

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
January 18, 2023

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

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02(1), (2)(n), and 1002.82(2)(m), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

DEL amended the rule text, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program by updating the form dates that will be applicable at the time the rule becomes effective and for the 2023-24 contract year and make technical changes. DEL also updated Form DEL-SR 20 and Form DEL-SR 20A and made technical changes to all rule forms incorporated by reference.

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

- Removed language for providers to waive their biennial status to receive an annual program assessment.
- Updated language related to developmental child screenings to further align with Rule 6M-4.720, F.A.C.
- Revised Exhibit 3 to clarify quality improvement plan notice requirements for individuals with an IACET training requirement.
- Removes references to Rule 6M-4.741, F.A.C., Program Assessment Threshold Requirements for the School Readiness Program as the rule was repealed.
- Removed language regarding the provider private pay rates.
- Clarified provider type eligibility for family day care homes and large family child care homes.
- Added a listing of care levels to Exhibit 4, Contracted Slots, and removed incorrect language.
- Updated charts and tables to align with these changes.
- Clarified provider type eligibility for family day care homes and large family child care homes.
- Clarified any discrepancies must be reported after the reimbursement summary becomes available in the single statewide information system in paragraph 58.
- Added notification to the coalition of the dismissal of children in paragraph 79.
- Updated rule reference in paragraph 80.

- Removed Site Waived Exemptions and clarified Site on a Quality Improvement Plan in Exhibit 1.
- Clarified definition of certified coaching and Early Childhood Training System (ECTS) Courses in Exhibit 3.
- Clarified row 6 and added row 7 in the Full-Time and Part-Time Provider Reimbursement Rate charts in Exhibit 5.
- Removed top row in Table 1 – School Readiness Units of Care in Exhibit 5.

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

- Removed indicator for a change in a provider’s biennial status for program assessment.
- Removed the option for coalitions to change provider reimbursement rates to comply with statutory changes to s. 1002. 84, F.S., per SB 2524.
- Added applicable references to Form DEL-SR 20 paragraphs and exhibits.
- Revised the Provider Reimbursement Rates section to align with changes in Exhibit 5 of Form DEL-SR 20.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C. Forms DEL-SR 20, Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract (July 2023); and DEL-SR 20A, Amendment to the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract (July 2023) (under separate cover)

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