

**Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast**  
Serving Citrus – Dixie – Gilchrist – Levy – Sumter Counties

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF THE NATURE COAST, INC.  
A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION**

The undersigned hereby makes, subscribes, acknowledges and files with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida these Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of forming a corporation not for profit in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME AND ADDRESS**

The name of this corporation shall be the ***Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast***, Inc. The address of this corporation shall be 1564 North Meadowcrest Blvd. Crystal River, Fl. 34429, or such other address within the State of Florida as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

**ARTICLE II**  
**TERM OF EXISTENCE**

This corporation shall have perpetual existence.

**ARTICLE III**  
**PURPOSE**

This corporation is organized to implement the “School Readiness Act” F.S. 411 and the “Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program” Part 5 s.1003 F.S. in ***Citrus, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy and Sumter Counties Florida*** and exclusively for charitable, educational, literary and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distribution to organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “code”). Additionally, the objects and purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

1. To insure that no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to any member, director or officer of the corporation, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the corporation affecting one or more of its purposes).
2. To insure that no member, director or officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any or the corporate assets on dissolution of the corporation.
3. To insure that no part of the activities of the corporation shall include the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office nor shall any director, officer or member involve the corporation in any political, partisan or sectarian issue or question.
4. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the corporation shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code or the regulations issued there under.
5. In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organization s which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Section 501(c) (3) of the Code or corresponding sections of any prior or future Code or to the Federal, State, or local government for exclusive public purpose or other applicable code provisions relating thereto.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**POWERS**

In addition to the powers conferred by the laws of the State of Florida, the corporation shall have the following powers:

1. To receive and accept gifts of money and property and to hold the same for any other purposes of the corporation and its work.
2. To assist in raising funds for the purposes herein set forth.
3. To acquire, own, lease, mortgage and dispose of property, both real and personal.
4. To serve as trustee of property and to accept donations in trust for educational purposes.
5. To acquire, hold, own, sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise dispose of shares of the capital stock, bonds, obligations or other securities of other corporations, domestic or foreign, as investments or otherwise, in carrying out any of the purposes of the corporation, and, while the owner thereof, to exercise all rights, powers and privileges of ownership, including the power to vote thereon.
6. To receive and maintain a fund or funds of real or personal property, or both, and, subject to the restrictions and limitations hereinafter set forth, to use and apply the whole or any part of the income there from and the principal thereof exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or education purposes, either directly or by contributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereinafter be amended.

**ARTICLE V**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

The corporation shall have a membership distinct from the Board of Directors. The authorized number and qualifications of members of the corporation, the manner of their admission, the

different classes of membership, if any, the property, voting and other rights and privileges of members shall be set forth in the Bylaws. Each member or employee of the coalition shall be governed by s.768.28. Each member of this coalition is subject to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143.

#### **ARTICLE VI** **CONTRIBUTIONS**

The corporation shall be supported by donations solicited or received and contributed by the general public, and grants, gifts or donations received from charitable, religious or educational organizations.

#### **ARTICLE VII** **FINANCES**

All revenue, profit, income, dues and money received by this corporation shall be used and employed for the benefit of the corporation.

#### **ARTICLE VIII** **INCORPORATOR**

The name and address of the incorporator to these Articles of Incorporation is Vicki Phillips, 1007 West Main Street Inverness, Florida 34450.

#### **ARTICLES IX** **MEMBERS**

The names and addresses of the initial members of this corporation are as follows:

1. Fredric G. Clark, Post Office Box 190, Crystal River, Fl. 34423-0290
2. Kim Cloud, 285 N. Hendrick Avenue, Lecanto, Fl. 34461
3. Lisa Dwyer, 28 N.W. Highway 19, Crystal River, Fl. 34429
4. Jackie Evans, 6134 W. Pinedale Circle, Crystal River, Fl. 34429
5. Linda Foy, 1601 N.E. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 900, Ocala, Fl. 34470
6. Jo Geib, 639 N.E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Crystal River, Fl. 34429

7. Thelma Griffith, 1601 N.E. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 900, Ocala, Fl. 34470
8. Patrick Howard, 1601 W. Gulf Atlantic Hwy, Wildwood, Fl. 34785
9. Rick Jensen, 28 N.W. Highway 19, Crystal River, Fl. 34429
10. Karen Johnson, 2315 N. Highway 41, Inverness, Fl. 34450
11. Julian "Pete" Kelly, 1007 W. Main Street, Inverness, Fl. 34450
12. Katie Lucas, 8021 W. Gulf to Lake Highway, Crystal River, Fl. 34429
13. Patience Nave, 1007 W. Main Street, Inverness, Fl. 34450
14. Marybeth Nayfield, 3700 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Fl. 34461
15. Vicki Phillips, 111 W. Main Street, Inverness, Fl. 34450
16. Rusty Skinner, 2300 S.E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1000, Ocala, Fl. 34471
17. Sandra Tyre, 1075 N. Citrus Avenue, Crystal River, Fl. 34429
18. Rob Wardlow, 450 Pleasant Grove Road, Inverness, Fl. 34429
19. Tony Whited, 2315 Hwy. 41 N, Inverness Fl. 34453
20. Tony Wiesen, 6895 W. Appian Street, Homosassa, Fl. 34446

Additional members may from time to time be elected and admitted to membership of the corporation in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of the corporation.

Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Coalition in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of the Coalition and any special rules of order the Coalition may adopt.

#### **ARTICLE X** **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

The affairs of this corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors unless otherwise set forth in the Bylaws who shall be elected annually by majority vote of the members of the

corporation, at a duly called meeting, as provided in the Bylaws, and by officers who shall be elected annually by majority vote of the members, as provided in the bylaws.

The initial Board of Directors also know as the Executive Board who have been duly elected are:

1. Vicki Phillips, Chair
2. Thelma Griffith, Vice Chair
3. Jackie Evans, Secretary
4. Rob Wardlow, Treasurer

Who shall serve until all members are selected and until the first annual election by the membership.

The initial officers who have been duly elected are:

1. Vicki Phillips, Chair
2. Thelma Griffith, Vice Chair
3. Jackie Evans, Secretary
4. Rob Wardlow, Treasurer

Who shall serve until all members are selected and until the first annual election by the membership.

## **ARTICLE XI** **REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT**

The name of the corporation's initial registered agent at the following address is. Vickie Phillips and the street address of the corporation's initial registered office is 1007 West Main Street, Inverness, Florida. The corporation shall keep the Department of State of the State of Florida informed of the current city, town, or village and street address of said registered office together with the name of the registered agent.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

The Articles of Incorporation of the corporation may be made, altered, or rescinded from time to time in whole or in part by a majority vote of members of this corporation present at any meeting of the members duly called and convened; provided, however, that a quorum is present at the meeting of the members and notice of the proposed action with respect to the Articles of Incorporation shall have been mailed to all members at least ten (10) days before the meeting. All actions, including, but not limited to, Amendment of Articles of Incorporation, required to be taken at any meeting of the members may be taken by written consents as provided in Florida Statutes, as now amended, or as same may be amended in the future. The Articles of Incorporation are a part of the Coalition's early learning plan. Any amendment to them constitutes an amendment to the plan.