



# CHILDREN FIRST: The Strategic Plan for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade / Monroe

## Our Values

- CHILDREN are at the heart of all we do. We believe that all children, regardless of circumstance, are capable of educational excellence and personal growth, and we are committed to ensuring school readiness and lifelong success for each one.
- COMMUNITY—We believe children are the future, and our community is an essential part of their road to success. By working together, we can promote education and support children as they become thriving, productive members of society.
- PARTNERSHIP—We value partnerships and are collaborative in all we do. We work closely with fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, individuals, and the community at large to promote the importance of early learning and to secure educational opportunities for all children.
- ADVOCACY— We are a champion for children, promoting positive societal and community change. Our staff and community partners are committed to advancing education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by their passion, strength and dedication to children.
- EXCELLENCE— When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community. Designed to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of all children, our programs are innovative and offer each child an equal opportunity for a successful future.
- EQUITY—In working with parents, families, providers, and partners, we are committed to the principle of equity and balance, so that all may benefit from the work we do, while keeping children first.

## Our Mission

To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-Kindergarten, and after school programs that further the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual well-being of Miami-Dade and Monroe children, with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

## Our Vision

### CHILDREN FIRST

By placing children first in all we do, children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties will enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

## Our Strategic Goals

<b>Neediest Children</b> <i>Improve outcomes for the children in the most distressed communities</i>	<b>Youngest Children</b> <i>Offer a continuum of care from before birth to age 8, focusing on the youngest</i>	<b>Educate All</b> <i>Educate all families and children about the benefits of early learning</i>	<b>Providers</b> <i>Improve ELC relationship with Providers and Provider performance</i>	<b>Internal Capacity</b> <i>Strengthen Board and Staff capacity to carry out strategic goals</i>	<b>Funding</b> <i>Increase public and private funding and reallocate funds to strategic goals</i>
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## Our Priority Initiatives

<b>Target neediest areas:</b> Identify centers in distressed zip codes & provide extra support for them <b>Reduce the Number of Children</b> receiving subsidies to permit higher quality services to those enrolled	<b>Target Ages:</b> Set targets for after school care for children over 9 and 6-8 years of age <b>Age-based Rates:</b> Adjust reimbursement rates to offer incentives to serve the youngest children <b>Enrichment Centers:</b> Discontinue or cut back on centers that do not offer full educational programs	<b>Parental Choice:</b> Educate parents to choose child care centers that ensure better out-comes for their children	<b>Establish Standards</b> for child care Providers and enforce them <b>Provider Reimbursement Rates:</b> Determine optimum rates & tie to performance standards <b>Teacher Education:</b> Increase the number of teachers with child care credentials <b>Accreditation:</b> Encourage or require accreditation for child care centers	<b>Advocacy:</b> Engage aggressively & systematically in advocacy to drive better outcomes for children <b>Quality Counts:</b> Enroll more centers in the ELC program <b>Central Agency:</b> Work with CDS to improve eligibility process	<b>Public:</b> Secure adequate resources to ensure high quality delivery to each child we serve <b>Private:</b> Raise significant private funds to fill gaps
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## Our Secondary Initiatives

<b>Parent/Family Self-sufficiency:</b> Identify methods of encouraging self-sufficiency <b>Limits on Enrollment by Family:</b> Set limitations on the years any family can receive a subsidy or on number of children <b>Target Providers by Geography:</b> Focus on distressed areas	<b>Parent Accountability:</b> Offer incentives for parents to become more accountable	<b>Visibility:</b> Achieve visibility throughout both counties	<b>Fewer Providers:</b> Drop low-performing Providers <b>Technical Business Assistance:</b> Offer business assistance to providers in distressed areas	<b>Technology:</b> Expand systems for assessment, accountability, enrollment verification, and reimbursements <b>Council of Partners:</b> Establish regular meetings with Partners	<b>Monroe County:</b> Establish a Children's Services Council with dedicated funding
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# Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe Children First







