

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
February 9, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-4.610, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Sections 1002.79, 1002.82(2)(m), Florida Statutes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The division oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. DEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

The department is required to comply with lead agency responsibilities in the administration of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund. DEL must implement specific program eligibility requirements, which includes provider eligibility. Section 1002.82(2)(m), F.S., requires the department to establish by rule a standard statewide provider contract to be used with each School Readiness provider. Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C., establishes the standard statewide provider contract and contract provisions.

DEL amended the rule text, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program by updating the form dates that will be applicable at the time the rule becomes effective and for the 2022-23 contract year and making technical changes. DEL made technical changes to all rule forms incorporated by reference (i.e., Form DEL-SR 20, Form DEL-SR 20A, Form DEL-SR 20L, Form DEL-SR 20LE, and Form DEL-SR 20FFN).

DEL amended Form DEL-SR 20, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program, as follows:

- Added language to include accredited child development programs operating on a military installation as an eligible provider type.
- Added language to include insurance provisions for accredited military child development programs.
- Added U.S. Department of Defense as an agency that ensures and verifies compliance with health and safety inspection requirements.
- Revised the Gold Seal differential rate to comply with s. 1002.945(6), F.S.
- Clarified child participation in the contracted slots program in Exhibit 4.
- Revised language regarding developmental screenings to align with Rule 6M-4.720, F.A.C., that was amended 10/3/21.
- Added language for providers to waive their biennial status to receive an annual program assessment.

- Added requirement for providers placed on a quality improvement plan (QIP) using professional development as a QIP strategy to indicate progression on informal career pathway specializations in Exhibit 3.
- Technical changes revising the provider location list table to clarify program assessment exemptions, waivers, and quality improvement plans are to be listed by each individual site.
- Technical change revising the Gold Seal calculation in the approved provider reimbursement rate tables for full-time and part-time care.
- Clarification of reimbursement rates by using approved coalition rates versus maximum coalition rates, removing language prohibiting providers from receiving a reimbursement exceeding the private pay rate, and adding a rule reference to special needs rates.

DEL amended Form DEL-SR 20A, Amendment to the Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program, as follows:

- Added an indicator for a change in a provider's biennial status for program assessment.

DEL amended Form DEL-SR 20L and Form DEL-SR 20LE, Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program Licensed and License Exempt Provider Responsibilities, respectively, and as follows:

- Added language to include accredited child development programs operating on a military installation as an eligible provider type.
- Added language to include insurance provisions for military child care programs under the state agencies and subdivisions paragraph in accordance with s. 1002.88(1)(p), F.S.

There are no additional changes to the rule and incorporated forms.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C. Forms DEL-SR 20, Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract (July 2022); DEL-SR 20A, Amendment to the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract (July 2022); OEL-SR 20L, Licensed Provider Responsibilities (July 2022); DEL-SR LE Licensed Exempt Provider Responsibilities (July 2022); and DEL-SR FFN, Informal Provider Responsibilities (July 2022) (under separate cover)

**Facilitator:** Matthew Mears, Chancellor, Division of Early Learning