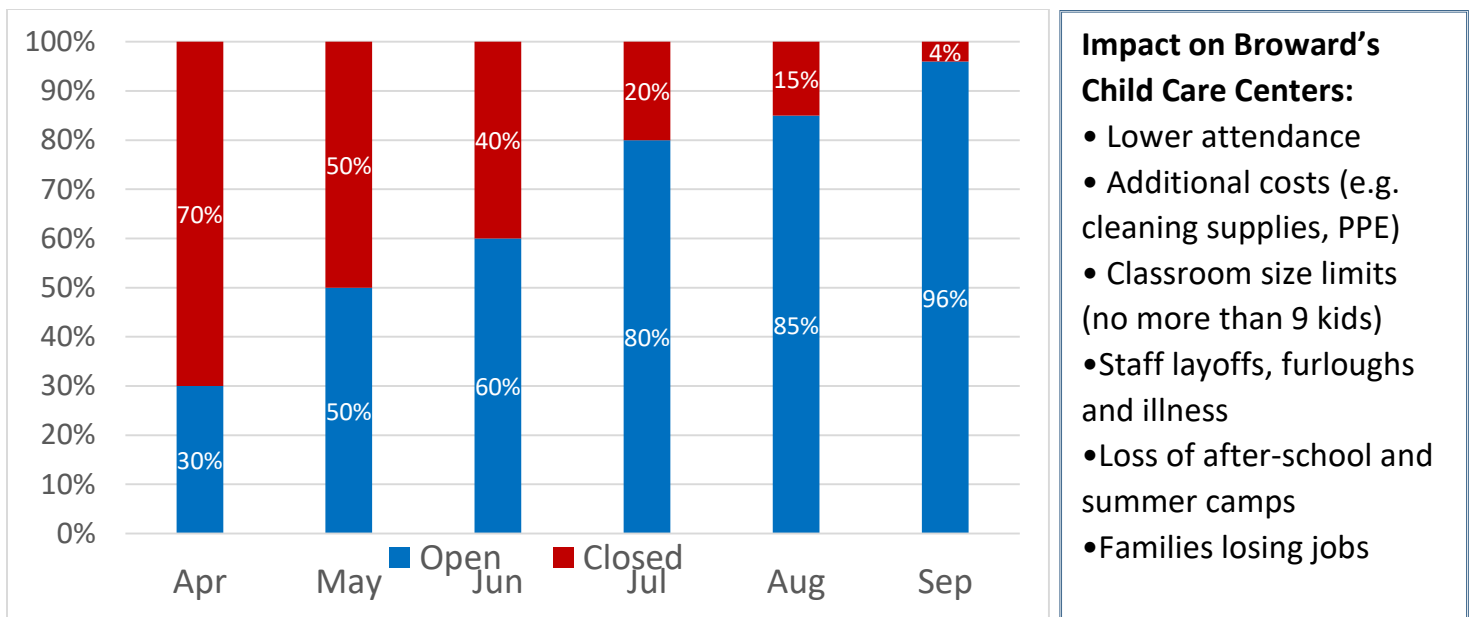


COVID-19 Summary

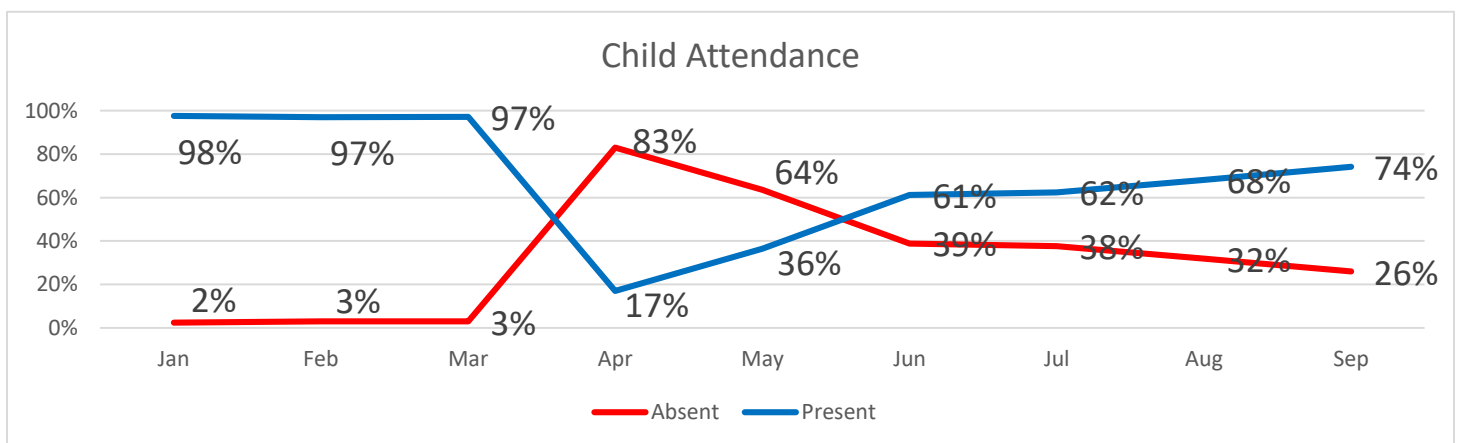
Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County (ELC) has continued to actively serve our families and centers by providing ongoing communication updates, information, and community, state, and federal resources to parents, providers and staff via email, website, and social media.

Broward's Child Care Centers Open/Closed Status:

Beginning in mid-March many child care centers closed down. While child care centers were essential, most shut their doors due to sharply reduced attendance, health/safety concerns, and loss of staff to provide child care services. In April with only 3 in 10 centers were able to remain open, followed by a slow but steady increase in reopenings every month thereafter.



While **School Readiness** attendance at child care centers has slowly risen over the last six months, 1 in 4 children had still not returned to child care in September, equaling over 3,500 kids. For the 20-21 School Year, **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten** enrollment has dropped by almost 44% over the 19-20 School Year so there are almost 6,000 fewer children in VPK.



COVID-19 Summary

The Early Learning Coalition of Broward County (ELC) actively responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic and over the past few months has taken direct action to help children and families in our community, child care centers and preschools, and the early educators that serve them. We worked rapidly to implement streamlined emergency regulations, keep families informed and children enrolled, and quickly and efficiently distribute federal funding as it became available.

ELC Relief Efforts for our families and child care centers:



- ★ Paid providers based on enrollments through September and then incrementally for attendance afterwards.
- ★ Extended/Expanded parental eligibility criteria; and temporarily stopped dis-enrolling children.
- ★ Continue to cover all parent fees (since April 1st)
- ★ Through CARES Act funding, enrolled 3,000 children of first responders and medical personnel at no cost (to parents) and provided bonuses for those centers serving them.
- ★ Allowed full-time care for young school-age children
- ★ Worked with local funding partners to create safe Learning Pods for *over 500* school age children from low income families.
- ★ Shared community resources with our families and helped outpost health services staff in some child care centers.

Financial Supports to Providers:

- ★ \$467,050 in Teacher Stipends paid directly to educators
- ★ \$1,702,050 in Grants for Health & Safety or new Curriculum
- ★ \$4,316,370 in CARES Grants to help support provider operations
- ★ \$2,955,000 in Incentives for providers serving first responder children



Other Actions:

The ELC has conducted virtual trainings to *over 18,668* early educators since mid-March. ELC's Quality and Education team also delivered LIVE Story Times online *up to 6 times* a week in English, Spanish, and Creole to best reach children and families in our communities in a fun and culturally competent way.

As we adjust to the "New Normal" and move towards stabilization and recovery, we are eager to carry on our innovative efforts meeting these and future challenges as we continue to serve our youngest learners throughout Broward County.

For additional information contact **Renee Jaffe**, Chief Executive Officer at rjaffe@elcbroward.org.