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Early Learning

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School Readiness Curriculum Approval Process 2014-2015 Frequently Asked Questions December 2014

Section 1002.82(2)(l), Florida Statutes, requires the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to *"Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the performance standards for the school readiness program and establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's curriculum that meets the performance standards."*

1. Who is required to select and implement an approved curriculum?

Early learning programs receiving school readiness funds are required to select and implement a curriculum from the approved list.

2. When must a program select and implement an approved curriculum?

Early learning programs must select and implement an approved curriculum by December 31, 2014.

3. How was the 2014-2015 list of approved curricula developed?

The list is the result of a comprehensive and rigorous review process conducted by a panel of experts in the field of early childhood education. Review committee members were selected through an application process and trained to evaluate submissions using specified criteria.

School Readiness Providers

4. Is a provider that has a signed contract with an early learning coalition for 2014-2015 allowed to continue to use the curriculum referenced in the contract?

If the curriculum referenced in the provider's contract is on the OEL-approved list, the provider may continue to use it. If not, school readiness providers must select and implement a curriculum from the approved list by December 31, 2014 and the current contract must be amended.

5. Where do early learning providers designate their curriculum selection?

School readiness providers currently indicate their curriculum selection in the school readiness contract with early learning coalitions. The Office of Early Learning is in the process of developing a Statewide School Readiness Contract (Form OEL-SR 20) that will be used by all early learning coalitions. Once the statewide school readiness contract becomes effective, school readiness providers will report the selected curriculum on the School Readiness Provider Contract paragraph 13 and in Exhibit 1: Provider Location (completed only if there are multiple locations).

6. Will financial assistance be available to purchase an approved curriculum?

OEL will not provide financial assistance to purchase or implement a curriculum from the approved list.

7. What materials must I purchase to be in compliance?

Providers must purchase the appropriate year, edition, or volume of the approved curriculum.

8. Is it mandatory to receive training or professional development on the selected curriculum before implementation?

It is recommended that providers participate in training on curricula before implementation; however, there is no requirement to do so. Instructors in school readiness programs are strongly encouraged to attend an *Early Learning and Developmental Standards Training: Birth to Five Standards*.

The standards may be found on the www.flbt5.com website.

9. Are after-school programs that serve children in kindergarten-grade 5 required to use an approved curriculum?

No. Only programs serving children ages birth to 5 years in school readiness programs are required to use an approved curriculum.

10. What if the program is required to implement a curriculum from the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) approved list for low performing providers?

Curricula on the 2013-2014 VPK list for low performing Providers are also approved for use in school readiness programs. Curricula used in VPK programs are only approved for use in school readiness providers' 4-year-old classrooms.

11. Are school readiness providers able to use Montessori curriculum?

Yes. School readiness providers may use Montessori as a curriculum with a Montessori-certified teacher in the program.

12. What happens if the provider wants to change the curriculum that is being used in the program?

The provider will have to notify the early learning coalition at least 30 days prior to implementing a new curriculum from the approved list. The provider and early learning coalition may amend the current contract or will have to execute a new Statewide School Readiness Contract (Form OEL-SR 20).

General

13. Will the School Readiness Curriculum Approval Process take place each year?

OEL has not established a reoccurring cycle for the curriculum approval process. However, information on subsequent cycles may be found on the OEL website.

14. How long will a curriculum remain on the list of approved curricula?

Approved curricula will remain on the list until the *Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Five* are revised and/or OEL conducts another curriculum approval process using the revised standards

15. Where can the list of 2014-2015 School Readiness Approved Curricula be found?

The list of approved curricula for 2014-2015 may be found on the OEL website at www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider_resources/school_readiness_curriculum.aspx.

16. Where can information be found on the *Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Five* training?

Birth to Five Standards training is available in instructor-led or online formats. Information on instructor-led training may be obtained by contacting the local early learning coalition. Information on training online may be found at: <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/studentsite/admin/login.jsf>

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