



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

**Provider Alert #29**

**Date:** May 20, 2008

**Subject:** Administrative and Executive Committee Meetings

On May 19, 2008, the Administrative Committee held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The following action (related directly to early learning programs) was taken and ratified by the Executive Committee immediately following the Administrative Committee:

**School Readiness Enrollment:**

The Administrative Committee noted an overall surplus of \$108,000 in the direct services budget. As a result, the Committee voted unanimously to offer school readiness services to the seventeen (17) children registered on the Nature Coast waiting list for school readiness services and to maintain an open enrollment until June 25, 2008.

**Out of County School Readiness Provider Reimbursement Rates:**

Florida Statute 402.3051 requires that “the market rate be established for licensed child care facilities or facilities that are not subject to s. 402.305, licensed or registered family day care homes, licensed before – school and after-school child care programs, and unregulated care provided by a relative or other caretaker.”

The School Readiness Act requires that each coalition adopt a payment schedule that considers the current prevailing market rate. The prevailing market rate is defined as “the annually determined 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of a reasonable frequency distribution of market rate in predetermined geographic market at which licensed child care providers charge a person for child care services.”

Currently, the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast contracts with School Readiness Providers who are located outside of the Coalition’s service area. The Coalition determines the Out of County School Readiness Provider’s reimbursement rate based on the county the child resides in.

The current process for determining out of county school readiness provider’s reimbursement rates based on the county the child resides may not be in accordance with Florida Statute and results in multiple contracts with the same provider. For example, if a provider serves children from Citrus, Levy, and Sumter counties the Coalition must execute three contracts with the provider in order to pay one of the three rates.

The Administrative Committee unanimously approved an action item that accomplished the following, pending confirmation of compliance with Florida Statute from the Agency for Workforce Innovation/Office of Early Learning:

- Created a policy to execute one School Readiness Agreement per provider based on the market rate for the county the provider is located in.
- Adopted the following Out of County School Readiness Provider Reimbursement Rate Schedule:

**Daily Payment - Rate Schedule (Effective July 1, 2008)**

			Full-Time Daily Rates						
(EFS Care Code)- description			Licensed or Exempt Providers	Gold Seal	Licensed Homes	Gold Seal	Registered Home	Informal Providers	Before or After School
Infant	(INF)	<12 MTH	18.00	21.60	16.00	19.20	17.00	7.50	N/A
	(TOD)	12<24 MTH	16.00	19.20	16.00	19.20	15.00	7.00	N/A
	(2YR)	24<36 MTH	15.00	18.00	16.00	19.20	15.00	7.00	N/A
Preschool	(PRE3)	36<48 MTH	15.00	18.00	15.00	18.00	15.00	6.50	N/A
	(PRE4)	48<60 MTH	14.00	16.80	15.00	18.00	15.00	6.50	N/A
	(PRE5)	60<72 MTH	13.00	15.60	13.00	15.60	13.00	4.69	N/A
	(SCH)	In School	13.00	15.60	13.00	15.60	11.00	4.60	13.00
	(SPCR)	Special Needs	19.80	23.76	19.80	23.76	19.80	9.90	19.80

**Daily Payment - Rate Schedule (Effective July 1, 2008)**

			Part-Time Rates						
(EFS Care Code)- description			Licensed or Exempt Providers	Gold Seal	Licensed Homes	Gold Seal	Registered Home	Informal Providers	Before or After School
Infant	(INF)	<12 MTH	13.50	16.20	12.00	14.40	12.75	5.63	N/A
	(TOD)	12<24 MTH	12.00	14.40	12.00	14.40	11.25	5.25	N/A
	(2YR)	24<36 MTH	11.25	13.50	12.00	14.40	11.25	5.25	N/A
Preschool	(PRE3)	36<48 MTH	11.25	13.50	11.25	13.50	11.25	4.88	N/A
	(PRE4)	48<60 MTH	10.50	12.60	11.25	13.50	11.25	4.88	N/A
	(PRE5)	60<72 MTH	9.75	11.70	9.75	11.70	9.75	3.52	N/A
	(SCH)	In School	9.75	11.70	9.75	11.70	8.25	3.45	9.75
	(SPCR)	Special Needs	14.85	17.82	14.85	17.82	14.85	7.43	14.85

**FY2008-2009 Budget Reductions:**

The Administrative Committee voted unanimously to reduce the School Readiness Budget as follows:

- Eliminate the opportunity for Coalition staff to receive a payout of their unused Personal Leave Time. This action results in a reduction of \$42,509.
- Eliminated one Education Specialist Position from the Coalition's Organizational Chart. This action results in a reduction of \$40,530.
- Maintain the remaining reduction of \$53,867 in an unfunded line item for reconciliation at the end of the fiscal year.

The next Administrative Committee meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2008 beginning at 9:00AM. The meeting will be held at the Coalition's Crystal River office. Providers may attend the meeting in person or call into the meeting at 1-800-503-2899 (conference code # 4937505.)

If you have any questions or concerns related to this Alert please contact Sonya Bosanko at 352-563-9939 Ext. 224 or [sbosanko@elc-naturecoast.org](mailto:sbosanko@elc-naturecoast.org)