



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF BROWARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024

Priority 1: Revise School Readiness Funding Allocation Methodology

Historically, the demand for School Readiness (SR) services in Broward County drastically exceeded the base allocation awarded by the State, resulting in a high-volume wait list for over a decade.

- This fiscal year, ELC Broward's The School Readiness (SR) base allocation increased by only 9%, insufficient to sustain the FY22/23 level of enrollments, causing a nearly a \$30 Million shortfall.
- All new enrollments were paused; enrollments were reduced by 1,895 children.
- ELC Broward's wait list grew from 0 to 2,500+ in 90 days.

Recommendations:

- Utilize a funding methodology that meets the unique needs of each community, including consideration for the volume of enrollments, waitlist, potentially eligible population, and the proven capacity to spend allocated funds.
- In FY24/25 increase Broward's SR Base Rate allocation from \$76 Million to \$109 Million based on demonstrated response to community needs.