

# Early Learning Update

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

DECEMBER 2013

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

## A Season to Reflect. A Season to Expect.

2013 was a year of accomplishment for early learning in Florida. Look for even more in 2014.

As the year draws to a close, the early learning community has a great deal to reflect upon. Much of the year has been spent preparing for and then implementing the important new early learning legislation – House Bill 7165 – that passed during the 2013 legislative session and took effect July 1, 2013.

Designed to improve quality and bring more accountability and transparency to the state's early learning programs, the law moved OEL into the Florida Department of Education,

with a biweekly HB 7165 Update from Executive Director Shan Goff to help inform people about implementing the new bill. New branding included a stylized word graphic and the brand promise: *Learn early. Learn for life.*

This monthly newsletter presents statewide news, data and highlights early learning coalitions around the state. And OEL has just launched a new website at [www.floridaearlylearning.com](http://www.floridaearlylearning.com)

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consolidated duties and responsibilities for voluntary prekindergarten within OEL and implemented a number of additional changes to the early learning system across the state. OEL began a number of communication activities starting

## ELC of Marion Starts Circle of Parents

A newly single parent was at a loss when it came to his 3-year-old son who was suffering from serious separation anxiety. A staff member suggested he and his son attend *Circle of Parents*. When they arrived, both father and son “were teary-eyed,” but dad held fast, insisting his son go to child care arranged for children at the meeting.

to make it easier for partners and the public to find information about early learning in Florida.

Take a moment to *reflect* on 2013, then another moment to *expect* what's ahead in 2014.

The dad joined the group and shared concerns. He and his son (who came back from child care with a big smile saying, “Daddy, Daddy, look what I made!”) left totally different than when they came. Dad is happy to have a group to belong to, to receive support, education and resources to help him be a better parent.

## N.E.W.S. NorthEastWestSouth

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Both the **Early Learning Coalitions of North Florida** and **Duval** announced new board members recently. Sunny Gettinger, senior communications manager at Google, joined the Duval board. Nancy Pearson will chair North Florida's ELC whose members are Melanie Brown, Sam Garrison, Adam Deputy, Cranford Coleman, Brian Graham, Commissioner Cyndi Stevenson, Vina Delcomyn, Pam Jett, Janet Dixon, Jared Dollar, Patricia Hubbard, Mary Ann Holanchock, Bruce Ferguson, Kim Kendall, Cynthia Kent, April Master, Mike Siragusa, Connie Stophel and Janet Westling.

Staff from **Escambia's ELC** donned superhero costumes to give out candy and books to children with special needs at a YMCA Halloween event in Pensacola.

An **ELC of Flagler and Volusia** staff member shared a rewarding experience about a parent who completed the ASQ during her first visit to the office, but did not know the answer to several questions. She went home, tried them out and was thrilled to discover that her daughter had the skills. During her next visit, she stated excitedly, “I had no idea she knew how to do all these things!”

The **ELC of Manatee County** can claim two fundraising successes from their 2nd annual Jim Boyd Golf Classic held in mid-November. More than 100 golfers participated and members of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society presented the coalition with a check for \$30,000.00 from the Conquistador Historical Foundation.

## The Governor's Corner by Governor Rick Scott

With our unemployment rate below the national average and more private sector jobs being created monthly, Floridians are enjoying the benefits of our recent economic turnaround. Thanks in part to the hard work of our public servants, economic success is joined by safer communities, a growing tourism industry and the lowest unemployment rate since August 2008 at 6.7 percent.

Last month we announced crime dropped 5.2 percent in Florida in the first six months of 2013 compared to the first six months of 2012. The numbers show Florida continues on the path to reaching a 43-year crime low. The success in reaching these historic lows would not be possible without the bravery and hard work of Florida's law enforcement officials and public servants. Thanks to their commitment to keeping homes and communities safe, Florida continues to be a great place to work, live and raise a family. We also recently announced that according to VISIT FLORIDA's preliminary estimates, Florida had another record tourism quarter. From July through September, 22.9 million visitors came to Florida—the largest third quarter visitation in Florida's history. The success of Florida's economic turnaround is reflected in our dropping crime statistics and rising tourism. With the help of our public servants, we will continue to work until every family has the opportunity to live their version of the American Dream in the Sunshine State. It's working in Florida.

Both **Southwest Florida** and **Palm Beach ELCs** were pleased with news coverage in local papers. The *Palm Beach Post* ran a column from ELC board chair and former Florida House majority leader Adam Hasner about strengthening early learning programs, while the *Naples Daily News* had an editorial encouraging investing in early learning.

A press release from the **ELC of Pasco and Hernando Counties** presented highlights from their annual report, saying they had "served more in school readiness children than the previous year." The complete report is available at <http://phelc.org/downloadsCoalitionAnnualRpts.php>.

### Early Learning Programs Profile Monthly State Report October 2013 SCHOOL READINESS By Provider Type

	Private Center or School	Public Schools	Family Day Care Home	Informal	Total
Children Served in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	148,729	8,313	12,120	71	163,156
Providers Active in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	5,727	879	2,021	37	8,665

<sup>1</sup>Duplication may exist if a child receives school readiness services from more than one provider within the limits allowed by OEL policies.

<sup>2</sup>Duplication may exist if a provider's type changed during the service period.

### By Care Level

	By Age						School Age	Special Needs	Total
	Infant	Toddler	2 Yr	3 Yr	4 Yr	5 Yr			
Children Served in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	8,293	18,108	22,952	25,160	25,495	11,786	50,591	769	163,156
Providers Active in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	3,791	5,215	5,652	5,797	5,887	5,358	6,296	499	8,665

<sup>1</sup>Duplication may exist if a child receiving school readiness services has a birthday during the service period.

### VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN By Provider Type

	Private Centers	Public Schools	Family Day Care Home	Private School	Total
Children Served in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	124,957	26,150	712	1,556	152,652
Providers Active in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	4,882	1,030	87	53	6,049

<sup>1</sup>Duplication may exist if children receiving VPK services transfer among different providers within limits allowed by OEL policies.

<sup>2</sup>Duplication may exist if a provider's type changed during the period of time being examined.

### Current Program Year Compared to the Previous Program Year

	School Year	Summer	Program Year
Children Served in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	152,652	0	152,652
Providers Active in 2013-14 as of 10/2013	6,049	0	6,049
Children Served in 2012-13 Final Count	167,305	6,938	174,243
Providers Active in 2012-13 Final Count	6,313	506	6,422

<sup>1</sup>Duplication may exist if a provider participates in both VPK programs.