



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

**Provider Alert #34**

**Date:** July 29, 2008

**Subject:** Joint Advisory Council Meeting

On July 25, 2008 the Citrus, Tri-County and Sumter County Advisory Councils held a joint meeting to discuss the Teacher Incentive Payment Program. The meeting was a result of Action Item #2007-08-64: Teacher Incentive Payment Program Policy Revisions which was approved unanimously by the Board on May 7, 2008.

The Council reviewed the history of the TIP Program as well as other programs implemented throughout the United States. The members felt strongly that additional research with regard to the items listed below must be conducted prior to making any changes to the program. As a result, the Council assigned staff to research the following:

- a. Determine the average early learning teacher wages in the Nature Coast area considering the following:
  - i. Provider Type
  - ii. Provider Size
  - iii. Teacher Credentials and Experiences
  - iv. Location (County)
- b. Determine what types of incentives (menu of incentives) may be most effective in retaining low income employees.
- c. Determine what types of improvements to the teachers' working environment may be effective in retaining low income employees including training and other resources.
- d. Determine/research why teachers in the Nature Coast area leave their employment and/or the early education industry.

Coalition staff will be requesting provider assistance in completing the research.

The joint Council scheduled a second meeting for August 22, 2008 beginning at 8:30AM. The meeting will be located at

**VFW Post 7991**  
**3107 West Dunnellon Road (CR 488)**  
**Dunnellon, FL. 34433**

In consideration of the members' schedules the Council voted to hold the regular bi-monthly Council meetings scheduled in August 2008 on the same date and location of the joint meeting. Therefore all Advisory Councils will meet first on August 22, 2008 to take care of regular business, followed by the meeting to discuss the TIP Program.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at [sbosanko@elc-naturecoast.org](mailto:sbosanko@elc-naturecoast.org) or 352-563-9939 ext. 224.

Thank you.

Sonya Bosanko