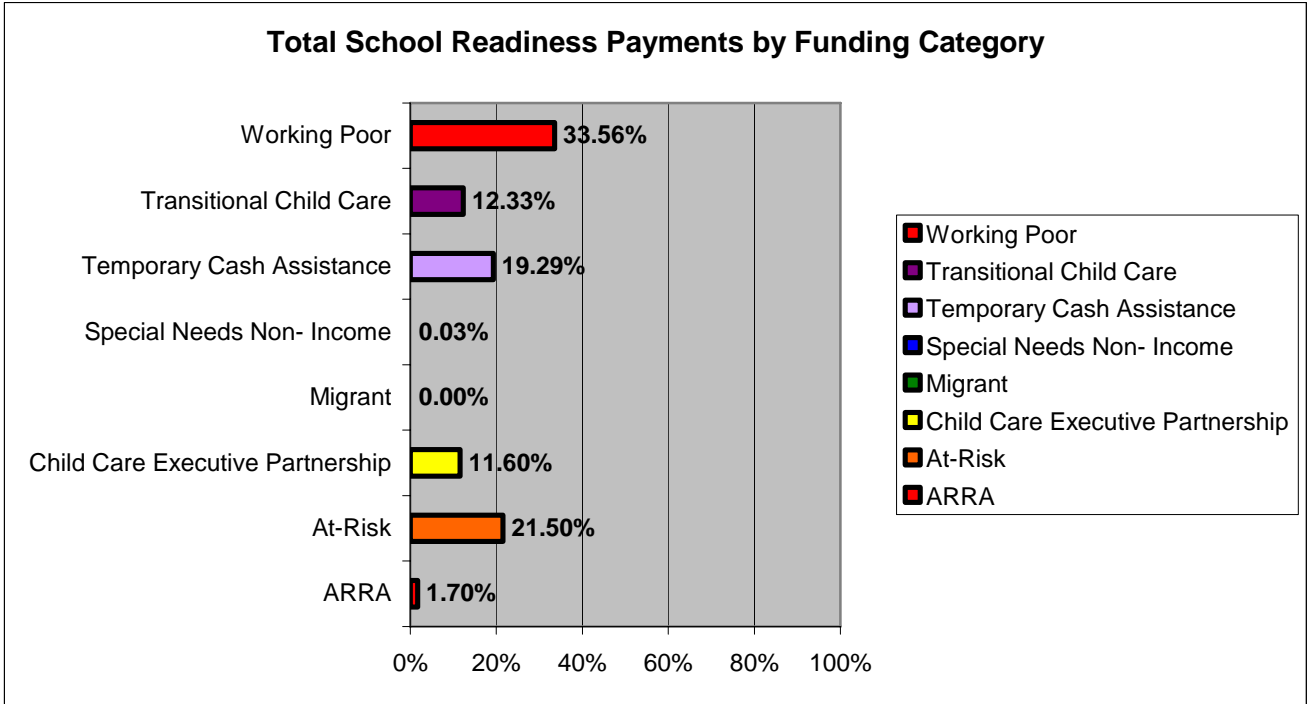
Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

SR Children	SR Families
12,824	7,782

School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:



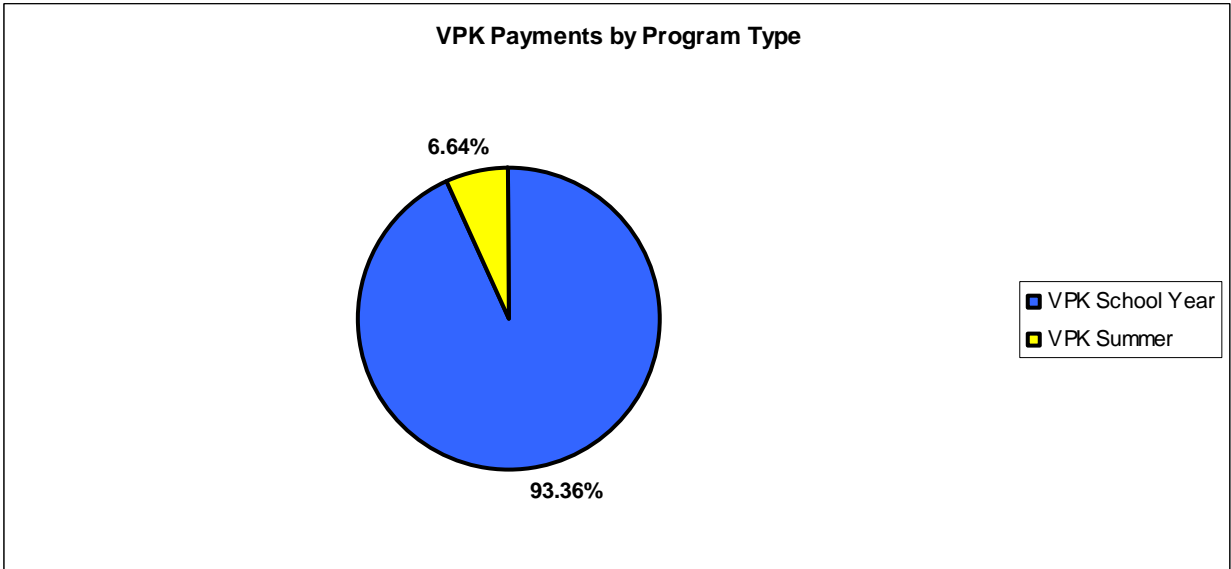
School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:



Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

VPK Children	VPK Families
6104	6001

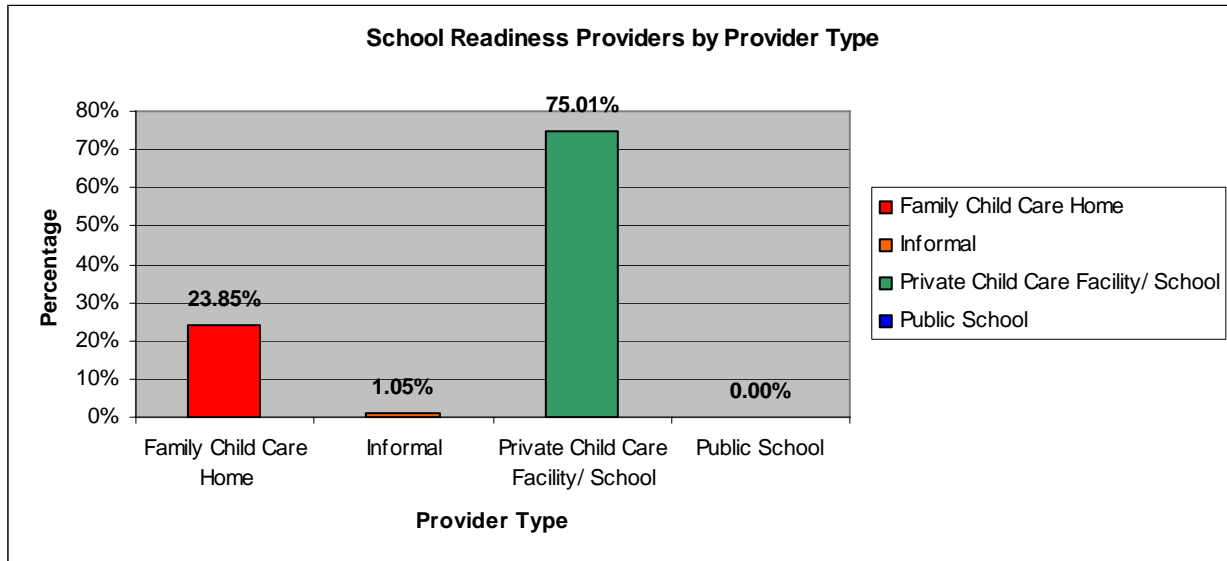
Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:



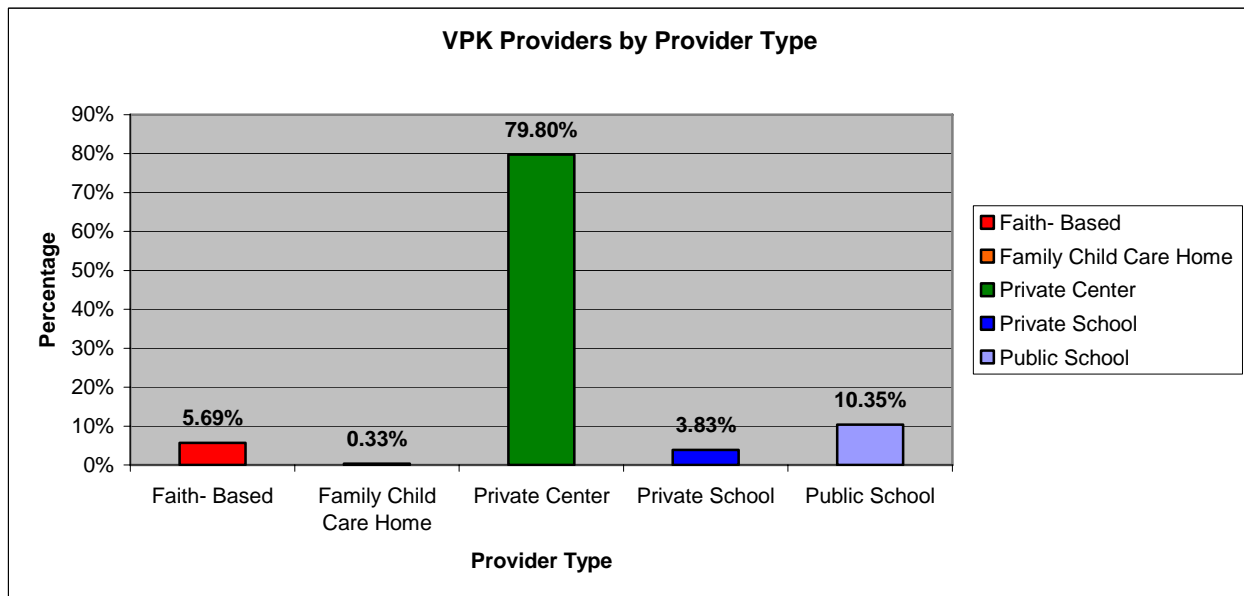
Total number of providers that participate in the coalition's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
910	270

Participating School Readiness provider payment by provider type:



Participating VPK providers payment by provider type:



Service Delivery Summary:

School Readiness: Of the 12,824 School Readiness children served, 61% were preschool-age while 71.83% of the School Readiness payments were made for preschool-age children. There were 7,782 families served. Most of the children funded (33.56%) were from low-income eligible families, followed by at risk children (21.50%), children of families receiving cash assistance (19.29%), the Child Care Executive Partnership program (11.60%), ARRA at less than 2% and special needs at less than 1%.

There were 910 providers that offered School Readiness services. Private childcare facilities represented the majority (75.01%) of School Readiness payments received and 23.5% School Readiness payments were to family child care homes. Slightly more than 1% were informal providers.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK): There were 6,104 VPK children and 6,001 families served. The majority (93.36%) of the children attended the school-year program and 6.64% attended the summer program. There were 270 approved VPK providers. The majority (79.80%) of payments were to private centers, followed by public schools (10.35%), faith-based (5.69%), private schools (3.83%) and less than 1% were family child care homes.

Quality Activity Summary:

Activity	Narrative
What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?	During the reporting period (2009-2010), the ELCP's service contractor (Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc.) administered the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program that provided comprehensive consumer education to assist families in identifying and selecting quality child care. The families are provided consultation with regard to factors that are considered quality care indicators. Families were provided guidance materials that included: "A Family Guide for Selecting Quality Early Learning Programs," and "A Quality Checklist for Evaluating Early Learning Programs." The guide and checklist contain observable criteria and quality indicators in order to guide parents in their selection process. Additionally, the "Choosing Quality Child Care" video produced by JWB is shown at intake offices. Families are encouraged to interview up to three of their top

	<p>choice providers, conduct reference checks, and contact Pinellas County Licensing for the licensing history of providers that were considered for placement of their child.</p> <p>The CCR&R staff also provided consumers with a packet of information that includes materials on: other community resources (2-1-1; WIC; services for children with special needs; planning for sick child care days; accreditation, child nutrition; Florida KidCare insurance; child immunization schedules; and the ELCP's grievance/dispute resolution process). The CCR&R program staff also attended 44 community events, providing consumer education.</p>
<p>Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.</p>	<p>In 2009-10, the Early Learning Coalition awarded STEP UP Scholarships to 39 early education teachers seeking an AS degree in Early Childhood from St. Petersburg College. An additional 3 non-degree seeking recipients were renewing a Director's Credential or Florida Child Care Professional Certificate. A total of 75 scholarships were offered.</p> <p>The Coalition also provided scholarships for 3 providers to attend the 2010 Florida Family Child Care Home Association Conference.</p>
<p>Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>During the reporting period (2009-2010), the ELCP's service contractor (Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc.) managed School Readiness Provider Agreements for the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.</p> <p>These Provider Consultant staff coordinated internally with CCC's CCR&R, CCC's Reimbursement, CCC's Family Services, in addition to coordinating with funders, community partners and Pinellas County Child Care Licensing (CCL) for site visit reports/compliance issues. They also conducted random site visits and/or follow-up on reported incidences; monitored Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP)/Character Education (CE) programming and health & safety compliance; ensured developmental screening compliance; and tracked compliance with pre-post child assessment requirements. Technical assistance regarding corrective action/goal</p>

	<p>setting/service improvements was also implemented, as needed and in accordance with established Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas policy and procedures for School Readiness Compliance.</p> <p>CCC's Provider Consultants provided comprehensive on-site technical assistance and goal setting to help providers achieve and maintain quality standards and compliance. The Provider Consultants also worked with the 5 Star/Quality Counts ERS assessors by providing technical assistance and goal planning for providers to improve any areas identified by the ERS assessment.</p> <p>The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas transitioned VPK provider certification in-house in October 2009. The ELCP continued to monitor VPK providers for compliance. 127 providers received on-site monitoring while 83 received a desk audit. Audit type was determined by a risk analysis based on past performance and complaints.</p> <p>A total of 592 attendance monitoring reviews were conducted, resulting in \$23,266 that were repaid, due to provider reporting/documentation errors, and used to fund additional slots.</p>																											
<p>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance</p>	<p>In 2009-10, The Early Learning Coalition provided workshops and conferences in the Core Competency Areas.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="586 1352 1435 1877"> <thead> <tr> <th>Core Competency Area</th> <th>Attendees</th> <th>Trainings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Health & Safety</td> <td>215</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Development & Learning</td> <td>245</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building Family & Community</td> <td>10</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching and Learning Curriculum</td> <td>854</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Observing and Documentation</td> <td>189</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professionalism</td> <td>1001</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2514</td> <td>128</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Core Competency Area	Attendees	Trainings	Health & Safety	215	10	Child Development & Learning	245	9	Building Family & Community	10	1	Teaching and Learning Curriculum	854	42	Observing and Documentation	189	13	Professionalism	1001	53		0	0	Total	2514	128
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	<p>The Coalition also hosted 5 major conferences:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="586 233 1175 501"> <thead> <tr> <th>Conference</th> <th>Attendees</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infant Toddler</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Early Childhood</td> <td>210</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Directors</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inclusion</td> <td>114</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Age</td> <td>400</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Step Up Scholarships – college scholarships provided to 42 early childhood educators. 93% seeking an associate’s degree; 7% seeking CDA or director credential renewal.</p> <p>Additionally, on-site technical assistance was provided to School Readiness providers who were contracted with CCC or placed on a Service Improvement Agreement as a result of health and safety issues.</p>	Conference	Attendees	Infant Toddler	300	Early Childhood	210	Directors	85	Inclusion	114	School Age	400
Conference	Attendees												
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<p>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</p>	<p>In 2009-10, the Early Learning Coalition awarded STEP UP Scholarships to 39 early education teachers seeking an AS degree in Early Childhood from St. Petersburg College. An additional 3 non-degree seeking recipients were renewing a Director’s Credential or Florida Child Care Professional Certificate. A total of 75 scholarships were offered.</p>												
<p>Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.</p>	<p>CCC implemented the 5-Star Quality Improvement System for the period of July-September 2009 and developed and implemented the Quality Counts for Children (QC) initiative beginning October 2009 and ending June 30, 2010. The ELCP assumed the responsibility for the evolving program July 1, 2010.</p> <p>Quality Counts was designed by ELCP, JWB and CCC as a continuous quality improvement system that included a variety of financial incentives/supports for providers to continue working toward higher levels of quality or to maintain a high level of quality. The amounts of the Quality Action Grants and Continuous Quality Improvement Grants were influenced by the percent of School Readiness funded children served in comparison to their overall capacity.</p>												

	<p>The 3 partners agreed to initially invite the 210 participants of the former 5-Star Quality Improvement System to transfer into the Quality Counts initiative to begin in October 2010 with a timetable that included orientation and self-study trainings to be completed by January 2010. As of February 2010, there were 183 providers participating in Quality Counts, and ELCP decided to limit the participating providers to 200 for budgetary reasons.</p> <p>In February 2010, the planning group decided to survey other community providers that were located in 10 of the most high-risk zip codes to gauge their interest in participating in the Quality Counts program. This decision was in accordance with JWB's on-going plan for developing Children's Zones for families residing in high-risk neighborhoods. 171 new providers were invited to learn about Quality Counts and by April, sixty-one (61) had attended the orientation sessions.</p> <p>Orientation sessions offered by CCC were attended by 193 participants for the new QC program (109 family child care homes and 84 child care centers). Self-study trainings were attended by 179 participants (for 98 family child care homes and 81 child care centers). Additionally, CCC provided 44 training sessions regarding the Environment Rating Scales (ERS).</p> <p>Technical assistance was provided to assist providers in developing and implementing quality action plans for improvements, where indicated. The aggregate average ERS score for the Quality Counts providers between October 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 was <u>3.96</u> and <u>any score greater than 2.99 is an indicator of relatively high quality</u>. All 44 fully participating Quality Counts providers received stars. The majority (67%) of the providers achieved a star-level of 3 or higher.</p> <p>See the attached Quality Counts Final Report for more detailed information on the Quality Counts for Children program.</p>
<p>Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy,</p>	<p><u>Infant Toddler Program</u> CCC provided training to an average of 27 providers that serve infants and toddlers that attended the Beyond Cribs and Rattles,</p>

<p>pre-reading, and early math concepts development.</p>	<p>Social-Emotional, and Literacy training components. This was a <u>multi-year initiative</u> that involved pre and post testing of the providers' increase in knowledge. The performance measure target was 50% and the average increase of 80% exceeded the objective.</p> <p><u>Florida First Start</u> The Coalition funds Florida First Start (FFS) through the Pinellas County School Board. Through this program, families with high risk infants and toddlers are guided in working with their children to develop early literacy, language and early math concepts. A total of 138 children between the ages of birth to five years were served during the 2009-10 program year. This represents 90 families served by Florida First Start.</p> <p>2,524 Home Visits were completed by staff. A HOME (Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment) rating scale is completed when a family joins the FFS program and then each subsequent August and January. Of the program families who had an August 2009 and February 2010 HOME completed, 80% showed improved scores in February.</p> <p>Families are encouraged to participate in activities to promote their child's development.</p> <p>307 Parents attending Play Groups (cumulative) 490 Children attending Play Groups (cumulative) 53 Play Groups held 84 Older siblings 114 Average # of children served each month 168 Contacts with kindergarten children/families/school (July-December) 70 Families with a library card</p> <p><u>Born To Read</u> The Coalition supports the Born to Read program at the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. The Born to Read program engages families in high risk areas to promote reading at home. Parents</p>
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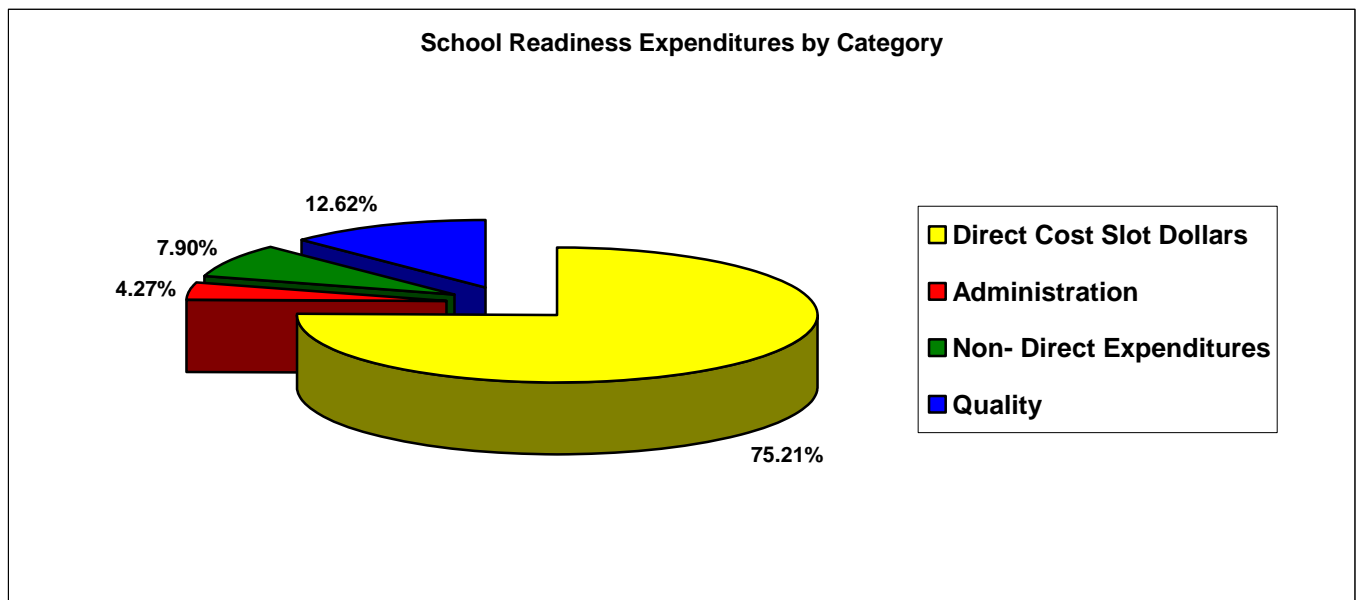
	<p>are taught the importance of reading to children and receive a free book. These families are invited to join the library to better ensure children have access to books and other literacy opportunities such as story time on an ongoing basis. 951 new families enrolled in the program and over 1,058 new library cards were issued to <i>Born to Read</i> families. Additionally, over 3,127 books and parenting materials were distributed at 16 outreach events in the 2009-2010 program year.</p>
<p>What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?</p>	<p><u>Screening</u> The Coalition conducts regular developmental screenings for School Readiness children ages birth to 5 years prior to kindergarten. Of the 5,344 children screened, 179 were referred for further evaluation by the Part B and Part C providers.</p> <p>Over 2000 children were identified with concerns by the screening but upon further review and consultation with parents and providers were placed on “monitor status”. These children were often new in a program, experiencing a life change such as divorce or illness. Parents and care givers were given activities and informal interventions to implement. Follow-up screenings were completed and children with continued concern were referred.</p> <p><u>PIECE</u> The Program for Inclusive Early Care and Education (PIECE) is an initiative funded through a grant awarded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. Participants of this program receive intensive training on <i>Positive Behavioral Supports, Response to Intervention and Beyond Differences and Diagnoses</i> . This intensive training is supported with onsite coaching throughout the year. Twelve Pinellas early care and education sites participated, impacting 154 teachers and approximately 758 children. The program was very effective with all sites reporting zero expulsions since entering the program.</p>

	<p>There were also two sites identified from Citrus County. Representative teachers, the directors and owner received extensive training as well as a dozen educational leaders from the five counties represented in the ELC Nature Coast Coalition. Follow up coaching was provided by the educational leader in Citrus County.</p> <p><u>Warm Line</u> Information about the Coalition’s Warm Line for inclusion is provided at a variety of trainings and meetings throughout the year. Additionally, this service is advertised on the Coalition website. The Inclusion Specialist assists providers in implementing accommodations and inclusive strategies to ensure each child is able to maximize their potential in the least restrictive environment. 653 consultations via phone or onsite were conducted. Additionally, the Director of Inclusion provides training for providers throughout the year.</p>
<p>How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other health activities including those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?</p>	<p>The Coalition works closely with the Child Care Licensing Program and provides technical assistance to providers to ensure a healthy and safe environment.</p> <p>As participating agency on the Kid Care Committee of Pinellas, the Coalition has collaborated in outreach efforts for the Kid Care Insurance. Information about Kid Care is provided with all CCR&R packets and at eligibility interviews.</p> <p>The Coalition contracts with the Pinellas County Health Department to provide vision and hearing screenings to preschool children throughout the county. During 09-10 4,910 children were screened. 617 children were referred for vision and 1014 were referred for hearing concerns.</p>
<p>Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))</p>	<p>Refer to the “Quality Rating” section.</p>

Fiscal Summary: During the 2009- 2010 fiscal year the coalition’s total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was \$34,774,450.00. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.

School Readiness

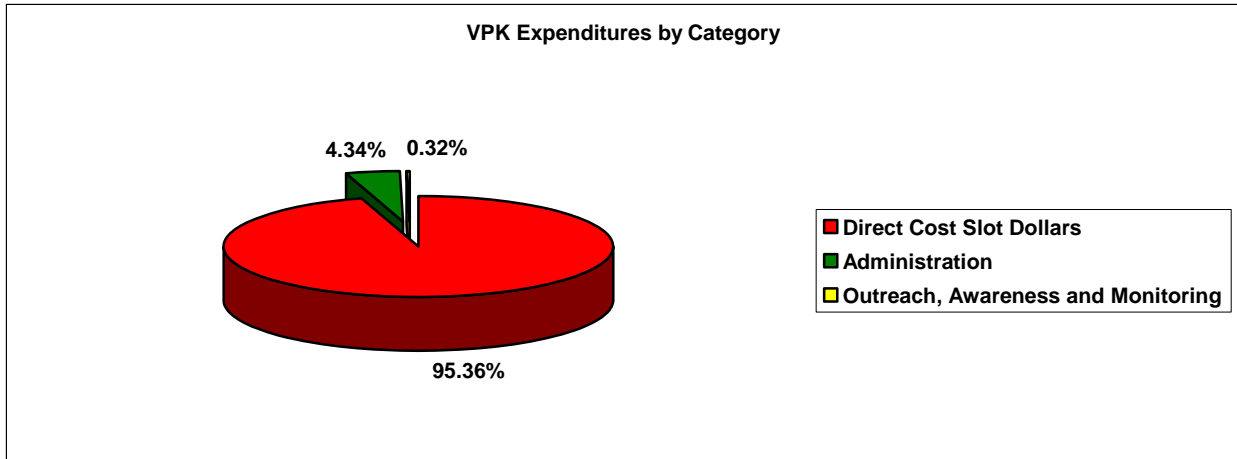
Direct Cost Slot Dollars	\$26,152,818.00
Administration	\$1,484,479.00
Non-Direct	\$2,747,835.00
Quality	<u>\$3,772,231.00</u>
Total	\$34,774,450.00



During the 2009- 2010 fiscal year the coalition’s total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$14,679,765.00. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.

Voluntary Prekindergarten

Direct Cost Slot Dollars	\$13,997,104.00
Administration	\$638,080.00
Outreach, Awareness & Monitoring	<u>\$44,581.00</u>
Total	\$14,679,765.00



Program Year Summary:

- A total of 12,824 School Readiness unduplicated children were served. This was achievable due to the influx of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- Adopted the Core Competency Areas of professional development.
- The Program for Inclusive Early Care and Education coordinated and held the first annual Inclusion Conference with a half day training and breakout sessions specifically for working with children with special needs and challenging behaviors.
- Program for Inclusive Early Care and Education year two saw the addition of 2 new child care centers for a total of 12 sites served in Pinellas. An additional two sites were added from Citrus County to pilot the program in a rural setting. The number of providers trained is 81 with over 350 children impacted.
- Voluntary Prekindergarten enrollment reached 6,104 children representing 106% of the goal set by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- CCC maintained customer satisfaction ratings of 96% by parents and 97% by school-readiness and VPK providers. The families that contacted CCC's Child Care Resource and Referral services indicated a customer service rating of 99%.
- The ELCP and CCC developed a Program Review Tool to review School Readiness programs and support technical assistance.
- Vision and hearing screenings were conducted on 4,910 children through the SEEK program.