



1ST QUARTER PROVIDER MEETING

MEETING AGENDA

- Introductions
- Family Services Department
- Reimbursement Department
- Contract Department
- VPK FAST & Performance Metrics
- School Readiness Education
- Questions



LET ME
Introduce
MYSELF

Attendance

Please type the following into the chat for attendance:

1. Name
2. Program/Agency Name





Shanda Ellis

FAMILY SERVICES DEPT. UPDATES



School Readiness Waitlist Update

- We are sending out funding notices for priority 3 (infant to 5 years old not in school) and priority 6 (school aged children) weekly.
- Generated notices are filtered by wait list date and sent to families that have been on the wait list the longest.
- Families that receive a funding notice are not guaranteed qualification. Eligibility is determined once we have all the documents needed on file and processed using a sliding fee scale for household size.
- If you are aware of any families that have been placed on the waitlist, please share with them that we are sending notices out weekly while funding is available.
- Funding notices are sent out to the email that is tied to the family's Family Portal account.
- Once the notice is sent, ECS will contact the family via email and when possible, by phone to remind family to check to ensure they received the notice and to also remind that they have only 30 days to submit requested documentation listed in the funding notice.
- If the family does not use the funding notice within the 30 days, it will expire, and they will have to reapply again through the waitlist for services.



School Readiness Wait List

Families may apply for the waitlist at:
<https://familyservices.floridaeearlylearning.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 wait list, please encourage them to reach out to our Program Support Coordinator Kenya Register at kenya.register@ecs4kids.org or 904-726-1500 ext. 2246.

Wait list applications are processed daily, and applications are placed on the wait list in order they are processed.



School Readiness Eligibility – Co-Payment Update

Starting July 1, 2025, Rule 6M-4.400 was updated by the federal government to reflect changes to the School Readiness copayments.

A new DEL sliding fee scale went into effect on 7.1.25. The Family Services team continues to assess income as usual, however at the time of redetermination or initial determination for a new family, copayments are now calculated as a percentage of a household's gross annual income, not to exceed 6%, and will be based on the child's authorized care hours (full-time or part time).



School Readiness Eligibility – Co-Payment Update - Key Changes

For brand new eligibilites and for families redetermining after 7.1.25, only one child will be assigned a co-payment, even if multiple children are enrolled in the School Readiness Program.

The co-payment will be assigned to just one provider, even if the child attends more than one.

All other children in the household enrolled in the SR Program will have a \$0 co-payment, and provider will receive full daily reimbursement rates based on authorized care hours.

For families already receiving services prior to 7.1.25, these changes will not occur until their upcoming redetermination date.



School Readiness Eligibility – Co-Payment Update - Payment Certificate Details

Each child's certificate will indicate whether they have a co-payment or a \$0 co-payment.

It will also show the daily reimbursement rate ECS4Kids will pay: Before co-payment (for the assigned child) and in full (for children with \$0 co-payment).



School Readiness Eligibility – Co-Payment Update - Reimbursement Guidelines

For children with a co-payment, ECS4Kids will reimburse the SR rate minus the co-payment, based on the child's level of care and authorized schedule.

For children without a co-payment, ECS4Kids will reimburse the full SR rate.

Providers may continue to assess additional fees for SR children, if applicable.



Our Clay County One Stop Is Moving!

- When: 8/18/25 (Tentative Date)
- Where: 1279 Kingsley Ave, Suite 13, Orange Park, FL 32073
- Dates and Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm
- In person appointments are encouraged to be scheduled ahead of time and can be made on our website www.ecs4kids.org/appointments



One Stop Office Staff & Central Staff

Family Services Specialists

Baker – Eryss Meguia – 904-259-4255
Eryss.Meguia@ecs4kids.org

Bradford – Vickie Hancock - 904-964-1543
vickie.Hancock@ecs4kids.org

Nassau – Ayanna Warden –
Ayanna.Warden@ecs4kids.org
Phone # TBA

Clay – Leatrice Ahmadu – 904-213-3939 ext.
2039
Leatrice.Ahmadu@ecs4kids.org

Clay – Jasmine Thornton – 904-213-3939 ext.
2081
Jasmine.Thornton@ecs4kids.org

Central – Holly Poole – 904-432-0009 ext 2626
Holly.Poole@ecs4kids.org

Family Services Specialists

St Johns – Jessica Volk – 904-770-2565 ext.
4001
Jessica.Volk@ecs4kids.org

St Johns – Martha Castaneda – 904-770-2565
ext. 4000
Martha.Castaneda@ecs4kids.org

St Johns - Kathy Pacheco – 904-770-2565 ext
4002
Kathy.Pacheco@ecs4kids.org

Putnam – Christina Jackson – 386-385-5450 ext.
4100
Christina.Jackson@ecs4kids.org

Putnam – Maria Castellanos – 386-385-5450 ext.
4101
Maria.Castellanos@ecs4kids.org



Family Services Management Team

Emily Taylor– 904-726-1500 ext. 5604
(emily.taylor@ecs4kids.org) Family Services
Coordinator to Putnam, St Johns and Bradford staff.

April Florida – 904-726-1500 Ext 2290
(april.florida@ecs4kids.org) Family Services
Coordinator to Nassau, Baker, Clay and HQ 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



Provider Services Department Update

Roushawn (Shawn) Saunders has been promoted to Provider Support Coordinator.

- She will continue with the FAST assessment requirement for VPK providers. She will also assist with the Single Sign On (SSO) access for providers and the new VPK POP metric requirements



REIMBURSEMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Attendance



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

SR

57. Attendance Documentation. PROVIDER agrees to document daily attendance and submit monthly attendance reports for payment. PROVIDER agrees to submit all required attendance records to COALITION on or before the third (3rd) business day of each month. If the due date falls on a holiday, PROVIDER agrees to submit all required attendance records to COALITION on the preceding business day. Records submitted late will be processed and paid in the next open payment cycle.

VPK

44. Attendance Documentation Submission. PROVIDER agrees to submit monthly attendance certification, in accordance with Rule 6M-8.305, F.A.C., for payment. PROVIDER agrees to submit all required attendance records to COALITION on or before the 3rd business day of each month. If the due date falls on a holiday, PROVIDER agrees to submit all required attendance records to COALITION on the preceding business day. Records submitted late will be processed and paid in the next payment cycle.

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



Timely Attendance Submission Matters

- There have been delays in attendance submissions due to **enrollment/payment concerns with one or a few children.**
- We strongly encourage providers to **submit attendance on time**, even if some children have unresolved issues.
- This allows us to **process and pay for the majority of children** without delay.
- Children with issues can be **separated and rejected back** for correction without holding up the entire roster.



Monthly Payments

Before every deposit providers will receive an email entitled:

RE: Payment Notification, Settlement Date:

If you have any questions regarding your program's monthly payments, please direct all email to Sidney Kostecki, Reimbursement Coordinator at **Sidney.Kostecki@ecs4kids.org**.



Please Note: We attempt to make your payment on the date assigned of every month and your deposit will normally be made the same day. However, this is dependent on ECS receiving reimbursement from the ELC of North Florida and in turn the ELC of North Florida receiving funds from the Division of Early Learning. Reimbursement is for the previous month's attendance. If the date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Holiday your payment will be deposited on the preceding business day.



School Year Parent Fees

School Age Parent Fee will change from Full time to Part time for all counties at the start of the school year

- **Baker - School starts August 11, 2025**
- **Bradford - School starts August 12, 2025**
- **Clay - School starts August 11, 2025**
- **Nassau - School starts August 11, 2025**
- **Putnam - School starts August 11, 2025**
- **St. Johns - School starts August 11, 2025**

Children that turn Five Years Old on or before September 1st and that are beginning Kindergarten will be updated to School Age children and have their schedules/parent fees updated to reflect the change for the 25-26 program year.



SR Provider's Private Pay Rates

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

Unit of Care Full-Time Daily Rates			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			* Special needs rate will be negotiated up to coalition pursuant to Rule 6M-4.500, F.A.C. T		
Care Code	Description	Provider's Private Pay Rates	Care Code	Description	Provider's Private Pay Rates
INF	<12 Months	\$43.00	INF	<12 Months	\$0.00
TOD	12 <24 Months	\$36.00	TOD	12 <24 Months	\$0.00
2YR	24 <36 Months	\$27.00	2YR	24 <36 Months	\$0.00
PR3	36 <48 Months	\$26.00	PR3	36 <48 Months	\$0.00
PR4	48 <60 Months	\$26.00	PR4	48 <60 Months	\$0.00
PR5	60 <72 Months	\$26.00	PR5	60 <72 Months	\$0.00
SCH	In School	\$26.00	SCH	In School	\$0.00

- Payment delays due to **missing rates** for specific care levels or units (e.g., Full-Time, Part-Time).

- Children may be enrolled later or age into new care levels, and **missing rates will delay roster processing and payments.**

If you have a child enrolled who qualifies for full-time or part-time, but your program does not have 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 rates.



2025-2026 VPK Allocations

2025-2026 School Year Allocations (Effective 7/1/2025)

County Name	Rate Based on FTE	Program Hours	Hourly Rate
Baker	\$2,856.60	540	\$5.29
Bradford	\$2,851.20	540	\$5.28
Clay	\$2,948.40	540	\$5.46
Nassau	\$2,991.60	540	\$5.54
Putnam	\$2,862.00	540	\$5.30
St Johns	\$3,007.80	540	\$5.57

June 2026 Summer Allocations (Effective 7/01/2025)

County Name	Rate based on FTE	Program Hours	Hourly Rate
Baker	\$2,439.00	300	\$8.13
Bradford	\$2,433.00	300	\$8.11
Clay	\$2,514.00	300	\$8.38
Nassau	\$2,556.00	300	\$8.52
Putnam	\$2,445.00	300	\$8.15
St Johns	\$2,568.00	300	\$8.56



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
- Courtney Cariveau, Reimbursement Specialist, ext. 2293
- Darius Cannon, Reimbursement Specialist, ext. 2239
- Marshay Mosby, Reimbursement Specialist, ext. 5607



Questions?



Contract Department



2025-26 VPK Program Participation Deadlines

All VPK Provider application should be submitted at least 14 calendar days **before** your anticipated start date to allow sufficient time for review and processing.

For example: If your anticipated start date is August 11, 2025, you should submit your application by July 29, 2025 at the latest.

If your VPK application and contract are not certified 14 calendar days before your anticipated start date, then your start date may need to be changed.



2025-26 VPK Program Advance Payment Deadlines

****Advanced payment deadlines are subject to change per DEL policy****

If you have chosen to receive the VPK advance payment, the deadlines are as follows:

The deadline to receive the **August** advance payment has already passed.

To receive the **September** advanced payment:

1. Should be submitted no later than July 14, 2025 **AND**
2. At least 4 approved certificates of eligibilities entered into the provider portal VPK enrollment tab and submitted for approval **AND**
3. Your completed original child certificates of eligibility received in our central office no later than July 31, 2025.

To receive the **October** advanced payment:

1. Should be submitted no later than August 15, 2025 **AND**
2. At least 4 approved certificates of eligibilities entered into the provider portal VPK enrollment tab and submitted for approval **AND**
3. Your completed original child certificates of eligibility received in our central office no later than August 29, 2025.



Unusual Incident Reporting to ECS

Providers **must** report unusual incidents to ECS by no later than the close of business on the next business day of the unusual incident and to submit a written report within three (3) business days from the date of the incident to be in compliance with your SR/VPK Contract.

SR

XI. NOTIFICATION

81. Unusual Incident Notification. PROVIDER agrees to report unusual incidents to COALITION by no later than the close of business on the next business day of the unusual incident and to submit a written report to COALITION within three (3) business days from the date of the incident. For licensed providers, sending a copy of the incident report submitted for DCF to COALITION will constitute compliance with this paragraph. An unusual incident is any significant event involving the health and safety of children under PROVIDER's care. Examples of unusual incidents include: accusations of abuse or neglect against PROVIDER or PROVIDER's staff; the injury of a child which requires professional medical attention at PROVIDER's site or written notification from the child's parent that the child received professional medical attention; and when PROVIDER receives notice of litigation where PROVIDER is a named party or defendant and which relates to the PROVIDER's operation at any location at which SR services are being provided.

VPK

XII. NOTIFICATION

66. Unusual Incident Notification. PROVIDER agrees to report unusual incidents to COALITION by no later than the close of business on the next business day of the unusual incident and to submit a written report to COALITION within three (3) business days from the date of the incident. For licensed providers, sending a copy of the incident report submitted for DCF to COALITION will constitute compliance with this paragraph. An unusual incident is any significant event involving the health and safety of children under PROVIDER's care. Examples of unusual incidents include: accusations of abuse or neglect against PROVIDER or PROVIDER's staff; the injury of a child which requires professional medical attention at PROVIDER's site or written notification from the child's parent that the child received professional medical attention; and when PROVIDER receives notice of litigation where PROVIDER is a named party or defendant that relates to PROVIDER's operation of VPK services.



We want to say Thank you!

With your help we were able to reach 100% completion for 25-26 provider profiles by May 30, 2025 and 25-26 SR Contracts were certified before June 30, 2025.



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
- Michele Yingst, Contract Specialist, ext. 2167
- Cameron Cline, Contract Specialist, ext. 2297
- Melisha Farmer, Contract Monitor, ext. 2243
- TBA, Contract Specialist



Questions?





FLORIDA'S ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT THINKING (FAST)

Roushawn (Shawn) Saunders



What is FAST?

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

The Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program is the statewide, standardized program known as Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy implemented in all VPK programs as required by s. 1002.68, F.S., that is used to assess student achievement of the performance standards established in s. 1002.67(1)(a), F.S., in early literacy and mathematics.



FAST Implementation

- 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)
- The assessment shall be administered individually or in a small group with no more than five students.
- The assessment shall be administered on a touchscreen device. Student headphones shall be used when administration occurs in group sizes of two to five students.
- Testing accommodations shall be made in accordance with a student's current Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan issued by the local school district.
- VPK Programs are **required** to provide a student's performance results from the assessment to the student's parents **within seven calendar days** after the administration of the assessment. VPK Programs **must provide the Star Parent Report**. The Star Parent Report provides a printable 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>.



Progress Monitoring Windows

Progress Monitoring (PM) Periods

- **Progress Monitoring 1 (PM1)**: Is the **first thirty (30) instructional days** of the VPK class schedule beginning with the first VPK instructional day.
- **Progress Monitoring 2 (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**
- **Progress Monitoring 3 (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.

- If you accidentally test outside of your classroom's testing windows, you will need to retest the children during your testing windows in order 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.

VPK FAST Highlights

THIS TRAINING IS A YEARLY REQUIREMENT.

Please make sure your Test Administrators have taken the new program year VPK Test Administrator Course on Educator Academy prior to testing the children for the 25-26 program year

- You MUST have a **trained and documented** VPK FAST Test Administrator for your program

What do I do with the Training Certificates and Forms?

- Each person should have their own file containing the security agreement, prohibited actives form and their VPK FAST Administrator Course Certificate
 - *When saving the file please label it as: **First name_ Last name_ VPK 25-26.***
 - *Please upload to the Document library in the folder labeled: **25-26 FAST Test Administrators.***

VPK Test Administrator Training: Educator Academy

Information on Educator Academy can be found at the link below:

<https://www.fldoe.org/file/20626/FAST-SELEAEG.pdf>

FAST - Non-Participation Statuses

1. Assessment Inappropriate: For students that are Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Medical Exemption Accommodation that can't be met with computer-based test (IEP/504 requiring Paper Based Test). The Star Early Literacy Assessment may not be appropriate for all VPK students. If you have a student with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan and the VPK Program Administrator determines this assessment will not meet the student's needs, the student should receive a Non-Participation Status of "Assessment Inappropriate."

2. Failed Practice Test : the child must be tested at least 3 times before being marked as Non-Participating

3. Non- English Speaker: the child must be tested at least 3 times before being marked as Non-Participating.

4. Absent During Testing Window: If the child is absent during the time that the children are tested but returns before the end of the Progress Monitoring Window, the child must still be tested.

Reports

STAR Test Activity reports: Please ensure when running these reports you are using the custom dates. (PM start and end dates)

- *These reports should be run after the end of the PM window and kept on file for 5 years.*
- *The report could be requested for monitoring purposes.*

Parent Letters: These reports should be run and given to the parents within 7 days of the child being tested. You will need to use the custom dates on this report as well. These must also be kept on file, along with documentation that the parent received the letter within the 7 days, for 5 years. These may also be requested for monitoring purposes.

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.floridaeearlylearning.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/) (<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.floridaeearlylearning.com/vpk/fast/fast-vpk-providers-form>

ELC Contact: Roushawn Saunders

email: Roushawn.saunders@ecs4kids.org

phone: 904-726-1500 ext. 2241

VPK PERFORMANCE METRICS

Beginning
2024-25

VPK Program Year

Metric Release Date:
August 14, 2025



VPK Performance Metrics

Beginning with the 2024-25 VPK program year, each VPK provider will receive a performance metric and performance designation based on three components:

- Quality classroom instruction
- Child achievement
- Child learning gains

A performance metric will be calculated when a provider has **a minimum of four eligible children**, meaning children have completed more than 50% of the total number of instructional hours of the VPK program in the same provider's program, for inclusion in the provider's metric calculation.

[Guide to Calculating Voluntary Prekindergarten \(VPK\) Education Provider Performance Metrics and Designations \(PDF\)](#) - This guide provides a description of the procedures used to determine the VPK provider performance metric and designation for VPK providers as set forth in Rule 6M-8.622, F.A.C.

Calculating VPK Provider Performance Metrics Using the Three Components New VPK Provider Accountability will be applied at the end of the 2024-25 VPK program year. The department will calculate a VPK provider performance metric for each provider and will assign each provider a performance designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the VPK school-year and summer programs, respectively. A performance metric will be calculated when a provider has a minimum of four eligible children, meaning children who have completed more than 50% of the total number of instructional hours of the VPK program in the same provider's program. A performance metric is calculated as the sum of the three components: quality score, achievement score and learning gains score.

50% Quality + 30% Learning Gains + 20% Achievement		
CLASS Composite Score	FAST Star Early Literacy	
50% Quality	30% Learning Gains	20% Achievement



VPK Performance Metrics – Quality Score

The quality score uses the Composite Program Assessment Score, which is the average of all Division of Early Learning-adopted program assessment dimension scores from VPK classrooms, omitting the negative climate score, as defined in Rule 6M-8.621(1), F.A.C. The quality score accounts for 50% of the total performance metric and is worth up to 50 possible points.

Providers with Composite Program Assessment Scores:

- **Below 4.00** receive **0** out of 50 possible points.
- **4.00 to 4.49** receive **5** out of 50 possible points.
- **4.50 to 4.99** receive **10** out of 50 possible points.
- **5.00 to 5.49** receive **20** out of 50 possible points.
- **5.50 to 5.99** receive **30** out of 50 possible points.
- **6.00 to 6.49** receive **40** out of 50 possible points.
- **6.50 to 7.00** receive **50** out of 50 possible points.

50% Quality + 30% Learning Gains + 20% Achievement		
CLASS Composite Score	FAST Star Early Literacy	
50% Quality	30% Learning Gains	20% Achievement



VPK Performance Metrics – Achievement Score

The achievement score is calculated as the **percentage of eligible children** who demonstrate kindergarten readiness by scoring a **707 Unified Scaled Score (USS) or higher** at progress monitoring 3 (PM3) on Star Early Literacy. The achievement score accounts for 20% of the total performance metric and is worth up to 20 possible points.

50% Quality + 30% Learning Gains + 20% Achievement		
CLASS Composite Score	FAST Star Early Literacy	
50% Quality	30% Learning Gains	20% Achievement



VPK Performance Metrics – Learning Gains Score

The learning gains score calculates learning gains as a growth rate based on two factors for the school-year program and summer VPK programs.

- **VPK School-Year program:** as the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate a growth rate of **12 USS points or more a month** or **maintain a score within the highest literacy classification (e.g., Probable Reader)** at PM1 and PM3.
- **VPK Summer program:** as the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate a growth rate of **40 USS points or more a month** in VPK summer programs or **maintain a score within the highest literacy classification (e.g., Probable Reader)** at PM1 and PM3.

The learning gains score accounts for **30% of the total performance metric** and is **worth up to 30 possible points**.

Learning gains are calculated by multiplying the percentage of children that meet the expected growth rate by 100 and multiplying the results by 30 percent. The score is expressed as a whole number by rounding a value of .5 or greater up and rounding a value of less than .5 down.

Growth rate is calculated by subtracting each child's progress monitoring one (PM1) score from the child's progress monitoring three (PM3) score, then dividing by the number of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 administration dates and multiplying by 30.

Growth Rate Formula: $\text{USS at PM3} - \text{USS at PM1} / \# \text{ of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 test administration dates} * 30$

50% Quality + 30% Learning Gains + 20% Achievement		
CLASS Composite Score	FAST Star Early Literacy	
50% Quality	30% Learning Gains	20% Achievement



VPK Performance Designation

The department will assign each VPK provider a performance designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-year and summer VPK programs, respectively. Designations will be assigned based on the total points earned:

- **61 points or higher** equals a designation of **“Excellent.”**
- **46-60 points** equals a designation of **"Above Expectations.”**
- **28-45 points** equals a designation of **“Meets Expectations.”**
- **16-27 points** equals a designation of **“Below Expectations.”**
- **0-15 points** equals a designation of **“Unsatisfactory.”**

For VPK providers to earn a designation, they must meet the following criteria:

- A provider has sufficient data for all three components, and
- A provider served a minimum of four children who have completed more than 50% of the total number of instructional hours of the VPK program in the same provider’s program.

Providers that **do not meet the criteria to calculate a VPK provider performance metric** will receive the designation of **“Incomplete.”**



NEW HELP DESK TICKET REQUESTS

For Provider Portal Access & Single Sign On Issues



As of July 2025 For Provider Portal Access & Single Sign On Issues:

- We have combined the **Child Care Provider Help Desk** with the **Single Sign On Request Form** and have included canned issues/topics and requests that allow us to streamline the process and receive details regarding the issue or request.
- We have included a place to report employee terminations or role changes on this form. It is your responsibility to report employee terminations through this form so we can remove access to that employee. It is the child care provider's responsibility to report here, please also make sure you contact provider services of any changes.
- To the new combined help desk, you can visit our website at www.ecs4kids.org/providers/provider-portal-guidance and select the large green button that reads: CHILD CARE PROVIDER HELP DESK.
 - You may also scan the QR Code below from your mobile phone/tablet to submit a ticket



- If you need to speak with someone at ECS4KIDS, please see our **Interactive ECS4Kids Contact List for Providers** on the bottom of the page on our website: <https://www.ecs4kids.org/providers/school-readiness-providers/>

Note: This list is updated quarterly

Questions?





Amanda Griffis

SCHOOL READINESS EDUCATION UPDATES



Access an amazing classroom resource for free, and earn a Tablet!



Get started using
MarcoPolo Learning today!



This will give you access to **MarcoPolo For Educators** and your families access to **MarcoPolo For Families** for **FREE!**

Directors and Educators: Earn a Free Tablet from Episcopal Children's Services by completing the following:

- Take Part 1 and Part 2 of the MarcoPolo Learning Educator Trainings
- **Register** your MarcoPolo For Educators Account
- **Directors:** Add your educators
- **Educators:** Add your families

*All VPK and SR educators are eligible.



Scan or click **HERE** to sign up for a training today!



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Sponsored by Episcopal Children's Services, ELC of North Florida, and the State of Florida.

Visit:

<https://calendly.com/marcopololearning/>

Choose:

MarcoPolo ELC Training Part 1 and Part 2



Save the Date!

This year's **Early Educator's Conference** will be held on

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Location: Thrasher Horne Conference Center in Clay County

Registration: Will be available closer to date of the conference

Be on the lookout for more information via email and our Provider Facebook Group "ECS In the Know".

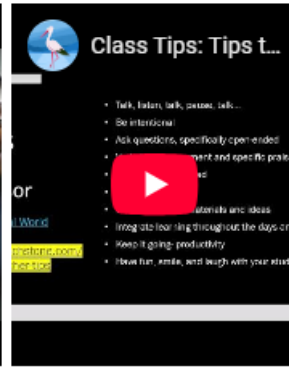


Provider Information Videos Available Now!

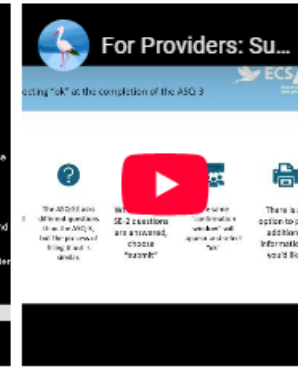
- <https://www.ecs4kids.org/providers/videos/>



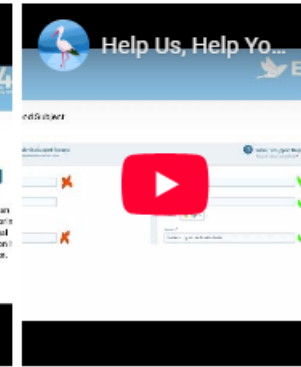
CLASS: Q & A



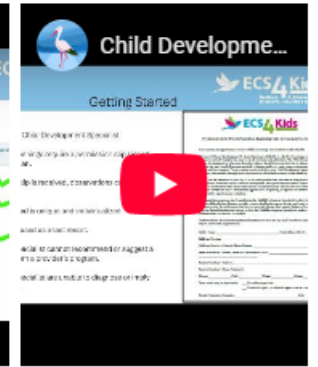
Class Tips: Tips to help you improve your CLASS Scores



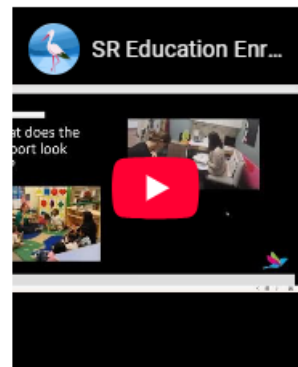
Submitting Screenings Provider Portal Video (ASQ)



Help Us, Help You! Submitting Stellar Help Desk Tickets for SSO issues.



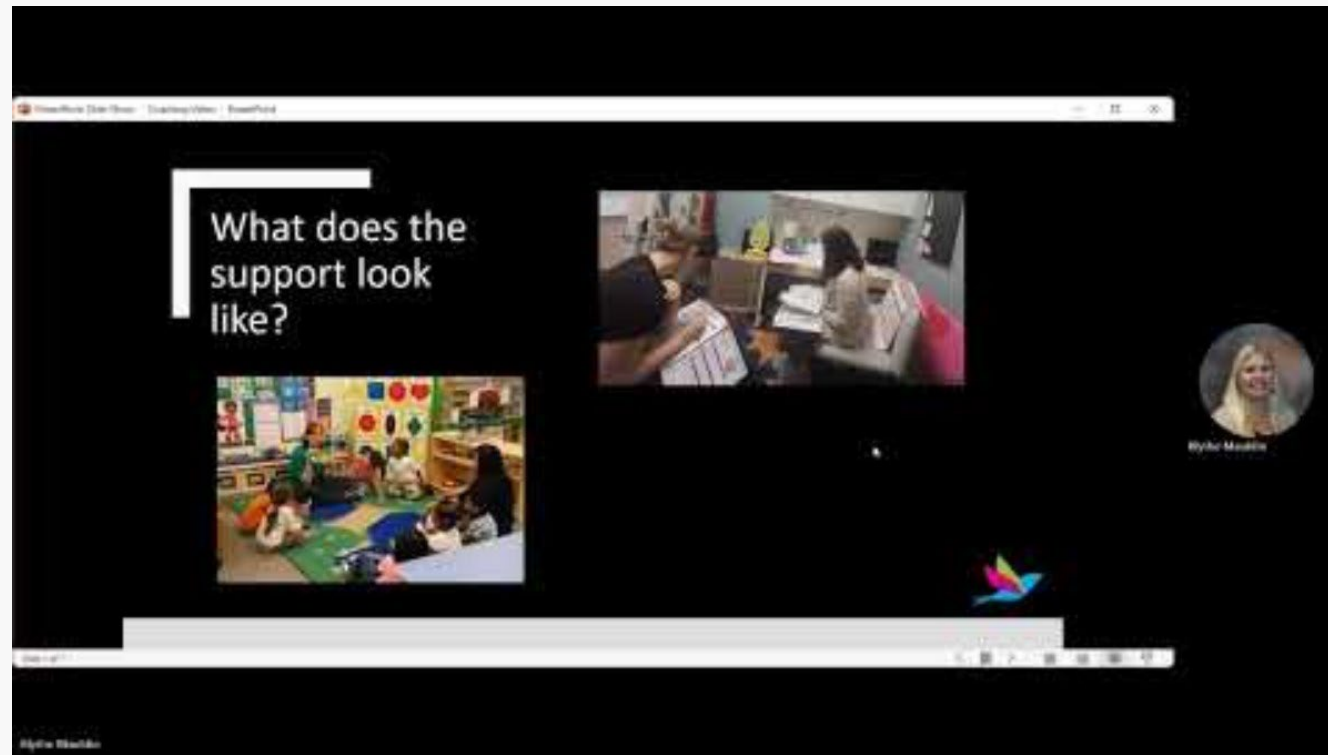
Child Development Specialist: Technical Assistance Program Overview ECS Video



SR Education Enrichment Coaching Video

Enrichment Coaching Program

If you are interested in participating in our Spring coaching cohort (January-May), please send an email asap to Blythe.Mauldin@ecs4kids.org to receive an application.



<https://youtu.be/ahG4xj2ic6k>

ECS4Kids Contact List

- <https://www.ecs4kids.org/providers/school-readiness-providers/>
- Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to find the contact list.
- You can filter by department to find the appropriate contact.

Interactive ECS4Kids Contact List for Providers

Need to contact us? Access our interactive list for providers below for more information. Select by department (click on the 3 lines) on the left side of contact chart. Note: This contact list is updated quarterly.

	Department	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Ext	Position/Title	County Tag	Tags/...
1	Family Services Department			386-385-3450	4100	Family Services Specialist	Putnam	SR &
2	Family Services Department			904-726-1500	5604	Family Services Coordinator	St. Johns	Family
3	Family Services Department			904-259-4225		Family Services Specialist	Baker	VPK
4	Family Services Department			904-770-2565	4002	Family Services Specialist	St. Johns	
5	Family Services Department			904-432-0009	2626	Family Services Specialist	Nassau	VPK
6	Family Services Department			904-213-3939	2080	Child Care Resource and Referr...	Clay	CCR&R
7	Family Services Department			904-726-1500	2290	Family Services Coordinator	Headquarters (Jacksonv...	SR
8	Family Services Department			904-726-1500	2246	Program Support Coordinator	Headquarters (Jacksonv...	Waitlist
9	Family Services Department			904-213-3939	2039	Family Services Lead	Clay	SR
10	Family Services Department			904-726-1500	2253	Manager of Family Services	Headquarters (Jacksonv...	Mana...
11	Family Services Department			904-964-1543		Family Services Specialist	Bradford	VPK &
12	Family Services Department			904-213-3939	2081	Family Services Specialist	Clay	
13	Family Services Department			904-770-2565	4001	Family Services Specialist	St. Johns	VPK
14	Family Services Department			386-385-3450	4101	Family Services Specialist	Putnam	VPK
15	Family Services Department			904-770-2565	4002	Family Services Specialist	St. Johns	SR and
16	Family Services Department	Ayanna	Warden	904-432-0009	2626	Family Services Specialist	Nassau	SR and
17	Family Services Department	Martha	Castaneda	904-770-2565	4000	Family Services Specialist	St. Johns	SR/VPK
18	Other	Alicia	Williams-Baltzell	904-726-1500		Reimbursement Project Manager	Home-Based/HQ	SSO
19	Other	Anita	Miller Sackman	904-726-1500	2207	Director of QA & Data Integrity	Home-Based/HQ	Quality
20	Other	Brittney	Spangler	904-726-1500	2229	Associate Vice President of Pro...	Headquarters (Jacksonv...	Provid...
21	Other	Shecovia	Grimes	904-726-1500	2169	Quality Assurance Coordinator	Headquarters (Jacksonv...	Internal

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. It is recommended that providers log in WEEKLY and complete outstanding screenings.
- Parents only have 5 days to complete the screenings in the Parent Portal before the screenings roll over to the Provider Portal.
- If you are unfamiliar with the child (newly enrolled), ask the parent/guardian to fill out a printed version for you to enter into the Provider portal.
- If a child never attended your center, you can terminate the enrollment in the Provider Portal.



ASQ/ASQ-SE Reminder

- 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.
- Any comments added on a screening by a provider or teacher will be visible to the parent/guardian. Please make sure you are communicating any concerns with guardians prior to completing the screening(s).
- 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.*
 - *If you do receive a Non-Compliance notice, there are *two* requirements: submitting the screenings that are past due *and* responding to the notice with an action plan of how your site will remain in compliance with the screening requirement.*



Child Development Services

- When requesting services from the Child Development Specialists, please keep the following things in mind:
 - *Behavior management assistance should be a first stop, not a last resort. As soon as you recognize you may need assistance, contact your specialist immediately.*
 - *We have 2 specialists who cover 6 different counties, so schedules may not be able to accommodate “emergency calls”.*
 - *Specialists 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 specialist, so the family understands the process and knows what to expect.*



CLASS Assessment Schedule

- In order to ensure our team can complete all required assessments by our deadline, there is a possibility that your assessment will take place in a different month than it occurred this year.
- If your assessment timeline changes, you will be notified by your assigned Education Specialist.



CLASS Differentials for School Readiness Providers

Please be advised DEL has updated rule 6M-4.500:

~~1. 1. Providers that receive program assessment composite scores of 4.50 to 4.99 shall receive a four (4) percent Quality Performance Incentive differential.~~

Providers that receive program assessment composite scores of 5.00 to 5.99 will shall receive a seven (7) percent Quality Performance Incentive differential.

Providers that receive program assessment composite scores of 6.00 to 7.00 will shall receive a ten (10) percent Quality Performance Incentive differential.

This is effective 7/1/2025.

Contract Minimum Composite Score

- For both SR and VPK programs, a site's CLASS composite score must meet the 4.0 Contract minimum.
- If composite score is below 4.0, the site may request and pay for a 2nd assessment. If that assessment meets the 4.0 minimum, the site is eligible to continue contracting for services.

CLASS Assessments

- Reminder for VPK Providers: Per Rule, ALL VPK hours are observable.

VPK Instructional Hours and Observations Review

[Rule 6M-8.100](#) defines instructional hour as 60 minutes of instructional time that comprises planned activities or experiences implementing a curriculum that enhances a child's progress in attaining the VPK performance standards adopted in Rule 6M-8.602, F.A.C.(8).



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.*
 - *Don't wait until your CLASS registration notice to request assistance to prepare for your assessments. Please contact your Education Specialist as soon as possible if you need to request assistance.*
- 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 Trainings & Accounts

- Online Trainings available courtesy of DEL:
 - CLASS Foundations for Teachers (8 spots available)
 - CLASS Overview for Leaders Online Course (2 spots available)
 - Infant/Toddler Primer for Teachers Online Course (4 available)
 - Email the title of the training and number of spots needed to Amanda.Griffis@ecs4kids.org. First come, first serve!

- MyTeachstone Accounts:
 - Reach out to your Education Specialist or Amanda.Griffis@ecs4kids.org
 - Include the first & last name of each person and their individual email address



Other CLASS Learning Opportunities

- Check the ECS training calendar:

<https://ecs4kids.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse>

- Read the ECS Helping Hands Monthly Newsletter

- *Includes CLASS strategies in the activities*

- Utilize Book of the Month Lesson Plan Resources

- *Includes CLASS strategies in the activities*

- *Visit this webpage, scroll to the bottom of page for BOMs:*

- <https://www.ecs4kids.org/providers/newsletters/>

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

- 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?



Questions?

Amanda Griffis

(904)726-1500 x 2255

amanda.griffis@ecs4kids.org

Brittney Spangler

(904)726-1500 x 2229

brittney.spangler@ecs4kids.org



Blythe Mauldin

(904)726-1500 x 2230

blythe.mauldin@ecs4kids.org

Shanda Ellis

(904)726-1500 x 2253

shanda.ellis@ecs4kids.org

Shivaughn Williams

(904)726-1500 x 2283

shivaughn.williams@ecs4kids.org



Provider Survey Instructions

- Please take the time to answer the short 4 question survey. Your feedback is important to us!

(Only for participants who registered for the meeting through our GSMU website.)

- You will be emailed a link to the training survey. If you do not receive the survey email, you **must** do the following:

- Go to the website where you registered for the meeting: <https://ecs4kids.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse>

- (Please remember your password and only create one account!)*

- Once you log in, you will see your student page.

- **Received Email** shows copies of all of the emails you have received from GoSignMeUp regarding trainings/meetings with ECS. **If you are missing a survey, check these messages by clicking on the envelope!**

- **Note:** This is also how you access certificates for ECS trainings, but quarterly meetings are not trainings and thus do not issue certificates.

- Survey will close in 1 week.

