



EARLY LEARNING COALITION

NORTH FLORIDA

Helping Children. Helping Families.

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY



Maximize early learning investments through implementation of professionally accepted quality standards, pay for performance, and age-appropriate child assessment



- ★ Support **parent choice**. Voluntary Prekindergarten is one of Florida's largest education voucher programs. Increased quality standards help to ensure **equitable access to quality care** in all communities, by allowing parents better options as they select which educational opportunity is best for their child.
- ★ Develop and support a strong and **well-equipped early education workforce** in Florida.
- ★ **Leverage other state and local investments** in early learning quality initiatives.
- ★ Improve quality in early learning by supporting our **small business partners**, the providers.
- ★ Ensure early learning **programs receiving taxpayer funding, are accountable** for providing quality programs for children.


Investments in high quality early learning yield a \$7 to \$1 return on investment.



CONTACT

 Dawn Bell

 dbell@elcnorthflorida.org

 904-342-2267 X 204

www.elcnorthflorida.org



An evidence-based approach to systemic quality improvement in Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten program

Improve Florida's VPK Program

Adopt professionally accepted quality standards for VPK programs:

- **Curriculum Supports** - Provide resources and support to ensure effective implementation of approved curriculum.
- **Staff to child ratio** - 1:10 or better.
- **Monitoring/continuous quality improvement** - Structured classroom observation; adopt minimum standards and implement quality improvement processes for VPK providers.
- **Teacher Specialized Training** - Require teachers to have specialized training in early childhood education.
- **Professional Development** - Teachers and assistant teachers must receive at least 15 hours/year of in-service training, individualized professional development plans, and coaching.



Increase Investment in VPK

VPK Base Student Allocation: Increase BSA in conjunction with stronger quality standards.

Quality Improvement & Program Support:

Allocate 2% of VPK funding for early learning coalitions to support providers in meeting increased standards.

Pay for Performance: Tiered VPK payment differential based on demonstrated program quality and teacher child interactions linked to improved child outcomes.

Age Appropriate Child Assessment

Adopt the recommendations of the Committee for Early Grade Success for the development of a coordinated early childhood assessment system for publicly funded programs, birth through kindergarten entry.