



Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast

Serving Citrus-Dixie-Gilchrist-Levy-Sumter Counties

Provider Alert #8

Date: January 4, 2008

Subject: Enforcement of School Readiness Parent Fees

The federal funding source (Child Care Development Fund) for the School Readiness Program is designed to assist families to become economically self sufficient. To meet this objective the Child Care Development Fund requires every parent to pay a portion of the costs related to the School Readiness Services provided to their children.

Recently, the Coalition established a policy and procedure that requires early learning providers to report the amount of parent fees collected. The policy allows the Coalition to meet its obligation to monitor provider compliance with the enforcement and collection of parent fees.

Recent parent fee reports indicate that some early learning providers offer scholarships to parents of School Readiness children by reducing or eliminating the assigned parent fee. **This practice is a violation of the federal parent fee requirement and is strictly prohibited by the Coalition.**

Early Learning Providers must exercise due diligence in the enforcement and collection of parent fees and must notify the Coalition, through Childhood Development Services, when parent fees become delinquent (resulting in the collection of less than 100 percent of the assigned parent fees).

In the event that early learning providers violate the federal parent fee requirement the Coalition will be forced to take action including but not limited to the termination of early learning provider contracts.

In an effort to assist early learning providers the Coalition will offer, upon provider request, technical assistance in developing early learning provider policies and procedures related to the enforcement and collection of school readiness parent fees.

If you would like to receive technical assistance or if you have any questions or concerns related to this alert please contact Sonya Bosanko at 352-563-9939 extension 224 or sbosanko@elc-naturecoast.org