

# Early Learning Update

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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## Governor Draws Attention to Early Learning

Ceremonial bill signing in Miami signals support for importance of early education.

Governor Rick Scott officially signed House Bill 7165 into law on June 28 along with a number of other bills. The bill went into effect July 1. But to emphasize the importance of early education for Florida's children, the governor chose an early learning center in Miami to hold a ceremonial bill signing on August 19. In addition to governance changes, which place the Office of Early Learning in the Office of Independent

On hand for the ceremony at the United Way Early Learning Center, Executive Director Shan Goff said, "The governor has demonstrated his commitment to early learning through his budget and this legislation. High quality early learning opportunities are important for our children and families in our state."

The governor's *Florida Families First* budget increased funding for coalitions for the first time in

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Education & Parental Choice in the Department of Education, the bill implemented changes to other aspects of the early learning system intended to increase accountability and transparency across the state.

10 years.

To receive a biweekly update on implementing the bill, email [HB7165@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:HB7165@oel.myflorida.com).

## Miami-Dade College gets grant for early childhood education students.

Miami-Dade College's School of Education got good news when they learned they had won almost \$1 million for a grant proposal for Project Early Identification-Early Intervention Opportunity (Ei-Ei-O). The grant will fund preparation of 80 early childhood students over

five years to become bachelor-degreed certified teachers with certifications from Birth-Grade 3, and state endorsement in Reading, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Prekindergarten Disabilities remediation.

## N.E.W.S.

NorthEastWestSouth

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Using a 2012/13 VPK assessment grant from the Department of Education, the **Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties** hired an assessment coordinator to work with providers on probation and other VPK providers, delivering technical assistance to those needing help. Along with hiring a staff member, the ELC bought materials to support the main elements of the assessment—oral knowledge, phonological awareness, number sense and print knowledge.

Staff at the **ELC of Marion County** got the kind of appreciation that means more than most—a thank you note from the parents of a child. "Thank you for providing services to the children of this county," read the note, which went on to quote Nelson Mandela. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

The **ELC of Seminole** was part of a panel discussion at the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Annual Convention Aug. 3 in Kissimmee, designed to draw journalists' attention to early childhood education issues. Panel members included *CBS News* correspondent Bill Whitaker, a columnist from the *Seattle Times* and the national economics reporter at the *Washington Post*.

## The Governor's Corner by Governor Rick Scott

Ann and I recently got a great reminder of the importance of Florida's hard working public servants to the future of our state. A few weeks ago my daughter Allison gave birth to her second son - and my second grandson. In September, my younger daughter Jordan is expecting her first child.

Children have a way of reminding us all how important it is to have good schools, safe neighborhoods, good roads, a clean environment and limitless opportunities. Like families across the state, I want my grandchildren to have the tools they need so they can pursue their

version of the American Dream. It is thanks, in large part, to the work of our public servants that the quality of life for families across the Sunshine State is improving each and every day.

This July we learned that more than 34,000 jobs were created in a single month, which represents tens of thousands of individuals who are able to support their families and pursue their dreams. When I took office, my goal was to create 700,000 jobs in seven years, and in two and a half years, we're more than halfway to that goal. Every job we create benefits every aspect of

The ELC of North Florida used proactive media outreach to get the word out about early education. Citing a recent national survey showing the American public rates early education as a high priority, the ELC prompted an article in the [St. Augustine Record](#).

our communities - and creates greater opportunities for future generations. It's under the success of Florida's hardworking public servants that our families will be even more poised to succeed in a state that's ripe with opportunity.

### Early Learning Programs Profile Monthly State Report July 2013

#### School Readiness (SR) By Provider Type

	Private Center or School	Public Schools	Family Day Care Home	Informal	Total
Children Served in 2012-13 as of 07/2013	204,902	11,423	18,684	216	222,817
Providers Active in 2012-13 as of 07/2013	6,278	944	2,489	105	9,818

<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								Total
	Infant	Toddler	2 Yr	3 Yr	4 Yr	5 Yr	School Age	Special Needs	
Children Served in 2012-13 as of 07/2013	10,756	23,064	29,432	33,279	33,574	25,826	65,799	1,084	222,817
Providers Active in 2012-13 as of 07/2013	4,919	6,281	6,707	6,914	7,041	6,780	7,277	702	9,818

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

#### Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) By Provider Type

	Private Centers	Public Schools	Family Day Care Home	Private School	Total
Children Served in 2012-13 as of 07/2013	143,484	30,135	970	1,765	174,180
Providers Active in 2012-13 as of 07/2013	5,189	1,072	116	57	6,421

<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 2012-13 as of 07/2013	167,318	6,862	174,180
Providers Active in 2012-13 as of 07/2013	6,313	505	6,421
Children Served in 2011-12 Final Count	167,348	7,776	175,124
Providers Active in 2011-12 Final Count	6,273	560	6,387

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