

Department of Education Order No. 2020-EO-02
Waivers: Wave 2 - School Readiness Eligibility – Highlights
Updated – January 7, 2021

School Readiness Waiting List: Purpose for Care (45 CFR 98.21(a)(2)(iii))

1. Job search and employment and/or education activity totaling less than 20 hours per week meets purpose for care requirements for placement on the waiting list.
2. The requirement to submit supporting documentation for families with job search as a purpose for care is waived for purposes of placement on the waiting list.
3. This applies to families applying for the waiting list through March 31, 2021.
4. If the family receives a funding notification after March 31, 2021, job search and reduced hours will no longer be an acceptable purpose of care. The family will need to meet the eligibility requirements in Rule 6M-4.200, F.A.C.

School Readiness Eligibility: Job Search and Reduced Hours (45 CFR 98.21(a)(2)(iii))

1. Families can establish initial eligibility with purpose for care as job search or less than 20 hours of an employment and/or education activity through March 31, 2021. Families issued a funding notice through March 31, 2021 may use job search or reduced hours for initial eligibility. After March 31, 2021, families must meet the eligibility requirements in Rule 6M-4.200, F.A.C.
2. The job search and reduced hours eligibility provisions also apply to redetermining families through March 31, 2021. Families issued a funding notice through March 31, 2021 may use job search or reduced hours for redetermination. After March 31, 2021, families must meet the eligibility requirements in Rule 6M-4.200, F.A.C.
3. Upon receipt of a funding notification, these families will have 60 days to submit documentation to support job search as purpose for care or validate a reduction in employment due to COVID19.
 - Examples of documentation for job search include submitted application for reemployment assistance, receipt of reemployment assistance or a completed job search form used for reemployment assistance services from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).
 - Examples of documentation for a reduction in hours include employer verification or paystubs showing a reduction in hours due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Documentation the parent is furloughed or on temporary layoff as defined by DEO is also sufficient to establish purpose for care with less than 20 hours of employment and/or education activity.
4. Families that qualify for School Readiness with “job search” as a purpose for care will be authorized a 12-month eligibility period and will be given 3 months at the beginning of the authorization period to establish a purpose for care.
5. Families that qualify for School Readiness with less than 20 hours of work and/or education activities will be authorized a 12-month eligibility period and will be given 3 months at the beginning of the authorization period to re-establish the minimum number of work and/or education hours to meet purpose for care as a working family.

SHAN GOFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

250 MARRIOTT DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399 • 850-717-8550 • Toll Free 866-357-3239 • www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com

6. Families shall be authorized either part-time or full-time care depending on the needs of the family. Examples of factors to be considered are how much time the parent indicates they need to search for a job or whether their employer requires them to be available full-time hours.

School Readiness Eligibility: Redetermination

1. The extension for redeterminations and terminations expired on August 15, 2020. At this point all redeterminations and terminations should follow requirements in Rules 6M-4.200 and 6M-4.208, F.A.C.
2. The time-period surpassing the original redetermination date will count toward the subsequent authorization period.

School Readiness Eligibility: Parent Copayments

1. Parent copayments will continue to be waived for all reimbursable days through December 31, 2020.
2. The coalition should assess the parent copayment and then temporarily waive it until parent copayment waivers are no longer included in the executive order. The originally assessed parent copayment can be reinstated once OEL provides guidance to do so.

School Readiness Eligibility: First Responder and Essential Health Care Workers

1. New referrals for First Responder and Essential Health Care Workers will no longer be accepted after July 31, 2020.
2. Existing first responder and essential health care worker families receiving services prior to July 31, 2020 may continue to receive services with a valid referral issued in three-month increments, as long as the provisions of the executive order remain in effect or OEL otherwise determines an end date for the program. OEL will provide the coalitions 30 days-notice prior to conclusion of the program for existing first responder and essential health care worker families.
3. Upon conclusion of each referral, a new referral must be issued for continued services. If the referral is not renewed and the family's income is less than 85% State Median Income (SMI), the family will be given 3 months to establish a different purpose of care. If the family's income exceeds 85% SMI, the family will be terminated.
4. Coalition transfers for First Responder and Essential Health Care Workers should be completed as at-risk case transfers as described in OEL-PG 404.01 School Readiness Program Transfers.

If you have any additional questions, please contact OEL.Questions@OEL.MyFlorida.com.