



**Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

<b><u>Subject:</u></b> Eligibility Prioritization of School Readiness Children		
<b><u>Policy #:</u></b> 404.1 ELCSWF-SR0002A-09	<b><u>CATEGORY:</u></b> Child Eligibility	<b><u>Reference #:</u></b> OEL-SR-404
<b><u>Approval:</u></b> June 24, 2009	<b><u>Effective Date:</u></b> July 1, 2009	<b><u>Replaces (policy # and date):</u></b> ELCSWF-SR0002-05 1/20/05 ELCSWF-SR0002A-06 7/06; 1/30/08, 9/27/08; 3/18/09, 5/20/09

**Policy:**

This policy prioritizes the order in which the various eligibility group categories will be served by the Coalition:

- Priority 1 and 2 shall be served first and families are not required to be placed on the wait list.
- Families in other eligibility groups seeking services will be served in the order of their priority as funds are available.
- Federal or state law changes to eligibility prioritization will automatically supersede those identified in this policy.
- Families receiving services through the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) are not subject to this policy.

**Eligibility Categories:**

**Priority 1:** Children (ages 0-13) from Families in the Welfare Transition Program as referred by Workforce Development Board, and whose family income is 150% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). (This category is not required to be placed on wait list.)

**Priority 2:** Children (ages 0 –13) of families referred by DCF and/or Community Based Care contracted providers, who are currently under supervision services, in their own home, in “out of home “care (i.e. foster care) or in the home of a relative receiving “Relative Caregiver” benefits. (This category is not required to be placed on wait list.)

***NOTE:*** Children in priorities 1 and 2, whose families are no longer eligible for a referral from the appropriate designated agency, will be continued without interruption to services, providing the family meets eligibility requirements for employment, income under 150% of FPL, and children’s age under 9 years of age.

**Priority 3:** Special Needs children, ages 0-5 (preschool), with an “Individualized Education Program” (IEP) from a local school district or an “Individualized Family Support Plan” (IFSP) from Early Steps, and whose family’s income is 150% or less of the FPL. Preschool siblings may also be enrolled at the same time.

**Priority 4:** Preschool Children of Teen Parents (ages 0-5) meeting the definition of Section 411.202 (22), F.S. and not served by the public school system or Workforce Development Board. Parents must be working or attending school and have income at or below 150% above FPL.

**Priority 5:** Working Poor (WP) Ages 0-8: Served in the following order:

- a) Children ages birth up to 36 months of age from families with income at or below 100% of the FPL and their preschool siblings.
- b) Children ages birth up to 36 months of age from families with income at or below 150% of the FPL and their preschool siblings.
- c) Children ages 36 months up to 48 months of age from families with income at or below 100% of the FPL and their preschool siblings.
- d) Children ages 36 months up to 48 months of age from families with income at or below 150% of the FPL and their preschool siblings.
- e) Children ages 48 months old up to 60 months or enrollment in elementary school, from families with income at or below 100% of the FPL.
- f) Children ages 48 months old up to 60 months or enrollment in elementary school, from families with income at or below 150% of the FPL.
- g) School-aged children within the parameters identified below:
  - o As of July 1, 2009, no new children in this category aged nine or older are to be enrolled in School Readiness program.
  - o As of July 1, 2010, no children on this category aged nine or older will be served by School Readiness funding.

**Priority 6:** (Served on first come, first serve basis)

- Special Needs Children, ages 5-13 (school-age), with an "Individualized Education Program (IEP) from a local school district and whose family's income is 150% or less of the FPL.
- Children of two parent family whose income is 150% or below FPL and where only one parent is working.
- Children from birth to four (4) years of age, who are served at home through Home Visitor Programs and Intensive Parent Education Programs such as the Florida First Start Program, and are economically disadvantaged with income at or below 150% of FPL family, disabled or at risk of school failure (Rule 60BB-4.205, F.A.C.)
- Special Needs Children ages 3 and 4 who have been served in a specific part-time or combination part-time exceptional education program with required special services, aids, or equipment, and were previously reported for funding part-time with the Florida Education Finance Program as Exceptional Students. Eligibility is regardless of parent's income but must have a documented referral from the public school district. (60BB-4.204 FAC)
- Migrant Farm Worker Children 0-5 (preschool age) of families with income at or below 150% of the FPL who meet the financial eligibility guidelines and are not served by RCMA or the Public School System (60BB-4.206)
- School age special needs students from 13 through 18 years with a documented disability, who are either physically or mentally incapable of self care, under court supervision or determined eligible as a child with a disability and referred through the school district. Parents must be working or attending school and have income at or below 200% of FPL.

**Associated Documents:** Eligibility Policy and Procedure Manual, School Readiness Services

**Citation History:** Cite 45 CFR 98; Section 411.01 (5) (d) 4 d, F.S.

**Review Date:** June 2013