



Strong Families, Strong Workforce, Strong Broward

Investing in Florida's School Readiness childcare subsidy program strengthens our economy by keeping families in the workforce, providing access to quality early learning opportunities for their children, and preparing Florida's future workforce to be kindergarten-ready and reading on grade level by third grade.

Current Situation: Decreased Funding + Increased Cost of Care = Fewer Children Served

Statewide enrollment in the program is driven by shared state (16%) and federal (84%) investment.

Despite generous funding, only a fraction of eligible children receives School Readiness (SR). Additionally, due to several compounding factors, the cost of care per child has increased, causing a funding shortfall resulting in a decrease of 1,500 Broward children served over the past two years, and a possible increase of the SR waitlist to over 4,000 children.

These factors include:

- **Inflation:** Rising costs mean current funding supports fewer children than in previous years
 - **New Federal Parent Co-Pay Cap Requirements (no more than 7% of income):** While families pay less under the new federal cap, ELC Broward must now cover the reduced parent contribution to providers.
- **Quality Differential Payments:** Our County's high concentration of high-quality providers exceeds the state's quality allocation for Broward (and average quality scores), forcing us to use enrollment funds to cover the gap - reducing the number of children we can serve.

Without new State dollars, Florida's early learning system risks falling behind in meeting family and workforce needs.



Strong Families, Strong Workforce, Strong Broward (cont.)

Solution: Invest More in Florida's School Readiness System

According to the Florida Chamber of Commerce, one of the most impactful economic development strategies Florida can pursue is ensuring that childcare tuition assistance keeps pace with rising costs.

Investing now helps maintain Florida's competitive edge and positions the state as #1 in both K-12 outcomes and in early childhood education.

The Impact of Increased Investment:

- More children will enter kindergarten ready to learn.
 - More parents will be able to work or pursue education, contributing to Florida's economy.
 - More providers will be able to offer stable, high-quality care.
 - Florida will continue to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success.
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For more information or to schedule a meeting



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