



## Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast

Serving Citrus – Dixie – Gilchrist – Levy – Sumter Counties

### Provider Alert #54

**Date:** January 13, 2009  
**Subject:** Teacher Incentive Payment (TIP) Program

On January 7, 2009, the Coalition Board approved the revised Teacher Incentive Payment (TIP) Program. The updated program was developed by a provider/teacher workgroup during several meetings in November and December 2008.

The revised Teacher Incentive Payment Program is intended to promote longevity in the employment of early learning teachers and to promote teacher training.

The program is designed to provide stipends to eligible school readiness teachers. The stipends are based on the length of time a teacher is employed by a school readiness provider and the number of additional training hours approved by the Coalition which are completed by the teacher, up to a maximum of eighteen hours per fiscal year.

In order to participate in the program teachers must meet all of the following:

- Be employed for at least one continuous year at the same early learning provider
- Be employed by an early learning provider in Citrus, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, or Sumter County that holds an Agreement with the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast to provide school readiness services during the teacher's participation in the Teacher Incentive Payment Program and for at least one year prior to the teacher's enrollment in the TIP Program.
- Meet the minimum educational requirements to be considered "credentialed" as determined by the Department of Children and Families.

The attached document outlines the specific guidelines for program participation and the process by which a teacher can request a stipend. The applications and forms will also be uploaded to the provider page of the Coalition's website, located at [www.elc-naturecoast.org](http://www.elc-naturecoast.org), in PDF format.

Please pass this important information on to your teachers, and assist them as necessary. If you or your teachers have any questions about the revised TIP Program, please call your district manager.

For Citrus and Sumter Counties, call Ingrid Ellis at (352) 563-9939 x228.

For Dixie, Gilchrist, and Levy Counties, call Tonya Hiers at (352) 490-5855.

Please note that this quality initiative program is only available to school readiness providers that are physically located within Citrus, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, or Sumter Counties.