

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
September 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6M-9.115, Procedures and Criteria for Approval of School Readiness Plans

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. OEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

OEL is required to comply with lead agency responsibilities in the administration of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund. Rule 6M-9.115 prescribes, as statutorily mandated by Section 1002.85, F.S., a standardized format and required content of school readiness program plans as necessary for a coalition to administer the program. The statute sets forth select required minimum elements as well as a requirement that the plan must be submitted to the Office of Early Learning on a biennial basis before the expenditure of funds.

The Office of Early Learning revised the current rule text and incorporated form, Form OEL-SR 115, Early Learning Coalition Plan Guide, to include new school readiness program administration requirements enacted in House Bill 1091, effective July 1, 2018. House Bill 1091 included new requirements to ss. 1002.82, 1002.85 and 1002.87, F.S., which directly impact the content of the early learning coalition plan describing program administration and compliance. OEL is amending Form OEL-SR 115 to require the coalition to establish local eligibility priorities based on a community needs assessment, to describe the use of contracted slots based on the community assessment, to describe policies and procedures for implementing program assessment requirements and to include quality improvement strategies to strengthen teaching practices and enhancing child outcomes.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-9.115, F.A.C. Form OEL-SR 115, "Early Learning Coalition School Readiness Plan Guide" (October 2018) (under separate cover)

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6M-9.115 Procedures and Criteria for Approval of School Readiness Plans.

(1) Plan development. Each early learning coalition shall develop and implement a school readiness plan. The school readiness plan shall include the minimum standards as required by Section 1002.85(2), F.S., and the School Readiness Plan Guide and Template, Form OEL-SR 115, including attachment IV.A “Coalition Budget Report” and attachment IV.B. “Coalition Revenue and Expenditures Report,” (October 2018) ~~(May 2017)~~, which are adopted and hereby incorporated by reference. A copy of Form OEL-SR 115 may be obtained at the office website at www.floridaeearlylearning.com or by contacting the Office of Early Learning, Department of Education, 250 Marriott Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32399. The incorporated form is also available at: <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-09832>
~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-08191>~~. Rule Chapter 69I-73, F.A.C. (March 2008), as cited in the School Readiness Plan Guide, is incorporated by reference. A copy of the rule chapter may be obtained by contacting the Office of Early Learning at the address above.

(2) Plan submission. A coalition shall submit its school readiness plan and any amendments in accordance with the instructions found in Form OEL-SR 115.

(a) Each early learning coalition shall submit an electronic copy of its proposed school readiness plan to the Office of Early Learning (OEL) within 30 days of board approval and before implementation.

(b) The coalition shall submit an amendment to the plan to the office in the event of a change to any element of the approved plan and before implementation.

(3) OEL review. After receipt of a complete school readiness plan or amendment (including required supporting documents), OEL shall respond to the coalition within 3 business days acknowledging receipt of the plan amendment. OEL shall review the plan or amendment and approve, reject, or approve with conditions the provisions of the plan or amendment and provide written notification to the early learning coalition of its action within 30 business days of receipt of the completed document. OEL shall base its approval, rejection, or approval with conditions on the coalition’s compliance with Chapter 1002, Part VI, F.S., the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant Florida State Plan, the federal CCDF regulations located at Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 98, Subparts B through G and K and the School Readiness Plan Guide. The coalition shall not implement school readiness plans or amendments without the express written approval of OEL.

(4) Rejection of school readiness plans. If OEL rejects a school readiness plan or amendment, it shall specify, in writing, the grounds for rejection. If OEL rejects a school readiness plan amendment, the early learning coalition shall continue to operate under its prior approved plan.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.213(2), 1002.85(1) FS. Law Implemented 1002.85 FS. History—New 4-5-15, Amended 5-28-17, _____.