



## Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc.

<b><u>Subject:</u> SR Funding Restrictions for Parents Working in Child Care Programs</b>		
<b><u>Policy #:</u> 404.6</b> ELCSWF-SR0041-11	<b><u>Category:</u></b> Child Eligibility	<b><u>Reference #</u></b> OEL-404
<b><u>Approval:</u></b> June 22, 2011	<b><u>Effective Date:</u></b> June 22, 2011	<b><u>Replaces (policy # and date):</u></b> ELCSWF-SR0041-11 5/4/2011

**Background:** The (School Readiness) Child Care Development Funding (CCDF) does not pay for parental care of children. In addition, the federal Administration of Children and Families (ACF) encourages local entities to take steps to prevent misuse of funds through proactively passing policies affecting funding.

The Coalition has faced challenges within child care centers and family child care homes with child care providers who care predominantly for children to whom they are related. This can make it difficult to secure accurate information and attendance records, which can lead to misuse of funding. Sometimes these familial relationships are hidden from Coalition staff.

Florida law provides for conditions in which child care centers and family child care homes meet their eligibility as a child care provider. "Child Care", "Child Care Facility" and "Family Day Care home" (statutory language from ss. 402.302 F.S.) are each defined and have commonalities within their legal definitions that may assist us in reducing improper expenditure of funds. Such commonalities include:

- "Child care means the care, protection, and supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment, and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is made for care."
- Child care centers must care for children from at least 5 or more families unrelated to the operator.
- For large, licensed or registered family child care homes, provider must care for children from at least two unrelated families.

**POLICY** - It is the policy of the Early Learning Coalition that:

1. **Child Care Centers:** School Readiness (SR) funding may be used in a child care center if the facility meets the definition of ss. 402.302 (2) F.S and cares for a minimum of five (5) unrelated children. SR client funding for children of the owner/operator, employees, substitutes or volunteers may only be used if staff other than the child's parent provides direct care to the child(ren); unless otherwise approved by the Coalition CEO.

2. **Family Child Care Homes:** School Readiness (SR) funding may only be used for payment in a family child care home (FCCH) that meets the definition of ss. 402.302 (8), F.S. and provides care for children from at least two (2) unrelated families unless otherwise approved by the Coalition CEO.

However, SR client funds may not be used to pay for children of the FCCH owner/operator, employee, substitute or volunteer, who attends the same family child care home where the parent works

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**Associated Documents:** SR Eligibility Manual, ACF Child Care Bureau Memo of 9/23/2009

**Citation History:** Chapter 402.302 -319, F.S.