



# Florida School Readiness Program

## Overview

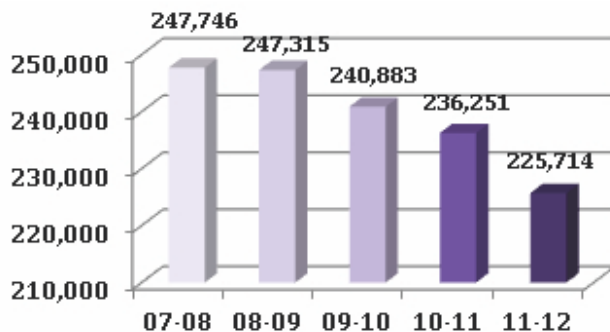
The Florida School Readiness Program offers financial assistance to low-income families for early education and care so they can become financially self-sufficient and their young children can be successful in school in the future.

Investing one dollar in an early education program for children from low-income families generates from \$4 to \$11 of economic benefits over a child's lifetime according to a cost-benefit analysis by the National Institutes of Health.

## Benefits

- Prepares young children to start kindergarten ready to learn.
- Helps working families afford quality early learning services.
- Keeps parents in the workforce and/or participating in educational activities.
- Helps families become financially independent.
- Recognizes parents as their child's first teacher.
- Provides parents information about child development and family well-being.

**Children in School Readiness**



*Decline reflects decreases in federal and state funding.*

## Families

A family with two young children earning \$19,891 a year will spend about 50 percent of their income on child care without school readiness help. With help, the family would only spend about seven percent on child care.

School readiness funds are intended to help income-eligible families with children at risk of future school failure and may include

- Recipients of temporary cash assistance who meet federal work requirements.
- Families with children at risk of abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- Parents who are verified to be homeless.
- Parents who are victims of domestic violence.
- Working families with low incomes.
- Teenage parents.
- Low-income migrant families and farm workers.
- Families of children with disabilities and special healthcare needs.

## Eligibility

The School Readiness Program has three specific eligibility requirements:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be working or participating in an educational activity such as attending college or trade school at least 20 hours per week.
- Gross income must be at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level for family size.
- Families must pay a copayment for child care based on income and family size.

## Parent Resources

Contact your [early learning coalition](#) to find out more.



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REV 2013