

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
November 15, 2019

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6M-4.610, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. OEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

OEL is required to comply with lead agency responsibilities in the administration of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund. OEL must implement specific program eligibility requirements, which includes provider eligibility. Florida statute 1002.82(2)(m), requires OEL to establish by rule a standard statewide provider contract to be used with each School Readiness provider. Rule 6M-4.610 establishes the standard statewide provider contract and contract provisions.

The Office of Early Learning revised the rule text and incorporated forms for the 2020-21 contract year to further clarify the requirements of HB1091 implemented in the current contract, to update the contract to include the requirements of 6M-4.500, F.A.C., effective July 1, 2019 and to make minor corrections and updates throughout.

OEL amended the rule text, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program, by 1) updating the form dates that will be applicable at the time the rule becomes effective and for the 2020-21 contract year and 2) adding the requirement for providers to register and execute a contract using the single statewide information system.

OEL amended Form OEL-SR 20, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program, as follows:

- Added provider program assessment score.
- Revised the contract term period to the fiscal year.
- Added a paragraph to the provider responsibilities to clarify background screening requirements.
- Added a paragraph for sharing program assessment data across coalitions and RCMA.
- Revised developmental screenings.
- Clarified child assessment paragraph.
- Clarified monitoring paragraph.
- Added registration fees to the compensation and funding section.

- Added requirement for provider to notify coalition of request for additional assessment at the provider's expense and its cost.
- Clarified Child Care Resource & Referral Participation requirements paragraph.
- Updated references throughout and added references to 6M-4.500 F.A.C., Reimbursement for the School Readiness Program.
- Updated Exhibit 1 to include for multi-site providers, program assessment score, whether the site conducts child assessments and the child assessment tool used.
- Revised Exhibit 2 for clarification and to include Early Head Start as a specialized program type.
- Revised Exhibit 3 by replacing "benchmark" with "deliverable." Made other minor corrections.
- Removed care levels from the number of contracted slots in Exhibit 4 and clarified when reimbursement rate will be effective.
- Amended Exhibit 5 Approved Provider Reimbursement Rate table to include reimbursement for the quality performance incentive differential rate, local quality improvement rates, contracted slots rates and the child assessment differential rate. The table is modified into two tables, one for full-time rates and one for part-time rates. The revised rates table includes the reimbursement requirements of Rule 6M-4.500.
- Added provider name to exhibits that did not previously include a section for provider name.

OEL amended Form OEL-SR 20A, Amendment to the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract, as follows:

- Revised paragraph numbers to align with the contract.
- Added clarification regarding the Provider's Principal Office.
- Added note requiring a new health and safety inspection when adding a new site location using the exhibit.
- Added an amendment for administering developmental screenings.
- Added an amendment for a change in provider assessment score.
- Added an amendment for conducting child assessments and eligibility to receive the child assessment rate.
- Added an amendment for change in provider's selection of the child assessment tool.
- Revised and clarified contact persons and information amendment for coalition and provider contact.
- Clarified amendments for gold seal status, liability insurance and registration fees.
- Removed duplicate signature block.

There are no changes to the OEL-SR 20L Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract Licensed Provider Responsibilities, the OEL-SR 20LE Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract License-Exempt Provider Responsibilities or the OEL-SR 20FFN Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract Informal Responsibilities.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C. Forms OEL-SR 20, Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract (July 2020); OEL-SR 20A, Amendment to the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract (July 2020); OEL-SR 20L, Licensed Provider Responsibilities (July 2020); OEL-SR LE Licensed Exempt Provider Responsibilities (July 2020); and OEL-SR FFN, Informal Provider Responsibilities (July 2020) (under separate cover)

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