

Early Learning Coalition Partner Weekly Webinars for Miami-Dade and Monroe Early Childhood Partners August 26, 2020 Meeting

Questions and Answers

New Normal Guidance

The mayor says that all kids will be required to wear masks. However, DCF said that isn't a requirement. Does the ELC have information regarding this? What happens if the parent doesn't want the child to wear a face mask? We have to force them?

There is still a Miami-Dade County Executive Order in effect that requires children older than 2 years of age to wear a mask. It is a requirement in Miami-Dade County.

Our children take off their masks, and we are constantly trying for them to wear them, but most of them refuse to wear them. What happens then?

Children should be encouraged to continue to wear the masks for their own, as well as the safety of others.

Since we go back to regular attendance and collecting parent co-pay come September 1. What happens with those students that have not been attending school physically but now if they attend we cannot comply with that ratio mandated by the executive orders?

While the executive order remains in effect in Miami-Dade County, the requirement is still for a maximum of ten children per group.

What constitutes a classroom if there are dividers? Can we divide a room with 25 capacity with partition each side with executive order ratio?

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has very specific requirements related to classroom space and the type of approved room dividers. Please check with your DCF Licensing Inspector for specific requirements.

What about the School Readiness children that their parents don't want to bring them to school yet. Will they lose their services?

According to the most current Office of Early Learning guidance, starting on September 1, 2020 attendance rules will take effect, after 10 absences the provider is to withdraw child from attendance & parent will need to notify the Early Learning Coalition for SR status. A parent can also request a Temporary Suspension of Services (for up to 90 days) however their spot at their current center is not a guarantee when they are ready to be re-enrolled. Parent must contact the coalition for reinstatement prior to reinstatement of services.

Parents are calling for transfers. We know they've been waived but we are not sure how to guide them. Can you clarify?

VPK transfers due to flex options will be waived according to recent OEL guidance. Redirect the parent to the Early Learning Coalition for any technical assistance. If the child used any VPK hours they still need to login and request a re-enrollment to transfer to another provider.

We have two children that were given the ELC School Readiness program because the parents are first responders. Will that program be honored for the full time care?

First responder/health worker scholarship was granted until the date on the services certificate. As indicated by Mr. Hernandez, for school age children attending a provider instead of MDCPS due to virtual platform, the provider can change the attendance from PT to FT.

FRSR states \$0.00 co-pay will this continue to be the case on the 1st and will full reimbursement value be provided for school aged child FT enrollment

Reimbursements are based on enrollment and waivers for this ends 8/31/20, based on the last guidance. OEL will need to give us more information if this will be reconsidered. We will address this question to OEL.

When does the first responder eligibility end?

Please refer to the authorization dates on the referral. As for the end date until the executive order remains, it will continue. Parent will need to resubmit a referral every 90 days (subject to approval by their HR dept) but can be eligible up to 12 months.

What is the ratio for centers with children with special needs?

The ratio in all classrooms is 10. In rooms with children with Special Needs with a full time aid/support professional. The ratio can be increased to 12 to include the child and support professional. ([The New Normal, pg. 71](#))

¿Cual es el ratio para los centros con niños especiales?

La proporción en todas las aulas es 10 estudiantes por una profesora. En las clases con niños especiales con un terapeuta de tiempo completo la proporción se puede aumentar a 12 para incluir el niño especial y su terapeuta. ([The New Normal, pg. 71](#))

Tengo un salón de VPK con capacidad para 28 niños, ¿puedo dividir el salón y poner 10 con la profesora y 10 con la asistente?

Para poder dividir la capacidad del salón, tendrán que consultar primero con el Departamento de Niños y Familias y ser aprobados. Si son aprobados y deciden dividir los grupos, es necesario que cada grupo tenga asignado un VPK Lead Teacher con las credenciales requeridas. Las asistentes no pueden tomar el papel de VPK Lead Teacher si no han sido aprobadas o tienen las credenciales requeridas.

Que pasaría con los niños de School Readiness que los padres no los quieren traer todavía a las escuelas. ¿Estos padres perderían su beca?

Basado con la última comunicación de OEL, a partir de 9 de septiembre del 2020, las ausencias de 10 días regresan. El padre puede pedir una suspensión de servicios con ELCMDM (máximo de 90 días) pero no garantiza que el proveedor va tener cupo disponible en el centro. El padre tiene que comunicarse con ELCMDM antes de regresar para enrolar niño(s).

School Readiness

Will SR families be notified that the parent fee will be due?

SR families & provider should refer themselves to the signed service certificate accessible on their portal. ELC sends redetermination reminders 45 & 30 days before last day of services via email & text. Information will also be sent to parents via email and text, informing them that the waiver for parent co-payments ends on August 31.

Do you know the time frame parents have before they are told they will lose their TCT or School Readiness?

All parents are contacted starting 45 days before their SR expires.

¿Los niños que son hijos de trabajadores esenciales, que está pasando con el estímulo que no lo pagan?

Todos los bonos han sido pagos incluyendo el mes de Julio 2020

¿Seguirá pagando en septiembre la coalición por los niños, aunque el padre quisiera quedarse con sus hijos, o tienen ve venir al centro?

Hasta el momento la dispensa se expira en el lunes, agosto 31, 2020. Después del lunes, pagaremos por las 10 ausencias normales por mes para School Readiness.

¿Quisiera saber si van a pagar por school age tiempo completo, aunque estén ausentes por el COVID -19?

Hasta el momento la dispensa se expira en el lunes, 31 de agosto, 2020. Después de Lunes, pagaremos por las 10 ausencias normales por mes para School Readiness.

VPK Flex

How do we keep attendance on Flex VPK?

Attendance Rules for VPK have not changed. Long Forms should still be used and submitted if offering VPK Flex.

Is it still a requirement to have a minimum of 4 children to open a VPK classroom?

Yes.

What are the guidelines for VPK Flex parents to sign the VPK long-form? Any suggestions on how to have parents sign the VPK long form, when we are socially distancing? We are currently doing contactless sign in and out via an app. Teachers are keeping attendance records.

At this time VPK Long Forms are still required. We are awaiting further guidance on how to obtain parent signatures.

Regarding VPK Flex can parents transfer from VPK Flex to In-Class Learning before the Flex program is completed in December? Also, if we have 4 VPK students starting the FLEX program and 1 student leaves half way through leaving only 3 students, can the class still continue through the end of December?

Yes, parents can transfer before the VPK Flex program ends. Also, if the fourth student withdraws from your program after your program has started, you may continue the VPK program.

Do we still have to do the VPK Assessments?

VPK Assessments are still required whether offering VPK in Person or Flex

If the school is closed do they have a time-frame to apply for VPK Flex?

Last day to apply for the VPK Flex program is September 17, 2020.

Can providers have two separate VPK programs simultaneously (VPK Regular & VPK Flex) considering they are two separate times in the day?

Yes.

I understand the VPK Flex you have to be approved before creating the class, but it will take about a month, what happened to those student whose parents do not want them to attend vpk in person in the meantime?

The center's calendar will begin once the VPK Flex application is approved and the calendar is created. Providers will be able to change their calendars as needed to ensure children receive the full 540 hours of VPK for the year.

For regular VPK 4 children are required to start VPK, the same is required for VPK flex. What happened if a parents transfer from VPK Flex to In-Class Learning before the Flex program is completed in December?

Yes, four children is still the required minimum. If the parent would like to transfer to face-to-face learning and your program is offering it, they may switch. Please keep in mind, the center must have the capacity.

When will the assurances be available on the portal?

Assurances were released on Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

Can we only offer virtual until MDCPS opens and shift back to in-person learning?

The center may choose to offer just VPK Flex if your center has currently been closed and the children have not started their VPK in person.

We can choose any platform we like?

The platform must be safe and secure. This information will also be submitted as one of the assurances for approval.

Do we still have to do the VPK Assessments for regular VPK?

VPK Assessments are still required whether offering VPK in Person or Flex

Are there examples of applications filled, so we can get ideas of different programs that are already approved?

No, there are no sample applications.

Can a student participate in FLEX and IN-CLASS LEARNING, for example 2 days in-class and 3 days flex?

We are awaiting further guidance.

Can we have 20 children in the classroom with 2 teachers?

Not in Miami-Dade County. For face-to-face instruction, the center must follow the executive order, which sets the maximum number of children in a group at 10.

Can the teacher that is teaching in class also teach flex at the same time?

Yes

In yesterday's webinar this was posted on a slide: Eligibility requirements include: • Private providers must be open, offering in-person VPK, in order to leverage this innovative option for families who choose it. Can you please clarify?

Miami-Dade and Monroe County private VPK providers may deliver their VPK program consistent with their school district's approved K-12 reopening plans.

Can we have more information on what the flex program entails? Very hard to find specific information. Is this only online? Both?

Click on the link for 2020-21 VPK Flexible Options Guidance Highlights <https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/VPK/2020-21%20VPK%20Innovative%20Options%20Guidance%20Highlights%208-24-20.pdf>

¿El VPK Flex puede funcionar desde los hogares o es desde los centros?

Los niños participarían desde sus hogares hasta que regresen a instrucción cara a cara en el centro.

¿Cuántos niños necesitas para empezar VPK Flex?

La ratio de VPK permanecen iguales para VPK Flex (1:11, 2:20). Los centros tendrán que garantizar que tengan suficiente espacio para admitir el número de estudiantes registrados en VPK Flex al centro en cuanto regresen a la instrucción cara a cara.

¿Como los padres firman el long form en VPK Flex?

En estos momentos, estamos esperando orientación de la Oficina de Early Learning acerca del procedimiento de la asistencia de VPK. En cuanto tengamos más información, se les informara a los proveedores.

¿Los niños de Flex pueden estar 3 días virtual y 2 on-site?

VPK Flex debería servir como una transición para que los niño eventualmente pueden participar en persona. Las familias deberían escoger el programa en que se sientan más seguros (VPK Flex o en persona).

¿Puede un niño de VPK que los padres decidan no asista al centro presencialmente incorporarse en enero del 2021?

El centro podrá ajustar su calendario para ofrecer VPK en enero. Tendrán que consultar con su especialista para que puedan ajustar sus calendarios para que reflejen las 540 horas. Si empezaren su programa de VPK más temprano, todavía un niño se puede incorporar en su programa escolar en enero.

¿La maestra que está en la clase en presencia puede ser la maestra de FLEX a la misma vez?

En este momento puede ser la misma maestra, pero con horarios diferentes. Por ejemplo: en persona de 9-12 y FLEX de 1-4. Actualmente estamos siguiendo las guías del condado y esperando más guías departe de OEL.

¿VPK Flex puede ser 3 horas virtual? screen time?

Si, VPK Flex podrá hacer 3 horas diarias. Recuerden que no podrán exceder de las 270 horas para VPK Flex en el año. Tengan en cuentan que durante estas tres horas pueden ofrecer actividades para que los niños completen offline incorporado con actividades e instrucción online. Si deciden hacerlo así para su programa, deben reflejan las actividades en su horario de clase de VPK y en los planes de instrucción (Lesson Plan).

¿Qué pasaría con un niño de VPK que los padres no quieren asista al centro?

El padre tiene la opción de enrolar su niño en un programa que ofrezca VPK Flex.

Payments

When will the parent fee waiver end, when do we start collecting parent fees?

The collection of parent fees will be in effect as of September 1, 2020.

Some one called my school that has school age children that will be doing online learning next week can they come to our school for the online in the morning and we will be paid for them.

Yes, as long as they are enrolled in your center to receive After School Care Services, otherwise, the family will need to initiate a transfer request.

When do we need to start to charging parent fee?

The collection of parent fees will be in effect as of September 1, 2020.

We didn't get paid for first responders bonus, when are we getting bonus deposit?

We are up-to-date with the bonuses payments including July 2020.

When are we getting the retroactive payment for the rate increase?

We are still processing the retro adjustments for the rate increase. Our Finance department will be notifying providers as soon as possible.

Are we going to be paid according to enrollment like during the summer or by actual attendance?

We will be paying on attendance starting on Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

What about payments for First responder funded families that have their child attending virtual learning
If the children are school-aged and enrolled in your center as part of the First Responder program, the answer is yes.

General

Are providers able to join the Board of Directors meeting?

All Board of Directors Meeting are open to the public. Dates, time and location can be found at elcmdm.org, event calendar