Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
November 4, 2020

Evelio Torres, President and CEO
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.*
Early Learning Coalitions

- ELC of Escambia
- ELC of Santa Rosa
- ELC of Okaloosa & Walton Counties
- ELC of Northwest Florida
- ELC of the Big Bend Region
- ELC of Florida's Gateway
- ELC of the Nature Coast
- ELC of Alachua
- ELC of Duval
- ELC of North Florida
- ELC of Marion
- ELC of Flagler & Volusia Counties
- ELC of Orange
- ELC of Seminole
- ELC of Lake
- ELC of Pasco & Hernando Counties
- ELC of Pinellas
- ELC of Hillsborough
- ELC of Polk
- ELC of Osceola
- ELC of Brevard
- ELC of Manatee
- ELC of Sarasota
- ELC of Florida’s Heartland, Inc.
- ELC of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee
- ELC of St. Lucie
- ELC of Southwest Florida
- ELC of Palm Beach
- ELC of Broward
- ELC of Miami/Dade & Monroe
• Early Learning Programs: Over 1,400 early learning programs. Most are family owned and operated small businesses.

• Employees: Community’s qualifying working parents can receive assistance paying for childcare. A big financial help due to high cost.

• Employers: Benefit from reduced absenteeism and more productive employees who are less stressed and anxious about their children during work hours.

• Florida law requires more than one-third of the members of each early learning coalition must be private sector business members.

• Three board members, including board chair, appointed by the governor.
School Readiness Program

- The School Readiness program is the primary public child care program in Florida. It supports the employment of income eligible parents and children’s development.

- Vouchers provided to income eligible working (or attending school) families so their children can attend a preschool of their choice.

- 23,000 children 0 – 12 years old are enrolled annually in Miami-Dade.

- Eligibility Example: Family of four earning $39,300 or less per year.
Main Industries Whose Employees Participate in the School Readiness Program

- Retail
- Tourism, Hospitality
- Restaurants
- Service Industry (other)
- Self-employed/Small Businesses
- Healthcare
Everyone Benefits

- Children Learn and Are Better Prepared to Succeed
- Parents Work
- Employers - Lower Absenteeism/Less Turnover
- Economy - Economic Fuel
- School Districts - K Ready/Improved Reading Scores
- Tax Payers - Return on Investment
- Florida - Better Prepared Talent Supply
Opportunities to Collaborate

Sharing information with members about the availability of the program for their employees.

Partner to encourage early learning programs to join chamber.

Supporting good public policies for our state’s youngest learners on legislative priorities.