



Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

October 12, 2021

1 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 921 1793 0396

Passcode: ELC1012

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| I. | Welcome & Introductions | Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair |
| II. | Approval of Agenda | Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair |
| III. | Approval of August 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes | Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair |
| IV. | ELC Monroe Update | Laurie Dunn, Monroe County Supervisor |
| V. | FL Keys Chamber and Other Updates | Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair |
| | A. Public Comment | |
| VI. | Partner Updates | |
| | A. Child Care Provider Update | Sue Ellen Bennett, Monroe Advisory Committee Provider Representative |
| | • Public Comment | |
| | B. District Head Start/VPK Update | Marla Russell, Early Childhood Supervisor |
| | • Public Comment | |
| | C. DCF Updates | Jeff Hurst, DCF |
| | • Public Comment | |
| | D. COVID Update | Bob Eadie, Director Monroe County Health Department |
| | • Public Comment | |

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. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.





VII. Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule

Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair

VIII. Public Comments

Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair

IX. Adjourn

Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair



Monroe Advisory Committee
Meeting
August 10, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 983 2643 9037
Passcode: 518951

Committee Attendees: Heather Carruthers, Stephanie Scuderi, Aleida Jacobo, Gilda Ferradaz, Sue Ellen Bennett, Sandi Bisceglia, Lisa Taylor

Committee Absentees: Bob Edie, Marla Russell

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Jackye Russell, Sandra P. Gonzalez, Aileen Suazo, Ana Sejeck, Fiorella Altare, Michele Morgan, Dialina Quintanal, Wilhelmina Martin, Paloma Lopez-Barcena, Laurie Dunn, Adelina Gross

Other Board Members in Attendance: Dr. David Armstrong

General Attendees: Jeffrey Hurst, Christine Patterson, Laura Toman, Carlos Salazar, Amanda Pinkley

I. Welcome and Introductions Heather Carruthers, Chair

- a. H. Carruthers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- b. Quorum was established with seven (7) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes Heather Carruthers, Chair

- Motion to approve minutes by S. Bisceglia
- Motion seconded by S. Bennett
- Motion unanimously passed.

III. CEO Update

- E. Torres gave the following updates:
 - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Grants
 - Grant payments were provided to qualified instructors in recognition of their continuing service and dedication to Florida's children and families.
 - Photos of teachers receiving the checks at Burton Memorial Child Development Center were shared.

Disaster Relief Payments

- The deadline to apply for Disaster Relief Funding has been extended to August 13.
- Division of Early Learning (DEL) continues to troubleshoot issues with the online application.
- Committee members and staff are urged to encourage partners to apply as application numbers are low.
- Advance Child Tax Credit for 2021 is available for eligible families, beginning July 15 through December 15. Families are informed at every opportunity to file their tax return or register using the IRS Non-filer Sign-up Tool to receive payment.
- Almost \$37 million in partner bonuses has been released by the ELC, and an additional \$11 million in School Readiness local quality bonuses were approved for release in August.

IV. Florida Keys Chamber and other Updates

- S. Bisceglia gave the following updates:
 - The work continues to utilize maps created by the ELC staff to engage the Monroe County Chambers of Commerce.
 - It was shared that a recent report shows 14.6% of renters in the Keys are behind on rent due to COVID or other. Families are urged to apply for rental assistance.
 - Home prices in the County have risen to an average of \$845,000.
 - Current discussions are focused on employers providing a living wage.
 - Ms. Bisceglia was acknowledged by Mr. Torres for her work with the Chamber.

V. Program Updates

- L. Dunn gave the following updates:
 - 296 children receiving School Readiness funding
 - 441 children with a VPK voucher enrolled
 - 28 children with an at-risk referral enrolled
 - A refresher training will be provided to address decline in at-risk referrals
- Professional/Workforce Development
 - Work continues on the Apprenticeship and Internship Programs:
 - Apprenticeship Program will be a 12-month placement with a mentor teacher, while earning a National CDA (Child Development Associate)
 - Internship Program will be a (4) month classroom placement, with a mentor teacher and completion on the Department of Children and Families' 45-hour training requirement.
 - 25 apprenticeships available year 1.
 - Free program orientation took place in July online.
 - Proposed salary under consideration

- Communications
 - 21 ELC email blasts sent out to Monroe
 - June monthly email open rate percentage reported at 24.7%.

VI. Partner Updates

- S. Ellen Bennett gave an update on providers in Monroe County. She stated providers continue to struggle with teacher retention; salary, lack of flexibility and sickness an issue.
- J. Hurst gave the following updates:
 - Providers continue to face challenges with teacher retention to ensure children safety and mandated ratio. Ideas have been discussed among providers such as job sharing, rotating shifts and alternating hours.
 - Miami Children’s Initiative has partnered with Miami-Dade College to offer stackable classes to allow early childhood professionals to earn an AA or Bachelor’s at a reduced rate.
 - Change of ownership of child care centers has been occurring frequently.
 - Applicants for new Department of Children and Families (DCF) license must now apply online.
 - The Care System used to approve renewals and inspections has been updated to 2.0.
 - Latest mandated training released and available for certificate.

VII. Children’s Movement of Florida

- Carlos Salazar, head of Business Engagement shared the following:
 - The Children’s Movement of Florida is working to advocate for high quality early learning opportunities, access to children’s health care, and parent support programs in Florida.
 - A goal is to engage the business community through programs such as Bosses for Babies, an initiative that brings together business champions for early childhood.
 - The organization is partnering with local chambers and other organizations to invest in young children and families and the opportunity to partner is extended to every county in Florida.

VIII. Monroe County Needs Assessment

- A. Parrino stated that NOLO is in the process of collecting primary and secondary data.
 - Provider survey released to 285 partners and 15 responses received.
 - Parent survey released to 694 parents and 9 responses received.
 - NOLO needs a 60% return.

IX. Public Comments Heather Carruthers, Chair

X. Adjourn Heather Carruthers, Chair



ELC Monroe Update

October 12, 2021

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Strategic Plan | 3 |
| School Readiness Program Assessment | 7 |
| Monroe Key Points | 9 |
| School Readiness Enrollment | 10 |
| VPK Enrollment | 11 |
| School Readiness Slot Utilization Snapshot | 12 |
| Professional Development Institute | 13 |
| Child Development Associate (CDA®) Program | 14 |
| CDA® Recipients | 15 |

Strategic Plan

**Lead Manager: Jackye Russell, Senior Vice President for
Administration**

jrussell@elcmdm.org



Mission and Vision

Mission

To promote high-quality inclusive 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. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages birth through age 5.

Vision

Children First

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated early learning system for all families and their children, birth to 5 years, ensuring high-quality programs throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, so children enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

Early Education. Lifelong Success.



Children First: The Strategic Plan for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe

2017-2022

Early Education. Lifelong Success.

OUR MISSION

To promote high-quality inclusive 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. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages birth through age 5.

OUR VISION

CHILDREN FIRST

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated early learning system for all families and their children, birth to 5 years, ensuring high-quality programs throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, so children enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

OUR VALUES

- **CHILDREN** - 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 high quality early 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 early education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by our collective 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.
- **CUSTOMER SERVICES** - We strive to meet the needs of our parents, families, providers and partners by providing comprehensive customer service in a professional, timely and courteous manner.
- **EQUITY** - Equity, inclusion and cultural competence is embodied in our values, practices and programming so that children, parents, families and providers may fully benefit from our priority initiatives, while keeping children first.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

NEEDIEST CHILDREN

Improve outcomes for children in our neediest communities, including children with developmental and other delays and disabilities, by improving the quality of early learning programs

Target neediest areas

Identify centers in distressed zip codes and those serving children with, or at risk for, developmental delays & provide extra support for them to meet higher standards

Increase the Number of Children

Receiving services who have physical, developmental, sensory, and social-emotional delays and disabilities

YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Offer a continuum of care throughout childhood, with a particular focus on infants and toddlers

Age-based Rates

Adjust reimbursement rates to offer incentives to serve the youngest children

PROVIDERS

Strengthen Coalition relationship with providers and support providers meeting higher quality performance requirements

Improve Provider Selection and Contracting Process

Establish local provisions that support parental choice and ensure providers serving children receiving subsidies meet contract and quality requirements

Teacher Education

Increase the number of teachers with child care credentials

Quality Providers

Drive incentives to higher performing providers

Technical Business Assistance

Offer business assistance to providers in distressed areas

Educate Providers

Provide program directors/staff with training and resources to provide high quality care to all children, including children with disabilities

EDUCATE ALL

Educate families and the community at large about the benefits of quality early learning.

Parental Choice

Develop innovative strategies to help parents choose child care programs that ensure better outcomes for their children

Visibility

Achieve increased visibility of the importance of early learning throughout both counties by creating child care resources and providing information

CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthen Board and Staff capacity to carry out strategic goals

Advocacy

Engage aggressively & systematically in advocacy to drive better outcomes for children

Early Child Care Education Systems Building

Establish regular meetings with partners to strengthen cross-sector investments and policies for children birth through age five

FUNDING

Increase public and private funding and reallocate funds to strategic goals

Public

Secure adequate resources to ensure high quality delivery to each child we serve

Monroe County

Establish a Permanent Funding Model for Social Services

FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS

Develop widely accepted state-wide bench marks of quality (e.g. Child assessments, accreditation, learning environment, etc.)

Change state policy to allow ELCs to contract only with childcare programs that meet state-wide quality bench marks

Establish the Performance Funding Program platform as the statewide quality, tiered reimbursement and pay for performance model

School Readiness Program Assessment

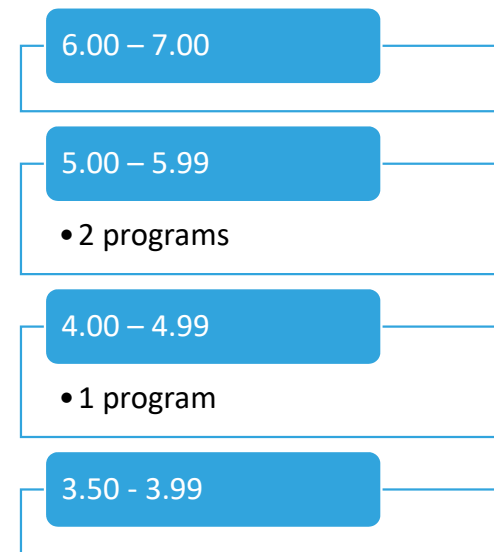
Paloma Lopez-Barcena, M.S.

Deputy Director of Quality Initiatives

plopez-barcena@elcmdm.org

School Readiness Program Assessment Status

- The Coalition has assessed 9 classrooms and rated 3 early learning programs in Monroe County as of 10/5/2021
- Approximately 8 programs pending Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) assessments*
- 0 programs have scored below a contract threshold of 3.50
- The Coalition's team is assessing partners daily
 - COVID continues to delay assessments due to classrooms and programs closing when there is a positive case



* Programs pending an assessment do not include those that may come out of exemptions (due to violations or exceeding the 20% threshold).

Monroe Key Points

School Readiness Monroe Numbers:

- 302 children receiving School Readiness funding

Voluntary Prekindergarten Monroe Numbers:

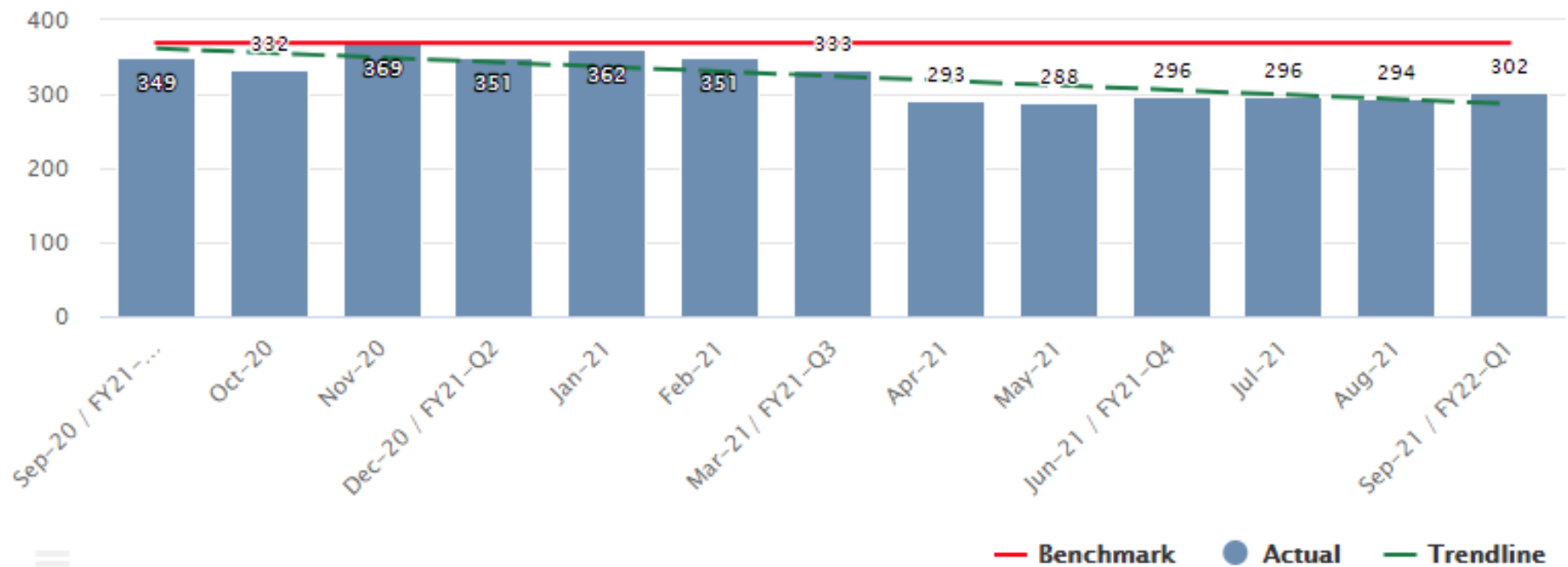
- 217 children enrolled in Voluntary Prekindergarten

At Risk Referrals:

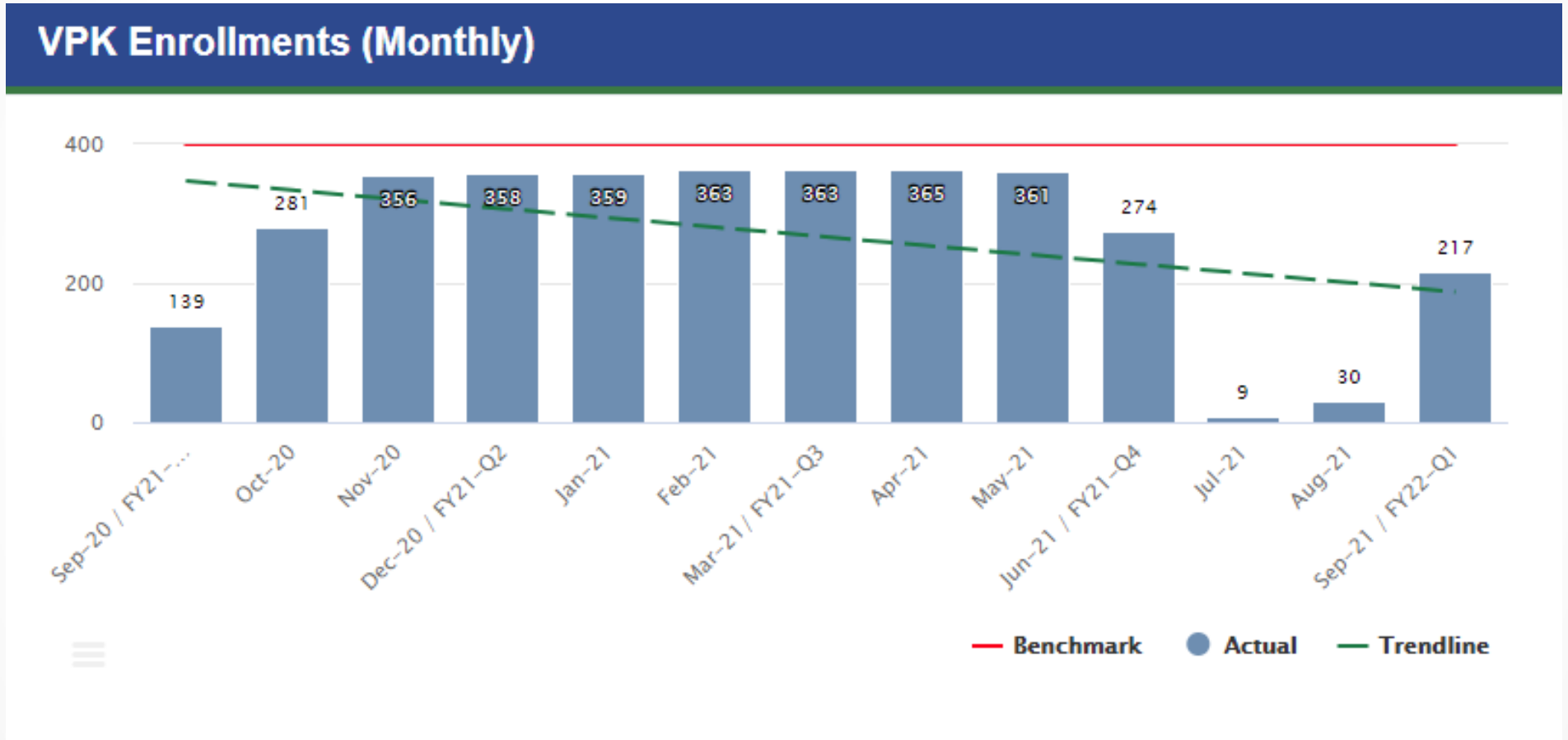
- 30 children with an at risk referral

School Readiness Enrollment - Monroe

SR Enrollments (Monthly)



VPK Enrollment- Monroe



Sources: Ad-Hoc Tableau Visualizations from Division of Early Learning's, EFS-MOD On-line System

Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

School Readiness Slot Utilization Snapshot – Monroe

8/1/2020 comparison to 8/1/2021

| Aug-2020* | | Aug-2021 | |
|--|------------|---|------------|
| # of SR Children Served (Enrolled) | | # of SR Children Served (Enrolled) | |
| | 393 | | 313 |
| Ages for SR Children Enrolled | | Ages for SR Children Enrolled | |
| <i>Infant</i> | 74 | <i>Infant</i> | 43 |
| <i>Toddler</i> | 63 | <i>Toddler</i> | 57 |
| <i>Three Year Old</i> | 76 | <i>Three Year Old</i> | 54 |
| <i>Pre-School</i> | 108 | <i>Pre-School</i> | 87 |
| <i>School Age</i> | 72 | <i>School Age</i> | 72 |
| Total | 393 | Total | 313 |
| Enrollment Activity | | Enrollment Activity | |
| <i>Beginning Census</i> | 412 | <i>Beginning Census</i> | 280 |
| <i>Net Increase/Decrease</i> | (19) | <i>Net Increase/Decrease</i> | 33 |
| Total | 393 | Total | 313 |
| SR Payments | | SR Payments | |
| | \$201,417 | | \$134,001 |
| # of SR Applications in the Queue | | # of SR Applications in the Queue | |
| <i>Ages 0-5</i> | 0 | <i>Ages 0-5</i> | 0 |
| <i>Ages 6-13</i> | 0 | <i>Ages 6-13</i> | 0 |
| Total | 0 | Total | 0 |
| *Includes enrollments of first responders due to the pandemic. | | | |
| Acronym | | | |
| School Readiness (SR) | | | |

Sources: EFS MOD, Tableau Ad-Hoc Reports, and MS SQL Ad-Hoc Reports (Snapshots Detail Workbook)

School Readiness Slot
Utilization Snapshot
Monroe

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Educate All
- Neediest Children
- Providers

The Professional Development Institute

Pamela Hollingsworth, M.Ed.,

Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Program Development

phollingsworth@elcmdm.org



Upcoming Child Development Associate (CDA®) Courses



Registration Closed
Classes begin November 6, 2021

- Child Development Associate (CDA®) Credential for Preschool **English**
- Child Development Associate (CDA®) Credential for Preschool **Spanish**

Child Development Associate (CDA®) Recipients

Participants of the first Child Development Associate (CDA®) training course for Family Child Care Homes and Infant Toddler offered by the **Professional Development Institute** who have obtained their CDA® Credential from the Council of Professional Recognition.

Ayamis Ledesma
Miami-Dade

Grettel Carreno
Miami-Dade

Katerine Uribe
Miami-Dade

Magaly Viza
Miami-Dade

Barbara Alvarez
Monroe

Izet Hernandez
Monroe

Maria Lamadrid
Monroe

Misleidy Perez
Miami-Dade

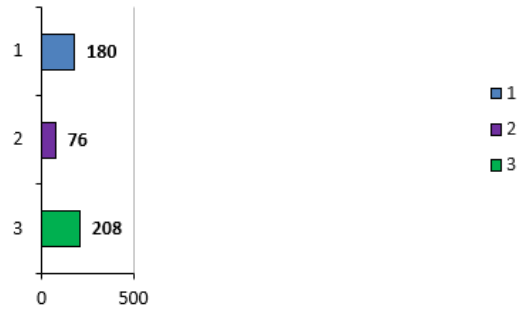
Monica Rivas
Miami-Dade

Nuvia Ruiz
Miami-Dade

Olga Lidia Terán
Miami-Dade

Monroe County District Head Start/VPK Report

| School Site | Head Start Class(es) | HS Students per Site | HS/VPK Blended Class(es) | HS/VPK Blended Students | VPK Only Stand Alone Class(es) | VPK Stand Alone | Pre-K ESE Class(es) | *Pre-K ESE Students | *Key: AM/PM = Double Session |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gerald Adams Elementary | 3 | 60/60 | 3 | 19 | AM/PM 2 | 40 | 2 | 19 | |
| Horace O'Bryant | 2 | 40/40 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 22 | 2 | 14 | |
| Key Largo School | 2 | 33/40 | 2 | 15 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 13 | |
| Plantation Key School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 1 | |
| Poinciana Elementary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | AM/PM AM/PM 4 | 65 | 2 | 14 | |
| Stanley Switlik School | 2 | 32/40 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 7 | |
| Sugarloaf Elementary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | AM/PM 2 | 38 | 1 | 8 | |
| Column Totals: | 9 | 165/180 | 8 | 58 | 14 | 208 | 10 | 76 | |
| *The Pre-K ESE numbers are increasing as placements are made. | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Funded by Head Start: | 180 | | | | | | | | |
| Total ESE PRE-K MCSD: | 76 | | | | | | | | |
| Total Enrolled MCSD Stand Alone VPK: | 208 | | | | | | | | |
| Pre-K Total MCSD: | 464 | | | | | | | | |
| #Students using VPK Vouchers: (this number is blended + stand alone) | 266 | | | | | | | | |



Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule

Monroe Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 18, 2022; 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15, 2022; 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17, 2022; 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 16, 2022; 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11, 2022; 1:00 p.m.