

School Readiness and School Readiness Plus At-a-Glance

The Division of Early Learning provides this side-by-side comparison of the federally funded School Readiness Program and state funded School Readiness Plus Program to facilitate improved understanding of how the two programs align and how they differ.

Family Eligibility		
Program Components	School Readiness (SR)	School Readiness Plus (SR Plus)
Funding source	CCDF federal funds	DOE state funds
Qualifying criteria	- Initial gross family income at or below 55% state median income* and subsequent income at or below 85% of the SMI - Parent(s)/guardian(s) must have a purpose for care as defined in Rule Chapter 6M-4, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)	- Gross family income exceeds 85% SMI and is at or below 100% SMI - Terminated from SR for being over income (all billing groups) - Parent(s)/guardian(s) must have a purpose for care as defined in Rule Chapter 6M-4, F.A.C.
Program application	Yes	No, an email from EFSM will be sent to eligible families when eligibility and enrollment is completed by the ELC.
Program wait list	Yes	No
12-month authorization	Yes, except BG3 & BG5	Yes
3-month reestablishment period	Yes	Yes
Age requirements	Birth up to 13	Birth up to 13
Parent reporting timeframe	14 calendar days	14 calendar days
Payment certificate	Yes	Yes
Transfer of services	Yes	Yes
Provider Contractual Obligations		
Program Components	School Readiness	School Readiness Plus
Program assessment	Yes, unless exempt	Yes, unless exempt
Child screening	Yes, for children ages 6 weeks to 60 months	Yes, for children ages 6 weeks to 60 months
Child assessment	Yes, voluntary participation	Yes, voluntary participation
SR curriculum/character education	Yes	Yes
Health & safety trainings	Yes	Yes
ELC contract monitoring	Yes, Tier 1 and Tier 2	Yes, Tier 1 and Tier 2

Copayments and Reimbursements		
Program Components	School Readiness	School Readiness Plus
Required copayments (based on income, family size, care level and unit of care)	Yes, except when waived.	Yes, at all times; copayment waivers are not permissible.
Increase in copayments	At graduated phase-out only	Yes, if, at any time, the income increases into one of the higher income levels identified on the <i>Sliding Fee Schedule for the School Readiness Plus Program</i> .
Decrease in copayments	Yes, at any time	Only at redetermination if the income decreases into one of the lower income levels identified on the <i>Sliding Fee Schedule for the School Readiness Plus Program</i> . (Copayments do not decrease during the 12-month authorization period.)
Quality differential payments	Yes	Yes
Registration fee reimbursement	Yes	Yes
Special needs rate reimbursement	Yes	Yes
Attendance documentation required	Yes	Yes
Monthly attendance certification required	Yes	Yes
Total monthly reimbursed absences	13 calendar days	13 calendar days
VPK wrap rates	Yes, for children dually enrolled in SR and VPK	Yes, for children dually enrolled in SR Plus and VPK
SR Match payments	Yes	No

*Prior to October 1, 2025, the initial gross family income was 150% federal poverty level (FPL). On October 1, 2025, the initial gross family income changed to 55% state median income (SMI).