

Early Learning Update

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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Governor's budget recommendations bode well for early learning.

Governor's 2014-15 *It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget* proposes increases for VPK and School Readiness programs.

Hundreds of thousands of young children and families in Florida stand to benefit from Governor Rick Scott's 2014-15 "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget." Signaling his strong commitment to programs that support his top two priorities—education and jobs—the Governor is proposing \$1.1 billion in state funding for early child education and care—a \$59 million increase.

childhood teachers—an additional \$1.5 million for T.E.A.C.H., a program that provides scholarships for childcare workers to get certificates and degrees; and \$5 million for school readiness teacher improvement to provide training for teachers in school readiness programs and a statewide system to measure

Find more detail about early learning recommendations in the Governor's *It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget* on the website: www.FLItsYourMoney.com.

The additional funding would be the largest increase for early learning over the past decade. The budget includes a \$100 per child increase in the base student allocation for VPK and a one-time \$30 million increase in funding for the School Readiness Program.

The budget also includes two key recommendations that focus on support and training for early

VPK and school readiness updates

A work group whose charge is to consider ways to streamline processes related to the VPK program held its first meeting on Thurs., Feb. 13, at OEL offices in Tallahassee.

The curriculum approval process for the School Readiness Program is getting underway with a webinar

teacher effectiveness and improvement.

The Governor is proposing \$7 million to develop and implement a statewide technology and information system for early learning.

There is a [two-page budget summary](#) on the OEL website.

for prospective curriculum submitters who are following the existing rule and two workshops for revising the rule about school readiness curricula. You will find more [detail about the process](#) on the early learning website.

N.E.W.S.

NorthEastWestSouth

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When it comes to early learning in Jacksonville, the **Early Learning Coalition of Duval County** is the "go-to" resource for local media. The *Florida Times-Union* also ran a [guest column about early learning](#) by ELC CEO Susan Main.

The **ELC of Orange County** is presenting its *4th Annual State of Early Care & Education Forum* Wed., Feb. 26, in Orlando. Directed toward business leaders, the focus is on investing in early learning to ensure a well-prepared workforce for the future.

The **ELC of Manatee County** got positive attention and a photo in the *Herald-Tribune* for distributing 2,500 children's books about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a grant from the State College of Florida.

The **ELC of SWFL** got a grant from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation to work with 60 teachers and 20 directors to improve classroom interactions. Participants are attending "Making the Most of Classroom Interactions" and 34 teachers get classroom monitoring. The nine-month project involves all the ELC's quality mentors and trainers, adds coaching to instruction in class, and will document learning and demonstrate the impact of coaching.

A positive classroom climate is especially important for children who live in poverty or have experienced traumatic events. Communication with children is key. Once teachers use improved teaching techniques in working with the youngest children, the ELC expects improved educational experiences for the young learners.

The Governor's Corner by Governor Rick Scott

Thanks to our pro-growth policies, focus on job creation, and the work of Florida's public servants, our state has made a great economic turnaround over the last three years. Recently, we unveiled our 2014-2015 "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget." This budget will continue to build on policies that keep Florida working and focus on giving money back to Florida families.

The "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget" includes measures to give \$500 million back to the hardworking taxpayers of Florida.

This budget also rewards our hard working state employees by providing \$167 million for performance bonuses.

In the four years before I took office, Florida lost more than 800,000 jobs, the unemployment rate rose to 11.1 percent, and state debt ballooned by \$5.2 billion. Today, Florida's unemployment rate is below the national average at 6.2 percent and we have created more than 462,000 private sector jobs since December 2010.

Florida's economy is still growing. With the continued support of our

There are new addresses for service centers at two coalitions. The north service center of the **ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe** has moved to 1515 NW 167 Street, Suite 320, Miami Gardens, FL 33169. The **ELC of the Big Bend** sent out a new address for their Jefferson County service center – The Jefferson County Health Department, 1255 W. Washington St., Monticello, FL 32344.

public servants and with the "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget," we will keep working to make Florida the number one destination for opportunity in the world.

Early Learning Programs Profile Monthly State Report December 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 12/2013	164,221	9,234	13,628	76	179,767
Providers active in 2013-14 as of 12/2013	5,868	905	2,092	41	8,908

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

²Duplication 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 12/2013	8,855	20,074	25,341	27,558	27,640	14,639	54,848	810	179,767	
Providers active in 2013-14 as of 12/2013	4,163	5,514	5,982	6,105	6,214	5,689	6,513	526	8,908	

¹Duplication 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 12/2013	129,160	27,017	754	1,815	157,547
Providers active in 2013-14 as of 12/2013	4,990	1,036	92	59	6,169

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

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

Current Program Year Compared to Previous Program Year

	School Year	Summer	Program Year
Children served in 2013-14 as of 12/2013	157,547	0	157,547
Providers active in 2013-14 as of 12/2013	6,169	0	6,169
Children served in 2012-13 Final Count	167,303	6,938	174,241
Providers active in 2012-13 Final Count	6,313	506	6,422

¹Duplication may exist if a provider participates in both VPK programs.