



## EARLY LEARNING UPDATE

OCTOBER 2014

### MORE THAN 1,100 PROVIDERS APPLY FOR PERFORMANCE FUNDING PILOT



The special Early Learning Performance Funding Pilot approved during the 2014 legislative session [drew applications from more than 1,100 child care providers](#) by the Sept. 26 deadline. To be eligible, providers had to have at least 30 percent of their children from birth to 5 be enrolled in school readiness. Eligible providers will be randomly assigned to a pilot or comparison group. Both groups receive compensation for participating; those assigned to the pilot have an opportunity to earn additional funding based on improving school readiness outcomes. OEL and early learning coalitions are reviewing applications to determine eligibility before providers are randomly assigned to one of the two groups.



[ELC of Duval](#) attracted 217 people to a [School Readiness Curriculum Fair](#) Sept. 13 to showcase 2014/15 approved curricula and publishers. Guests applied for mini-grants to buy material.

### OCTOBER IS BULLYING AWARENESS MONTH

As part of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet, OEL is supporting October as Bullying Awareness Month. The council has created posters in English and Spanish that can be downloaded from their website: <http://www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet-bullying-workgroup/>. The Department of Education also has a [website about preventing bullying](#). If you use social media, the state has a hashtag #LetsFaceBullyingFL so communities and individuals can join the conversation about bullying on Twitter throughout the month.



### JUST THE FACTS

More than 256,000 children in Florida have been in VPK or school readiness programs in the first two months of the fiscal year. See details about state, coalition and program participation in OEL's online [Fact Book](#).

### N-E-W-S EARLY LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH, EAST, WEST AND SOUTH FLORIDA

October is proving to be busy as coalitions across the state host events.

First up, Oct. 18, a first for the [ELC of Big Bend](#) as they hold a *RACE 4 Readiness 5K* race and one mile fun run to raise support for early learning initiatives.



Just three days later, the [ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#) and the [ELC of North Florida](#) will be joining adults and children across the country who are trying to set a record and

celebrate literacy by participating in the largest shared reading experience.

If you are not running in Tallahassee on Saturday or reading in Miami on Tuesday, you may want to



consider learning how much technology is too much for children on Wed., Oct. 22, as the [ELC of Orange County](#) holds its annual State of Early Care and Education Forum.

The [ELC of Pasco and Hernando Counties](#) is presenting its 7th Annual Early Learning Conference: Passport to

Excellence on Sat., Oct. 25. The full day professional development event is expected to draw educators, providers and parents.



More than 800, including 700 providers, attended Miami-Dade ELC's Sept. 27 professional development Children First Conference, Envisioning our Future.



The [ELC of Escambia County](#) grabbed business headlines in the [Pensacola News Journal](#) and kudos from the chamber for installing the fourth Born Learning Trail in the city, a walking trail that helps young children be active and boosts literacy at the same time.



The **Office of Early Childhood Education at Brevard Public Schools** was pleased with their new family engagement initiative for summer VPK, which included home visits, an open house, special summer backpacks and book bins, and a family literacy workshop.

"Take me out to the ball game" could well become a theme song for the [ELC of Manatee County](#). The Rays Baseball Foundation [awarded them a](#)



[\\$5,000 grant](#) to continue to expand and enhance

their community-wide *Every Child a Reader* initiative for preschool children.

The [ELC of Flagler & Volusia](#) shared a success story from their QRIS family engagement section. After a visit from the ELC, a



Holly Hill preschool did a Strengthening Families program self-assessment and began displaying parent information. They're now going to start monthly newsletters.

From the [ELC of Palm Beach County](#) comes news that Florida First Lady Ann Scott visited Opportunity Early Learning Center, one of the first child care centers in Palm Beach County, recently. As part of her visit, she read to



children and watched them play Literacy Soccer, a program blending physical fitness and literacy.