

6M-4.400 Required Parent Copayment.

(1) No change.

(2) Copayment Assessment. Each family that receives school readiness services will be assessed a copayment based on the family size, hours of care needed and the family's income, according to the sliding fee scale issued by DEL as described in subsection (1).

(a) through (d) No change.

(3) Redetermination ~~Graduated Phase-out~~. At the end of the initial 12-month eligibility period, the coalition will re-evaluate the family's eligibility. If a family's income:

(a) Remains at or below 85% of the State Median Income (SMI), the family will remain eligible pursuant to Rule 6M-4.200, F.A.C. This includes families who enter graduated phase-out based on family income exceeding the amount established in s. 1002.81(6), F.S. The early learning coalition will authorize school readiness child care funding for 12 months from the redetermination date and assess a copayment based on the DEL issued sliding fee scale and the family's current circumstances. All families remain subject to the reporting requirements detailed in subsection 6M-4.200(5), F.A.C. The coalition will adjust the family's copayment based on the reported changes, as needed, and will notify the family and provider of such changes within ten (10) calendar days. Families with incomes at or below the amount established in s. 1002.81(6), F.S., will not have their copayments increased. At redetermination, if a family's income is above one hundred fifty (150) percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but at or below eighty-five (85) percent of the State Median Income (SMI), the family will enter the graduated phase-out. The parent will be assessed a copayment that gradually increases as the family's income increases and is based on the DEL issued sliding fee scale.

~~1. During graduated phase-out, school readiness childcare funding will be authorized for 12 months from the redetermination date. At redetermination the coalition must provide written notice to the family and provider of the required copayment for the 12-month period to be paid by the parent to the provider. The notice shall inform the parent that the copayment will increase as the family's income increases.~~

~~2. During graduated phase-out, the family must report any changes in income to the coalition within fourteen (14) calendar days. The coalition will adjust the family's copayment based on the reported information and will notify the family and provider of any changes within ten (10) calendar days. The parent copayment will be increased or decreased based on any reported changes that affect the parent copayment.~~

~~3. During graduated phase out, if the family's income exceeds 85% of the SMI, the family is no longer eligible for the program. The coalition will notify the family that the family is no longer eligible to receive school readiness services and school readiness services will be discontinued in accordance with Rule 6M-4.200, F.A.C. During the graduated phase out, if the family's income falls below 150% of the FPL, the copayment must be adjusted based on the sliding fee scale and the family will remain in the graduated phase out and continue to receive services for the remainder of the twelve-month phase-out period.~~

(b) Exceeds 85% of the SMI, or the family is otherwise no longer eligible, the coalition must notify the family and provider that the family is no longer eligible to receive school readiness services and school readiness services will be discontinued. For a family that is no longer eligible for the school readiness program due to income exceeding 85% of the SMI, the coalition will notify the family of the School Readiness Plus Program described in Rule 6M-9.200, F.A.C. At the end of the initial 12-month eligibility period at redetermination, if a family's income remains at or below 150% of the FPL, the family will remain eligible pursuant to Rule 6M-4.200, F.A.C. The family's eligibility, copayment, and reporting requirements are subject to the requirements of the initial eligibility period and will not be subject to the graduated phase-out criteria.

~~(c) At the end of the initial 12-month eligibility period at redetermination, if a family's income exceeds 85% of the SMI, or the family is otherwise no longer eligible, the coalition must notify the family that the family is no longer eligible to receive school readiness services and school readiness services will be discontinued.~~

(4) through (6) No change.

(7) Transfers. A parent ~~cannot may not~~ transfer any child(ren) in the household child to another school readiness program provider until the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation related to the school readiness program and submitted documentation evidencing fulfillment from the current school readiness program provider responsible for collecting the copayment as described in subsection (5) to the early learning coalition ~~stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation related to the school readiness program~~. Satisfactory fulfillment of the copayment obligation is defined as immediate payment of the outstanding copayment obligation or establishment of a repayment plan for the outstanding copayment obligation. All transfers must be approved by the coalition.

(a) through (b) No change.

(8) Copayment changes. A parent copayment will not be increased during the initial 12-month eligibility

authorization period. The amount of copayment assessed must be in effect for the family's authorized eligibility period, unless:

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) The parent's employment status, family size or income results in a lower parent copayment; or

(d) No change.

(e) Copayments during graduated phase out may be increased or decreased based on the family's income and size.

(9) through (11) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(1), (2)(n) FS. Law Implemented 1002.84(9) FS. History—New 2-2-05, Formerly 60BB-4.400, Amended 1-1-15, 3-20-17, 5-13-25.