

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
March 30, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-9.115, Procedures and Criteria for Approval of School Readiness Plans

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1002.85, 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.

DEL is required to comply with lead agency responsibilities in the administration of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund. Rule 6M-9.115 prescribes, as statutorily mandated by Section 1002.85, F.S., a standardized format and required content of school readiness program plans as necessary for a coalition to administer the program. The statute sets forth select required minimum elements as well as a requirement that the plan must be submitted to DEL on a biennial basis before the expenditure of funds.

The Division of Early Learning revised the current rule text and incorporated form, Form DEL-SR 115, Early Learning Coalition School Readiness Plan Guide, to include new school readiness program administration requirements enacted in House Bill 419, effective July 1, 2021. House Bills 419 and 1349 included new requirements to ss. 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.84(9) and (17), 1002.87(1), 1002.895, 1002.85(2)(f), and 1002.945(6), F.S., which directly impact the content of the early learning coalition school readiness plan describing program administration and compliance. DEL has made technical changes to the rule text and incorporated rule form. DEL is also amending Form DEL SR-115 to revise criteria for coalition board membership; add census data requirements for the contracted slots program; add individuals with an Individual Service Account/Individual Training Account to eligibility priorities; clarify criteria for child screening and program assessment policy and procedure descriptions; revise the Gold Seal differential rate, provider market rate requirements, and provider payment rate provisions; remove the quality performance report and attachments for the budget report and revenue and expenditure reports; revise the total number of data categories included in prior year expenditure reports and adds minimum data requirements for submitted expenditure reports; and update applicable attachments related to the aforementioned changes.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rule 6M-9.115, F.A.C. and Form DEL SR-115, School Readiness Plan Guide and Template (May 2022) (under separate cover)

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