

Early Learning Coalition

of Pinellas County, Inc.

Policy: ELCPC-61.1.7a	Title: School Readiness Provider Health and Safety – Formal Providers	
<i>Formerly addressed in :ELCPC-61.2.1</i>	Review Date: September 2011	Next Review Date: August 2012

References: School Readiness Provider Agreement, Chapter 411, F.S., Child Care Development Fund (federal)

Purpose: To provide interpretive guidelines for applicable health and safety requirements for child care centers and licenses family child care homes as outlined in the School Readiness Agreement.

Background: *Section 411.01(5)(c)2.f., Florida Statutes, requires each early learning coalition’s CCDF-funded School Readiness program to provide a “healthy and safe environment.” To implement this requirement, each early learning coalition must adopt local health and safety requirements that may meet but not exceed state or local licensing standards, applicable to all School Readiness (CCDF-funded) Providers in its geographic region, including unlicensed center-based Providers.*

This Coalition policy and procedure is inclusive to all caregiver settings: child care center, licensed family child care homes receiving School Readiness (SR) funding. Health and Safety Requirements for Informal School Readiness providers are addressed in ELCPC-61.1.7b

Policy:

School Readiness providers must maintain a healthy and safe environment in accordance with Licensing Standards and Classification Summaries are defined by the Pinellas County License Board for Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes. These documents may be viewed at www.pclb.org.

Note:

Providers are prohibited from requiring School Readiness parents to cover payment for lost revenue due to violations of the School Readiness Agreement.

Providers may appeal action taken in accordance with this policy with the [School Readiness/VPK Grievance and Dispute Resolution Policy \(ELCPC-10.1\)](#).

I. MONITORING

Child Care Licensing

Health and safety standards for child care centers and family child care homes are monitored by the Child Care License Program of Pinellas (CCLP). CCLP provides notification to the Coalition of all complaints and fines. All health and safety concerns identified by Coalition staff are reported to licensing for further investigation.

Staff-to-Child Ratios

Ratios are monitored by Child Care Licensing during routine Inspections and Coalition staff during site visits.

II. ENFORCEMENT - HEALTH AND SAFETY

Level 1 School Readiness Enforcement

Service Improvement Agreement

The first Occurrence of a Class 1 Fine by the Child Care Licensing Program of Pinellas within a 24 month period will result in:

1. Provider will be placed on a Service Improvement Agreement (SIA).
2. Provider must submit a Facility Management Plan or Director Management Plan approved by Child Care Licensing.

Subsequent occurrence(s) of a Class 1 Fine by the Child Care Licensing Program of Pinellas within a 24 month period will result in:

1. The **Service Improvement Agreement** will be re-opened or amended to extend duration.
2. Provider must submit an updated Facility Management Plan or Director Management Plan approved by Child Care Licensing.

Level 2 School Readiness Enforcement

Parent Notification

All parents of School Readiness Funded Children, enrolled with this Provider, including existing and new enrollments who wish to remain with or enroll with the provider, are required to sign an acknowledgement of the Provider's license status or history of noncompliance under the following circumstances:

- A. Third occurrence of a Class 1 Fine by the Child Care Licensing Program of Pinellas within a 24 month period or
- B. Provider is placed on Probationary License or Suspension of Child Care License.

Parents choosing to keep their child enrolled with the provider must sign the acknowledgement to continue receiving School Readiness funding. CCR&R will assist parents in finding alternate care if they choose to transfer. Parents choosing to keep their child enrolled with the provider who do not sign the acknowledgment will forfeit their School Readiness scholarship.

Nonpayment for School Readiness

Payment for School Readiness services will be suspended under the following circumstances:

A. Non-compliance with Staff-to-Child Ratios

A non-compliance related to staff ratios will result in suspension of School Readiness payment for the number of days affected by the non-compliance.

B. Suspension of Child Care License

Payment for School Readiness services will be suspended for all days impacted by the suspension period. Suspension in excess of ten (10) business days will result in the transfer of School Readiness funded children to alternate providers.

Termination of School Readiness Agreement

Notice of Intent to Revoke or Deny License will result in:

1. Immediate notification of all School Readiness families of the Notice of Intent to Revoke or Deny.
2. Termination of the School Readiness Agreement upon conclusion of appeal period unless an appeal is filed.* Provider will not be eligible to offer School Readiness services nor receive state funds for a period of one (1) year from termination of the Agreement.
3. Parents of School Readiness funded children will be notified that the funding for these programs with this Provider will cease. CCR&R staff will assist parents in finding alternate care. If parents choose to stay with their current Provider, they will forfeit their School Readiness scholarship.

*In the event a provider appeals the Intent to Revoke:

All parents of School Readiness Funded Children, enrolled with this Provider, including existing and new enrollments, are required to sign an acknowledgment of the pending appeal if they would like to keep their child enrolled with the provider. CCR&R will assist parents in finding alternate care if they choose to transfer. Parents choosing to keep their child enrolled with the provider who do not sign the acknowledgment will forfeit their School Readiness scholarship.