



— EPISCOPAL —

**Children's
Services**

BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

2ND QUARTER
PROVIDER MEETING

Attendance

- Please drop the following in the chat so we can take attendance and follow-up with each attendee with the provider meeting survey.
- 1. Name
- 2. Center
- 3. Email address



MEETING AGENDA

Family Services Updates

Reimbursement Services Updates

Contract Updates

School Readiness Education

Grant Updates

Questions





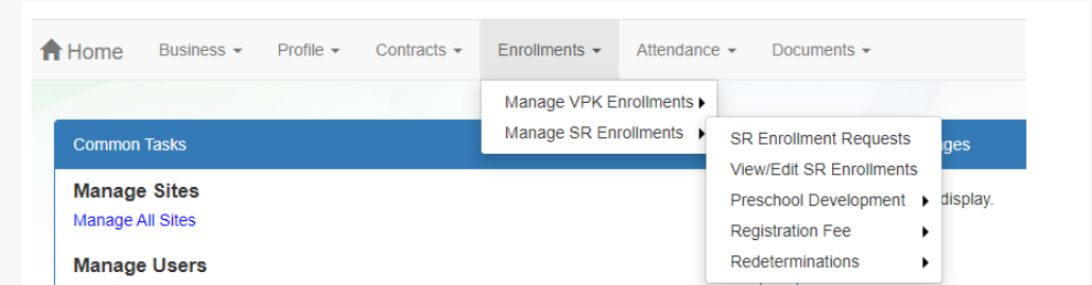
Shanda Ellis

FAMILY SERVICES DEPT. UPDATES



If a child has stopped attending my center, what do I do?

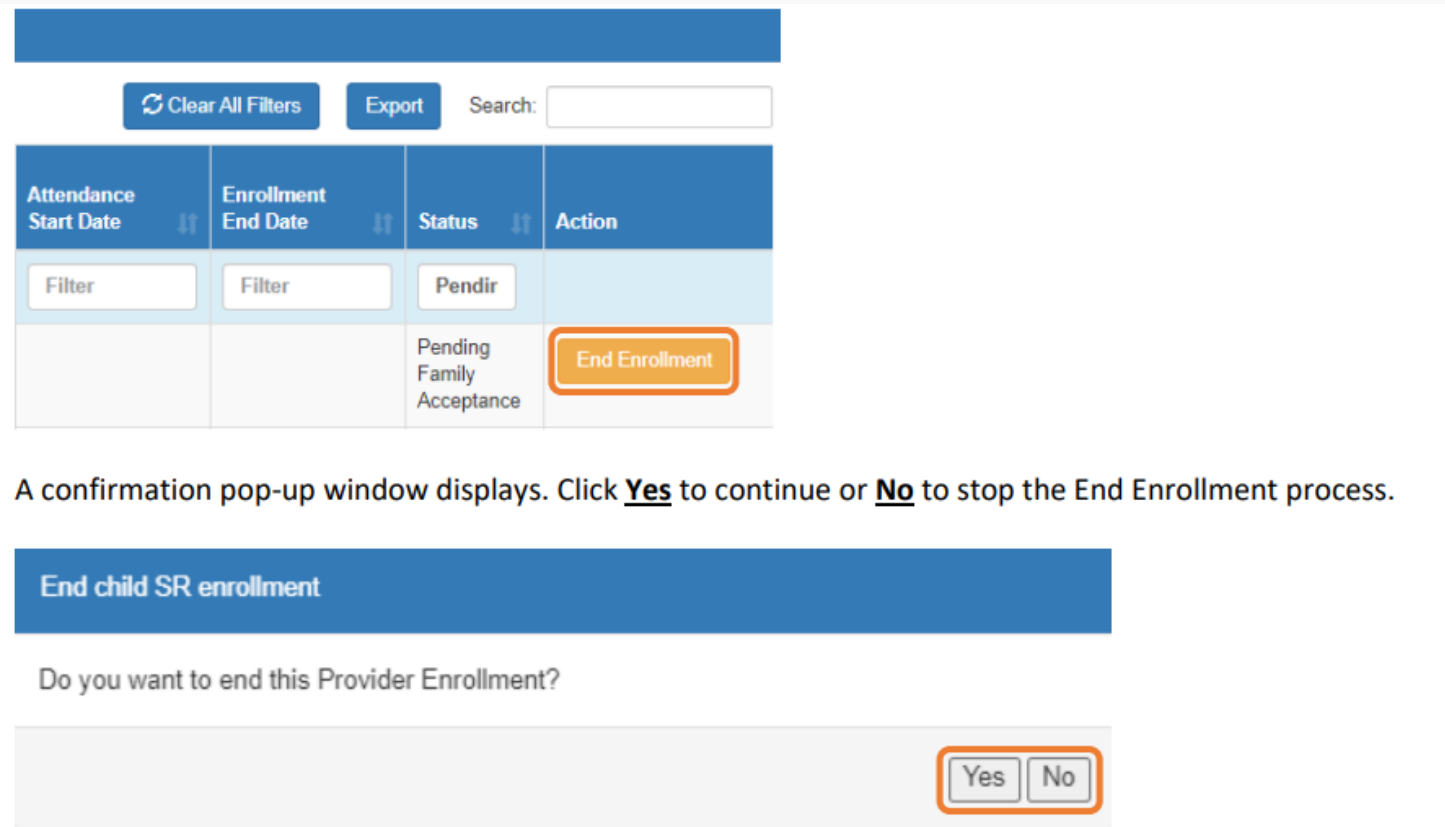
- Contact the parent, and then contact the Family Services Specialist for your county to discuss the termination of that child.
- Terminate the child under the View/Edit SR Enrollments section of the Provider Portal. You will select the End Enrollment Reason, End Enrollment Effective Date, Last Attendance Date and indicate if there were any past due parent co-payments.
- You can do this for active enrollments as well as enrollments in Pending Family Acceptance status.



Click on Child's Name

(in this case the child is in Pending Family Acceptance status)

Click the End Enrollment Button



The screenshot displays a web application interface. At the top, there is a blue header bar. Below it, a navigation bar contains a 'Clear All Filters' button, an 'Export' button, and a search input field. The main content area features a table with the following structure:

Attendance Start Date	Enrollment End Date	Status	Action
Filter	Filter	Pendir	
		Pending Family Acceptance	End Enrollment

Below the table, a confirmation pop-up window is shown with a blue header titled 'End child SR enrollment'. The main text of the pop-up asks, 'Do you want to end this Provider Enrollment?'. At the bottom right of the pop-up, there are two buttons: 'Yes' and 'No', both of which are highlighted with an orange border.



After clicking the **Yes** button, the following pop-up window displays. Complete the required information and click **Save**.

End SR Enrollment

You have chosen to end enrollment for this child.

End Enrollment Reason*

-- Select a Termination Reason --

Last Attendance Date*

MM/DD/YYYY



Is there a past due parent fee?*

Yes No

Past Due Parent Fee

\$

Is there a payment plan in place?

Yes No

Please attach payment plan document.

No file chosen

Save

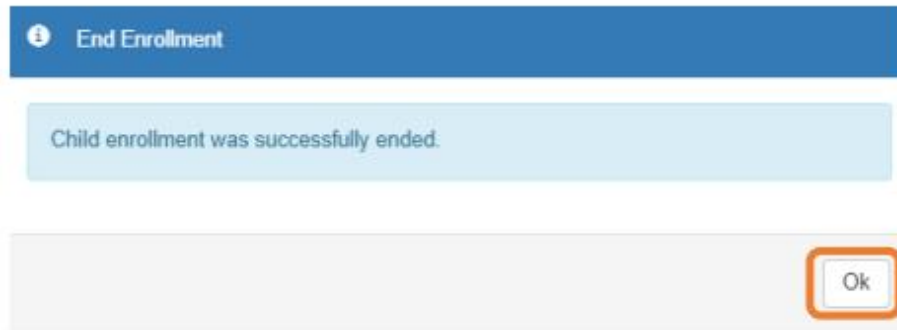
Cancel



After clicking **Save**, a confirmation pop-up window displays. Click **Yes** to end the enrollment or **Cancel** to cancel the End Enrollment process.



After clicking the **Yes** button, a pop-up window displays a message that the enrollment is ended. Click **Ok** to continue.



SR Enrollment Terminations

- When terminating a School Readiness enrollment through the Provider Portal please be sure to select an accurate reason from the drop down menu provided. If in doubt of which selection to choose, please reach out to a Family Services Specialist to discuss.
- If using the code for disruptive behavior, please reach out to one of our Inclusion Specialists before terminating the child.
 - Rebecca Huth – Inclusion Specialist for Clay, Nassau, Baker and Bradford
 - Jhordan Johnson – Inclusion Specialist for Putnam and St Johns
 - Rebecca.huth@ecs4kids.org – 904-726-1500 ext 2281
 - Jhordan.johnson@ecs4kids.org – 904-726-1500 ext 2227



Termination of Protective Services Children

If the child is a protective service child, you are also required to contact the case worker and inform them of the situation.

Document any calls or reports made to case workers including the dates and times that you spoke with the case worker or left messages.

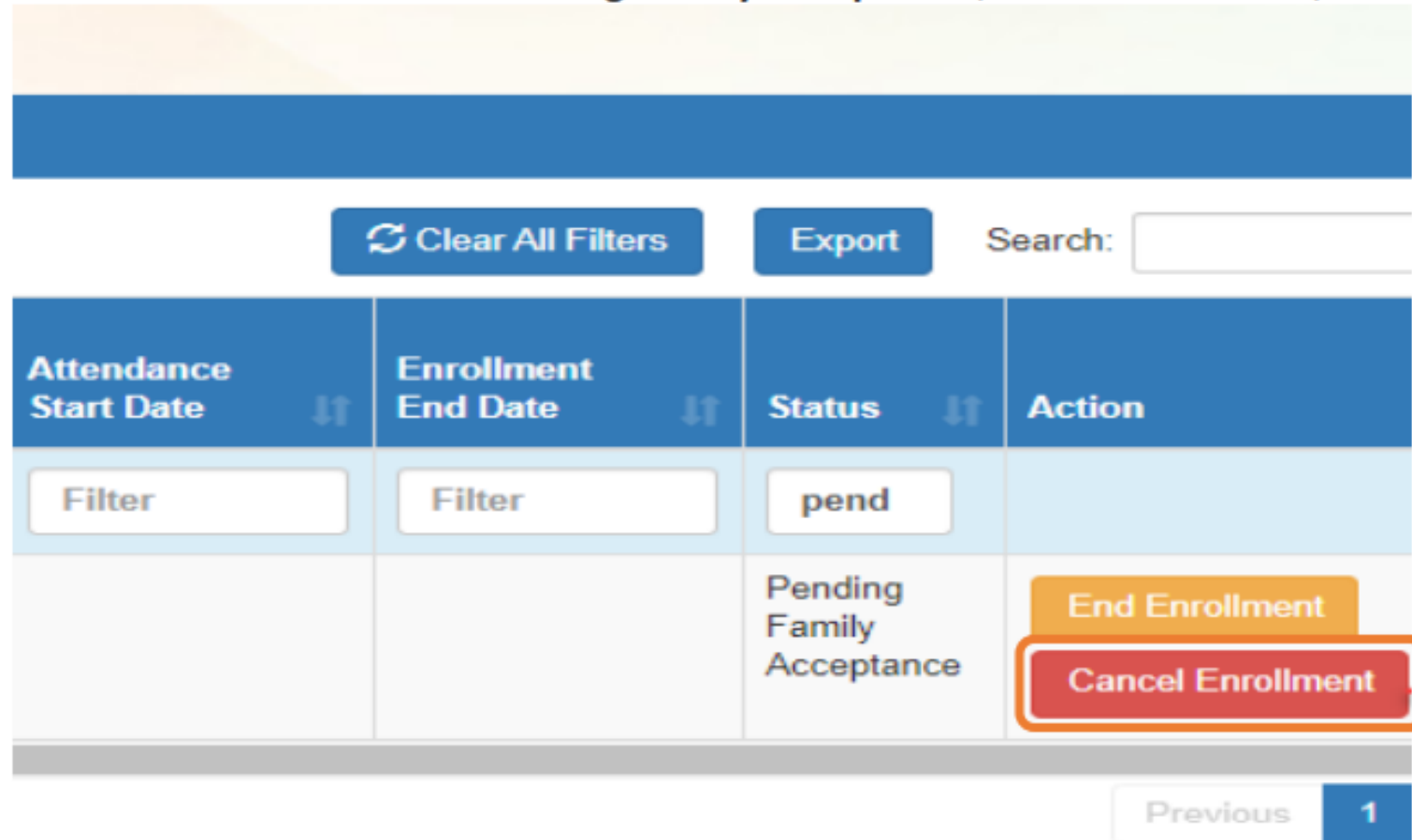
ECS may collect this documentation at any time.



Canceling Enrollments in Pending Family Acceptance

Providers can **cancel** enrollments in **Pending Family Acceptance**, but only if the enrollment is not for an at-risk child (BG1) or at-risk child in relative care (BG3R) and attendance has not been submitted for the enrollment.

Search for enrollments in **Pending Family Acceptance**, as detailed above, then click the **Cancel Enrollment** button.



The screenshot displays a web application interface for managing enrollments. At the top, there is a search bar and two buttons: "Clear All Filters" and "Export". Below this is a table with the following columns: "Attendance Start Date", "Enrollment End Date", "Status", and "Action". The "Attendance Start Date" and "Enrollment End Date" columns have "Filter" buttons. The "Status" column has a "pend" filter. The "Action" column contains two buttons: "End Enrollment" and "Cancel Enrollment". The "Cancel Enrollment" button is highlighted with a red border. At the bottom right, there are "Previous" and "1" buttons.

Attendance Start Date	Enrollment End Date	Status	Action
Filter	Filter	pend	
		Pending Family Acceptance	End Enrollment Cancel Enrollment



Cancel Pending Enrollment

You have selected to cancel this enrollment for [redacted] - Enrollment Start Date 02/26/2021.

You should only cancel this enrollment if the child never attended on or after the enrollment start date listed above.

Upon canceling this enrollment:

- This enrollment record will no longer appear in your enrollment listing or on your attendance rosters.
- Any attendance that has been saved but not submitted for this enrollment will be removed from your attendance roster.
- You will not be able to record or submit attendance for reimbursement once canceled.

Do you want to proceed with canceling this enrollment for [redacted] ?

Click **Yes** to cancel the enrollment and remove it from the SR Enrollment queue. Click **No** to stop the Cancel Enrollment process.



VPK Enrollment Terminations

- VPK Enrollments can be terminated through the Provider Portal by following these steps:
 - Go to the Enrollment Tab
 - Manage VPK Enrollments
 - Request/Change Enrollment
 - Select Program Year, VPK Session, VPK Class
 - Scroll to child's name and choose the Terminate option
 - Enter the child's last day of attendance
 - Enter the reason for the termination
 - Once prompted click Yes to confirm termination



School Readiness Wait List

- Please encourage families to apply for the wait list at: <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/>
 - **Please note:** *When applying for School Readiness Services, the family will be required to upload one supporting document to verify eligibility for the program. A list of acceptable proof of eligibility documents will be available in the application process. This list will vary based on the information entered in the application.*
 - If you have questions regarding a specific family and their situation as to whether they would qualify to be added to the waitlist, please encourage them to reach out to our Program Support Coordinator Kenya Register at kenya.register@ecs4kids.org or 904-726-1500 ext. 2246.
- We will continue weekly funding notices as long as enrollment trends stay the same.



One Stop Office Staff & Central Staff

Family Services Specialists	Family Services Specialists
Baker – Eryss Meguia – 904-259-4225 Eryss.Meguia@ecs4kids.org	St Johns – April Florida – 904-770-2565 ext. 105 April.florida@ecs4kids.org
Bradford – Vickie Hancock - 904-964-1543 vickie.Hancock@ecs4kids.org	St Johns – Martha Castaneda – 904-770-2565 ext. 101 Martha.Castaneda@ecs4kids.org
Nassau – Holly Poole – 904-432-0009 ext. 2626 Holly.Poole@ecs4kids.org	St Johns – Sharron Green – 904-770-2565 ext. 100 Sharron.green@ecs4kids.org (Family Services Asst.)
Clay – Leatrice Ahmadu – 904-213-3939 ext. 2039 Leatrice.Ahmadu@ecs4kids.org	Putnam – Christina Jackson – 386-385-3450 ext. 2884 Christina.Jackson@ecs4kids.org
Clay – Riley Vinson– 904-213-3939 ext. 2081 Riley.Vinson@ecs4kids.org	Putnam – Maria Castellanos – 386-385-3450 ext. 2883 Maria.Castellanos@ecs4kids.org
Central – Florine Reeves – 904-726-1500 ext. 2273 Florine.reeves@ecs4kids.org	Central – Shalanda Hall – 904-726-1500 ext. 2263 Shalanda.hall@ecs4kids.org

School Readiness Management Team

- Emily Taylor– 386-385-3450 ext. 2881 (emily.taylor@ecs4kids.org) Family Services Coordinator to Clay, Putnam and St Johns staff.
- Mary Catherine Griffin – 904-726-1500 ext. 2290 (mary.griffin@ecs4kids.org) Family Services Coordinator to Nassau, Baker, Bradford and Central staff.
- Jacki Chimino– 904-213-3939 ext. 2080 (jacki.chimino@ecs4kids.org) Child Care Resource and Referral Coordinator, all counties.
- Kenya Register – 904-726-1500 ext. 2246 (kenya.register@ecs4kids.org) Program Support Coordinator, all counties.
- Shanda Ellis – 904-726-1500 ext. 2253 (shanda.ellis@ecs4kids.org) Manager of Family Services.





QUESTIONS?



PROVIDER SERVICES UPDATES

Shivaughn Williams





REIMBURSEMENT SERVICES UPDATES



Attendance

Submit SR/VPK Attendance by the 3rd of each month

SR Payment is disbursed the 20th of every month

VPK Payment is disbursed the 30th or 31st of every month

If you have any questions about attendance, please reach out to the Reimbursement Department (904) 726-1500 ext. 7050.

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
*	CR	CR	CR	CR	CR	*
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
*	X FT	X FT	X FT	X FT	X FT	*
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
*	X FT	X FT	X FT	X FT	X FT	*
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
*	A	A	A	N	N	*
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
*	X FT	X FT				



Temporary Closures

Temporary Closures, classroom or full site, must be reported to the Coalition (ECS) by the end of the day on the first day of the closure.

If your program has a Temporary Closure, first email CCRRhotline@ecs4kids.org. You will need to include your program name, dates of the closures and classrooms affected.

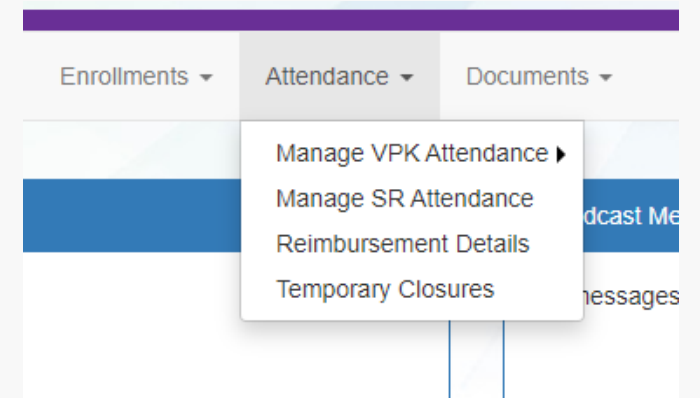
Second, you will need to add your temporary closure into the Provider Portal under the Attendance Menu.

Attendance cannot be submitted until the temporary closures have been approved. If they are not approved the days will reflect the site as open. There will be a delay in your payment.

Step 1:



Step 2:



Temporary Closures

- SR Closures will appear as Closure Reimbursable
- VPK only allows 5 Closed Reimbursable days per year per calendar and are only payable under emergency circumstances. All other closures are recorded as Closed Non-Reimbursement. VPK providers must make up the non reimbursable day.

PR3 August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Total Processed Closure Reimbursable (CR) Days in Program Year: 1 ⓘ

CR = Closure Reimbursable. **CN** = Closure Non-Reimbursable.

SR – Closure Reimbursable

AF23 August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Total Processed Closure Reimbursable (CR) Days in Class: 1 ⓘ

CR = Closure Reimbursable. **CN** = Closure Non-Reimbursable.

VPK – Closure Reimbursable
Ex: Declared State of
Emergency

AF23 September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Total Processed Closure Reimbursable (CR) Days in Class: 1 ⓘ

CR = Closure Reimbursable. **CN** = Closure Non-Reimbursable.

VPK - Closed Non-Reimbursable

SR Provider's Private Pay Rates

We encourage providers to enter in Part - Time Provider Rates if they have not done so already. This can be done by submitting a contract amendment.

Unit of Care **Full-Time Daily Rates**

* Special needs rate will be negotiated up to coalition pursuant to Rule 6M-4.500, F.A.C. T

Care Code	Description	A Provider's Private Pay Rates
INF	<12 Months	\$43.00
TOD	12 <24 Months	\$36.00
2YR	24 <36 Months	\$27.00
PR3	36 <48 Months	\$26.00
PR4	48 <60 Months	\$26.00
PR5	60 <72 Months	\$26.00
SCH	In School	\$26.00

Unit of Care **Part-Time Daily Rates**

* Special needs rate will be negotiated up to coalition pursuant to Rule 6M-4.500, F.A.C. T

Care Code	Description	A Provider's Private Pay Rates
INF	<12 Months	\$0.00
TOD	12 <24 Months	\$0.00
2YR	24 <36 Months	\$0.00
PR3	36 <48 Months	\$0.00
PR4	48 <60 Months	\$0.00
PR5	60 <72 Months	\$0.00
SCH	In School	\$0.00



SR Provider's Private Pay Rates (example)

Eligibility Start Date: 9/25/2023		Eligibility Redetermination Due Date: 9/23/2024					
Rilya Wilson Reporting Requirement: No		Referring Agency Phone: N/A					
Assigned ELC Counselor: N/A		Referring Agency Email: N/A					
Provider Daily Reimbursement Rates:	Full-Time: \$28.02	Part-Time: \$22.00	Special Needs Rate: \$0.00				
Parent Daily Co-Pay ^{**} :	Full-Time: \$1.60	Part-Time: \$0.80					
Enrollment Start: 10/2/2023	Enrollment End: 9/23/2024						
Billing Group: BG8	Eligibility: ECON						
Care Level: TOD	School Calendar Name:		School Holiday Unit of Care:				
Enrollment Schedule Note:							
<small>** Parent co-payment is what the parent is responsible for paying (copay). Additional fees may also be applied, contact your provider for more details.</small>							
Unit of Care / Day of Care:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	PT	PT	PT	PT	PT		

Using the portion of the Certificate above,

- The child's care level is Toddler
- The Unit of Care is PT & Day of Care is M-F. This means ECS will only reimburse care for PT reimbursement M-F.
- ECS pays \$22.00 a day for PT Toddler care for the county shown.
- To determine the amount ECS will pay, take the daily rate (\$22.00) & subtract the parent fee (.80) = \$21.20 (\$22.00 - .80 = \$21.20 a day)

If you have a child enrolled who qualifies for Part-time, but your program does not have part-time rates listed in your contract the reimbursement staff will reject the child's attendance and request that you reach out to the Contracts Team to update your contract.



Reimbursement Department Staff



If you run into any issues or questions regarding Reimbursement, SR or VPK, please reach out to the **Reimbursement Department** at **(904) 726-1500 ext. 7050**.

- Sidney Kostecki, Reimbursement Coordinator, ext. 2210
- Christy Bramley, Reimbursement Specialist, ext. 2257
- Courtney Cariveau, Reimbursement Specialist, ext. 2293
- Darius Cannon, Reimbursement Specialist, ext. 2239



Questions?



Contract Department



Program Information Change Notification to ECS

XI. NOTIFICATION

Information Change Notification. PROVIDER agrees that it will comply with each of the following notification requirements:

Providing notice to the COALITION of changes in contact or program information within **fourteen (14) calendar days.**

Providing notice to the COALITION of permanent business closings or changes in business location or ownership must be reported at least **thirty (30) calendar days prior to changes.**

This ensures that ECS can:

1. Give parents the required 30-day notice.
2. Request/Receive required documentation from Provider.
3. Initiate a new contract (if needed)

Contract Department Staff



If you have any questions regarding Profiles or Contracts, SR or VPK, please reach out to the **Contract Department at (904) 726-1500 ext 7054.**

- Sarah March, Contract Coordinator, ext. 2206
- Roushawn Saunders, Lead Contract Specialist, ext. 2241
- Michele Yingst, Contract Specialist, ext.2167
- Cameron Cline, Contract Specialist, ext. 2297
- Melisha Farmer, Contract Monitor, ext. 2243



Questions?



FLORENDA'S ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT THINKING (FAST)

USING STAR EARLY LITERACY



FAST Implementation Reminders

- VPK Programs are required to administer the assessment **three times** within its program and must be administered by a qualified test administrator. (PM1; PM2; PM3)
- Providers are required to provide student performance results to the family within 7 calendar days of each PM administration using the **Star Parent Report**. The Star Parent Report provides a printable and customizable informational letter for parents or guardians and is available in **English** and **Spanish**. This is currently NOT being collected by ECS but may be requested at a later date for monitoring purposes. The link to running instructions can be found here: <https://help2.renaissance.com/reports/25027>.
- Any child enrolled during the Progress Monitoring window will need to be assessed in Renaissance before the end of the testing window.
- Please run the Non-Participation Child Report and STAR Test Activity report at the end of your testing window for your files, as these are to be kept by the provider for 5 years.
- If you accidentally test outside of your classroom's testing windows, you will need to retest the children during your testing windows to be in compliance with the VPK contract.
- If you test a child more than once in your testing window, DEL will use the first test administered for that Progress Monitoring period.



Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy (Cont.)

Rostering

VPK Program Administrators will need to ensure that their **Provider Portal is up to date** prior to the VPK Program year beginning and throughout the year. The Division of Early Learning (DEL) will send nightly files to Renaissance generated from the DEL Provider Portal. The files will include students enrolled in VPK and information about classrooms and instructors. This allows the Renaissance system to setup the site for VPK Programs to administer the Star Early Literacy Assessment. This also includes adding any new or reenrollment children throughout the program.

All program changes must be made in the Provider Portal and may take up to 48 hours to reflect in the Renaissance site. Changes cannot be made in the Renaissance site.



FAST Progress Monitoring Periods

Progress Monitoring (PM) Periods

- **PM1:** Is the **first thirty (30) instructional days** of the VPK class schedule beginning with the first VPK instructional day.
- **PM2:** Is the period of time in a VPK class schedule where **at least 40% of the instructional hours have been completed and no more than 60% of the instructional hours** have been completed. **PM2 IS A REQUIREMENT FOR VPK**
- **PM3:** Is the **last thirty (30) instructional days** of the VPK class schedule ending on the last VPK instructional day.

Programs (including Summer VPK) that have **82 or fewer** instructional days follow the below test administration schedule:

- **PM1:** Is the first ten (10) instructional days of the VPK class schedule beginning with the first VPK instructional day.
- **PM2:** Is the period of time in a VPK class schedule where at least 40% of the instructional hours have been completed and no more than 60% of the instructional hours have been completed.
- **PM3:** Is the last ten (10) instructional days of the VPK class schedule ending on the last VPK instructional day.

Please remember that your testing window dates may change if you have any calendar changes.

- Periodically we are updating our website with current Progress Monitoring Dates for each ELC of North Florida VPK Provider at the following link: <https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/vpk/providers/>



FAST - Non-Participation Statuses

- Each child should attempt to take the assessment three (3) times before being marked in a Non-Participation Status

The four Non-Participation status options are: Assessment Inappropriate, Failed Practice, Not Present During Testing Window and Non-English Speaker.

- Children marked as non-participation will still show as children not tested on the STAR activity test report.
- Please ensure you are checking your STAR Activity Test report for children showing as not tested periodically before your testing window ends. Make sure children who need to be marked as non-participation are done so within Renaissance.



FAST Training Requirements

To be qualified as a test administrator, an individual must be employed by a private VPK provider or school district; and complete, and document completion of, professional development training that is designed to ensure the proper administration of the assessment.

To complete the VPK FAST training requirements, participants will need to register in Renaissance-U (Ren-U) using the Renaissance-U Enrollment Guidance and complete one of the below courses that meet VPK FAST training requirements.

The below Ren-U courses meet VPK FAST training requirements:

- VPK Test Administrators Getting Started with FAST Star Early Literacy Assessment (English)
- VPK Test Administrators Getting Started with FAST Star Early Literacy Assessment (Spanish)

THIS TRAINING IS A YEARLY REQUIREMENT.



Additional training through Renaissance-U

Additional Training through Renaissance: These resources can be accessed using the links below and through Renaissance-U. To access Renaissance-U, log into your Renaissance platform and select the Renaissance-U tile.

Smart Start is your self-guided journey through Star. Explore introductory videos and resources to help you master basic navigation and essential best practices. Use your students' Star results to plan personalized instruction in three initial steps. You'll be introduced to administering the test, using data from screening to group students, accordingly, and gleaning insights from the program to inform instruction.

Smart Start Link: https://renaissance.widen.net/s/lxl77bvw52/smart-start-landing-page_210318

Renaissance-U Account Changes:

- If you need to update information in your Ren-U Profile you will need to complete this form. <https://www.renaissance.com/request-support/>

In the Product drop down, select **FAST/VPK/K-2** and include the following information: full name and email as they appear in both DCF and Ren-U profiles, DCF Student ID and your early learning coalition (ELC of North Florida)



FAST/Renaissance Resources & Support

Resource Website

VPK Program Administrators should be familiar with the VPK FAST website as information and resources are updated frequently, linked here: <https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/fast>. Several resources have been added & this will be your best resource for up-to-date FAST information.

Contact Information

Renaissance System Support: Users who need Renaissance System support should contact the Renaissance Place Help Desk and Technical Assistance Team at 1-800-338-4204 or by completing this NEW [form](https://www.renaissance.com/request-support/) or a Renaissance representative.

Policy Questions? Contact the Division of Early Learning with questions related to FAST using Star Early Literacy implementation requirements. Select which best describes who you are: [VPK Provider](#) or [VPK Parent](#) and your information and questions will be submitted to the Division of Early Learning.

<https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/fast/fast-vpk-providers-form>

ELC Contact: Roushawn Saunders: by email: Roushawn.saunders@ecs4kids.org **or by phone:** 904-726-1500 ext 2241



Questions?





Amanda Griffis

SCHOOL READINESS EDUCATION UPDATES




Provider Information Site

<https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/provider-services/>

Book mark this link and visit often!

BUILD A WORLD CLASS WORKFORCE
GRANT INFORMATION

click here!



Newsletters

Emails

Provider Meetings

DEL Memos

Portal Guidance

CLASS

ASQ/ASQ-SE

(SR Providers)

- *Please do not wait until the due date to complete a screening. It is imperative that screenings be completed as soon as possible in order to initiate services for the child without unnecessary delay.*
- *Providers will receive email and phone call reminders, and possibly a reminder from Amanda as well. This is due to the increase of screenings that are being completed past the due date.*
- *If a child never attended your center, you can terminate the enrollment in the Provider Portal. (See slide 4 for instructions)*



ASQ/ASQ-SE Reminder

- If the parent chooses for the provider to complete the ASQ and/or the ASQ-SE, coalition is required to ensure provider completes the screenings.
 - *If you completed a screening for a child and they are still showing as 'incomplete' in the Portal, it is likely due to the fact that the SE has not been completed. Click on that child's screening again and complete the SE.*
- Failure to complete ASQs as required by Rule, will result in a Non-Compliance notice for your site.
 - *Every attempt to contact providers regarding incomplete/late screenings is case noted.*



Inclusion Services

- When requesting services from the Inclusion Specialists, please keep the following things in mind:
 - *Inclusion assistance should be a first stop, not a last resort. As soon as you recognize you may need assistance, contact your inclusion specialist immediately.*
 - *We have 2 specialists who cover 6 different counties, so schedules may not be able to accommodate “emergency calls”.*
 - *Inclusion services cannot diagnose a child, nor inform the provider whether the site should disenroll a child/family.*
 - *Make sure you’ve already communicated any concerns and issues with the family before contacting the Inclusion Specialist, so the family understands the process and knows what to expect.*



CLASS Assessments

- Due to the high volume of CLASS assessments required and the addition of previously Biannual status assessment, we cannot guarantee that assessments will occur for each site during the same time frame as previously scheduled.
- Keep in mind that assessors are allowed to pause for up to 10 minutes between CLASS cycles, and it is up to the assessor to decide how much time is needed between cycles. Therefore, you may see slight differences in how long an assessor is in the classroom for assessment(s). Also remember that cycles for the different age ranges vary by CLASS tool as well.
- All times of the day including meal time, outdoor time, all activity times are allowable times to assess except for unstructured outdoor times for Pre-K and nap times. Outdoor time for Infants and Toddlers can be assessed. Pre-K can be assessed if there is a structured activity planned. Let your assessor know ahead of time whether outside time activities are planned.



CLASS Assessment Reminders:

- Continue your normal schedule during assessments. Children respond best to their normal routine and structure.
- Dual Coding- as we build assessor capacity, train, and set measures to ensure CLASS reliability, please note that 2 assessors may be present for your assessment(s).



CLASS Assessment Reminders (continued):

- Assessors are coached by supervisors to give no feedback regarding assessment scores after each assessment. Providers are required to request, in writing, for their individual classroom notes. Information on this is provided in the email you'll receive notifying you of your composite score(s).
- If you open a VPK room after your CLASS assessments have taken place, the new class will be observed, and your VPK assessment composite score will be recalculated.
- If your composite score for SR and/or VPK are below 4.0, provider has the option to pay \$425 per classroom re-assessed to try to qualify for contracting eligibility. If you open a new classroom before your reassessment, you will be required to pay for all required classrooms to be re-assessed (this is in state Rule).



VPK CLASS Assessments

- Per State Rule, ALL VPK classrooms will receive a CLASS assessment. All classroom scores will be calculated into one Composite VPK score for each VPK program. A score of 4.0 is required to continue to contract for future VPK programs.
- Make sure your VPK teachers know what to expect! Ensure they have access to MyTeachstone accounts and/or have taken a PreK CLASS training.
- Lead teacher listed in the Portal must be present for assessment to occur. Keep your portal profile updated!
- We set up a tentative assessment schedule by month but as we've stated before please know that your assessment month assignment is *tentative* based on many factors. Your assessment may be moved up earlier in order for our agency to ensure all assessments are completed as required by DEL.



SR CLASS Training/Resources

- It is **extremely** important for teachers to receive **on-going** CLASS training. Please do not assume that your center will receive a score similar to your last year's score if your teachers have not continued to train on CLASS.
 - *CLASS strategies and scoring are very specific. Directors should have a training plan in place for seasoned teachers as well as new teachers*
- Be sure to take advantage of the FREE MyTeachstone accounts we have been advertising. This resource has a library of information, courses, and videos on every area of CLASS in each of the 3 age ranges (Infant, Toddler, PreK).



MyTeachstone Accounts

- If you would like to sign up yourself and your teachers for an account you can reach out to your assigned Education Specialist, Amanda.Griffis@ecs4kids.org for SR and Ashley.Rich@ecs4kids.org for VPK Only sites.
- Send a list of first and last names and an individual email address.



Exemptions for SR CLASS

- **Exempt providers-** can remain exempt **unless** site receives qualifying DCF violations and/or SR enrollment exceeds the 20% SR enrollment threshold.
- NOTE: Biannual statuses **expired** on June 30th and will no longer be implemented per State Rule. Starting July 1, 2023-ALL previously biannual programs will receive CLASS assessments regardless of scores received this year.
- No exemptions for VPK classrooms.



Other CLASS Learning Opportunities



- Check the ECS training calendar:
<https://ecs4kids.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse>

- Check the Early Learning Florida Training Calendar
<https://www.earlylearningflorida.com/catalog>

- Read the ECS Helping Hands Monthly Newsletter
 - *Includes CLASS strategies in the activities*

- Read the Book of the Month activities/ Watch the BOM videos
 - *Includes CLASS strategies in the activities*
 - *Posted to “ECS In The Know” Provider Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECSInTheKnow>*

- Visit the Teachstone website for products to use in the classroom
<https://teachstone.com/>

- Reminder: For providers who received the CLASS strategy cards and CLASS dictionary- be intentional about using these materials in the classroom.
- Directors- ensure lesson plans are being created with CLASS strategies in mind, complete informal CLASS strategy observations; create training plans for each staff member that include formal and informal CLASS training

Questions?



GRANT UPDATES

Brittney Spangler





AVAILABLE & UPCOMING GRANTS





**GRANTS
CURRENTLY
AVAILABLE**

CDA Scholarships

- CDA Scholarships for Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam & St. Johns Counties: Scholarships may be available for CDA applicants through the TEACH Scholarship Program. For additional information, please contact:
- Danesha Davis at (904) 726-1500 ext. 2299, danisha.davis@ecs4kids.org
- We offer an online course that does not require an approved TEACH application.
- **Once all requirements have been completed, ECS will scholarship the \$425 application fee to the National CDA Council.**
- Scholarships will be available as long as funding is available.
- For additional Frequently Asked questions, please visit <https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/regional-training-institute/cda-2-0/> or contact Denesha Davis if your question is not listed.



Curriculum Expansion & Implementation Study

The **deadline** for the curriculum grant has been **extended to December 15, 2023.**

In this program, providers may choose curriculum that is DEL approved **and** is a curriculum used often by providers that have a CLASS score of 5 or greater.

In addition to curriculum, providers may select online training and curriculum support and supplies offered by the publisher.

Once an application is approved, providers will be issued payment. **Programs** will **order** the items and then **submit** their receipts to ECS.

Any **unspent funds** will need to be **returned** to **ECS** or **deducted** from the programs next School Readiness or VPK reimbursement.



UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Recruitment – Training & Bonuses
- Workforce Initiatives
- VPK Parent Engagement
- Lending Libraries
- Classroom & Outdoor Supplies
- VPK Early Learning Technology

ECS has received approval for our spending plan from the Division of Early Learning (DEL) and we wanted to tell you about some upcoming funding opportunities. Some of you are participating in the curriculum grants now but we have several other opportunities based on your feedback.

You will not be able to apply for these just yet, but we thought it would be helpful to know what will be coming up in the next few weeks and months.



Recruitment – Training and Bonuses



- For employees that were hired after 7/1/2023
- ECS will reimburse providers the cost of the **45-hour DCF** (Department of Children and Families) **Health and Safety training hours** (\$450) and **CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training** (\$100) with **submission of hire dates and DCF transcripts or training certificates.**
- ECS will reimburse **up to \$58 for new hire background screening** with the submission of hire date and receipt
- Offer **\$1000 stipends** for new hires who are **hired on or after 7/1/2023** and who **work a minimum of 120 hours at the same program** and **\$1,400 stipends** for new hires who are **hired on or after 7/1/2023** and that **complete 45-hours of DCF Health and Safety training** while /funding lasts.
- **The teacher can qualify for both stipends if they work 120 hours and complete all 45 hour DCF Health and Safety classes.**
- **The funding for background screenings and for these stipends is extremely limited and will be awarded on a first come first served basis.**
- **Release Date: To be announced**



- Programs will have the chance to provide meaningful training to all staff and reward those **teachers, assistant teachers** and **directors** who have **stayed with a provider for at least a year**.
- Providers will **select training** from a **preapproved list** or **suggest another training** that **ECS must approve prior to implementation**. Training plans must consist of a **minimum of 10 hours** of training for each participating staff but **may** require more hours based on the provider's discretion.
- ECS will **provide reimbursement** or **an advance** for the training.
- When staff have been with the provider for **at least one year** and have **successfully participated** in the provider training plan, ECS will pay the provider a stipend of **at least \$1,000**.
- The stipend will be increased by **\$200 for each year** of additional service **up to \$2,000** for **6 years of service or greater**.
- **All training must be completed by 5/1/2024**.
- All **participating staff** must have been **employed** by the **participating provider** for **at least one year by 5/1/24**.

Workforce Initiatives





VPK Parent Engagement



VPK contracted providers may apply for a stipend of \$20 per parent/teacher conference to discuss the child's FAST (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking) scores. \$60 total per VPK child if all three conferences are completed.

Conferences are encouraged to be held after each assessment period or 3 times per year and must be completed by 5/31/2024.

Providers will complete an electronic application for each assessment period listing each child and obtaining the parent electronic signature to qualify for the stipend.

Virtual conferences will qualify since the parents are able to sign off remotely. Conferences that have already taken place can be counted if the provider completes the application and obtains the parent's electronic signature within the application. The date is the actual conference date.



Lending Libraries

- ECS is procuring **200 lending libraries** to provide to interested programs.
- Each library will consist of **over 350 books** and come with a **shelving unit** to display books for check-out.
- The **large inventory** of books available will **allow providers** to have **multiple copies** of some books and to **change out the offerings** periodically to **promote continued interest** in the libraries.
- **Providers** will agree to **turn in** copies of **sign out sheets** at the end of the year.



Classroom and Outdoor Supplies

- ECS will offer mini grants of **up to \$2,500 per classroom** for providers to **update** their **classroom** and **playground supplies**.
- Unfortunately, nothing considered a permanent structure may be purchased. This would exclude items such as outdoor swing sets and slides.
- **Providers will be given an advance to make their purchases once their application is approved.**
- Providers may **choose** from the **Kaplan** and **Lakeshore** sites or from other items on a **preapproved list**.
- **Programs** will **order** the items and then **submit** their **receipts**.
- Any **unspent funds** will need to be **returned** to ECS or **deducted** from the programs next School Readiness or VPK reimbursement.
- A deadline for receipts will be established when the application is released.



VPK Early Learning Technology

- ECS is **procuring tablets** with early learning software **preloaded** and plans to **distribute** them to **VPK providers** to use in their **VPK classrooms**.
- Additionally, ECS plans to issue a **stipend** of **\$500** to **each VPK classroom** to **purchase tablets** and **headphones** to use for **VPK assessments**.
- **Providers** will **apply** for the grant and ECS will **advance** the **approved funds** to the program.
- **Programs** will **order** the items and then **submit** their **receipts**.
- Any **unspent funds** will need to be **returned** to ECS or **deducted** from the programs next School Readiness or VPK reimbursement.
- A deadline for receipts will be established when the application is released.



UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Specific dates
will be given with
each funding
announcement.

All programs are based on **available funding** and in addition to **sending notices** to you **when programs begin**, we will also **keep you informed** when we have **expended our funds** and **must stop** offering any program.

All programs will be ending by May 2024 if not sooner.

Participating providers **must be located** with **Baker, Bradford, Clay, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties** as well as be **contracted with the ELC (Early Learning Coalition) of North Florida** for either **VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten), School Readiness or both.**

All stipends will be **paid to the provider** who will be **expected to pay** their **staff stipends as required** based on the specific grant.





ARPA GRANTS

Round 1, Installments 1, 2, & 3

&

Round 2, FINAL Payment (A) &

FINAL Payment (B)



ARPA Grant Deadline Summary (Through Provider Portal)

ARPA Round 1	ARPA Round 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Initial Application Deadline June 30, 2022 ■ Round 1, Second Installment Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submission Deadline – December 15, 2022 ○ Approval Deadline– December 30,2022 ○ Payment Deadline – January 31, 2023 ■ Round 1, Third Installment Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submission Deadline –April 5, 2023 ○ Approval Deadline –April 19,2023 ○ Payment Deadline – May 17, 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Initial Submission Deadline - February 28, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approval Deadline– April 5, 2023 ○ Payment Deadline – May 5, 2023 ○ Total award will be paid in one payment ■ Round 2, FINAL Payment (A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Released in EFSM – April 27, 2023 ○ Submission Deadline – May 11, 2023 ○ Approval Deadline – May 25, 2023 ○ ELCs given FINAL payment amt. – June 15, 2023 ○ Payment Deadline – June 30, 2023 ■ Round 2, FINAL Payment (B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Released in EFSM – N/A* ○ Submission Deadline – N/A* ○ Approval Deadline – N/A* ○ ELCs given FINAL Payment (B) amt. – August 18, 2023 ○ Payment Deadline – August 31, 2023 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">* Due to time constraints, no application needed. Those that received Round 2, FINAL Payment (A) and are still operational, will be given this payment.</p>
<p>All funds must be spent no later than September 30, 2023.</p> <p>Reminder: You may use ARPA funding to reimburse yourself for any allowable expenditures after January 31, 2020. This means that you can allocate this funding for previous allowable expenditures that took place from January 31, 2020, up until September 30, 2023.</p> <p>Note: Workforce Initiative. Providers electing the Workforce Initiative Bonus must use at least 25% of total subgrant amount on staff to increase wages and benefits. These expenses must go above and beyond regular payroll and benefits. Expenses claimed in the Payroll/Benefits category cannot be included here also. These funds can only be used from the date funds were received up until September 30, 2023.</p>	
<p>Final funds utilization reports will be due October 31, 2023. Additional details to come.</p>	
<p>Questions: email Brittney Spangler @ brittney.spangler@ecs4kids.org or Shecovia Grimes @ shecovia.grimes@ecs4kids.org</p>	

Provider Reporting ARPA Round 1 and 2 Expenditures



- Providers are required to continue reporting expenditures for ARPA Round 1 until all ARPA Child Care Stabilization Subgrant – Round 1 funds have been reported spent, up until **October 31, 2023**. This will be completed in the Provider Portal.
- **Providers will only be able to report Round 2 funds one (1) time** and this will either be **approved or denied by ECS staff**. If denied, you will need to resubmit with corrections.
- Please **do not list more than the total amount of Round 2 grants received**. If more funds are reported, the expenditure report will be **denied and will be required to be resubmitted**.
- Final funds utilization reports are due **October 31, 2023**.
- **Providers failing to submit expenditure surveys may be required to repay any unspent funds.**
- **Expenditure Surveys** will **only be available** in the Provider Portal **until October 31, 2023**.
- Providers with unspent funds **MUST** return those funds **via check or wire** to **ECS** no later than **October 31, 2023**.
- **If paying by check, the check must be in hand of the ECS staff by the October 31, 2023 date.**

Guidance Available:

- Sample Budget Tracking
- Child Care Stabilization Spending Documentation Guide
- Child Care Stabilization Subgrant Provider FAQs – 10/28/2022





DID YOU
KNOW?

ECS Website - Provider Services Page

<https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/provider-services/>

- At the link above, we are doing our best to save any communication we are sharing with child care programs all in one spot.
- Included on this page is archives of newsletters, email blasts, Provider Meeting slides and recordings, DEL Memos, the latest CLASS news, and more!
- At the bottom of the page, we also have a link for you to have the most up to date ECS staff Contact List for Providers, so you will always have our up to date contact information.
- If you have suggestions for anything to be added to this page, please email me at brittney.spangler@ecs4kids.org. Thank you!





QUESTIONS?



SR Provider Survey

- You will receive an email with the link to a survey. Please take the time to fill this out. We use your feedback to guide future Provider Meetings 😊
THANKS!!!



More Questions

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