

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
October 19, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-4.740, Program Assessment Requirements for the School Readiness Program, and Repeal of Rule 6M-4.741, Program Assessment Threshold Requirements for the School Readiness Program

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Sections 1001.02(2)(n), and 1002.82(2)(n), F.S.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 1002.82(2)(n), Florida Statutes, requires the Division of Early Learning (DEL) to establish by rule a program assessment for School Readiness (SR) providers that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions and includes a minimum contract threshold and program improvement, participation requirements, frequency, and exemptions. The program assessment tool, the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), is used to record and score teacher and child interactions on a 1 – 7 point scale. In addition to financial incentives, participating providers receive various types of supports to improve providers' quality, such as coaching, free or low-cost professional development classes, and training.

Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., establishes the program assessment requirements and includes exemptions from participating in the required annual program assessment provided that the SR provider meets exemption criteria. Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., is being amended to make technical changes; clarify the discontinuation of an exemption status once a provider meets or exceeds exemption child care slot capacity criteria, the SR child care slot definition, and quality improvement plan requirements; and remove outdated rule language. The rule also adds program assessment threshold requirements, provisions for a biennial program assessment designation status to be discontinued beginning in the 2023-24 SR contract period, and notification requirements for contract terminations that occur less than 30 days from the contract expiration date. The incorporated rule form, Form DEL-SR 740, Program Assessment Requirements Handbook, provides guidelines and quality assurance for program assessment observations. The form is being amended to make technical changes, add a timeline for provider registrations within the DEL-defined system, and extend the timeline for program assessment data entry.

Rule 6M-4.741, F.A.C., establishes the required contract minimum threshold to be eligible for a SR contract with early learning coalitions. Rule 6M-4.741, F.A.C., is being repealed as a gradual progression towards a contract minimum threshold score of 4.00 (rounded by two decimals) is no longer needed. Threshold requirements were added to Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C. and Form DEL-SR 740 Program Assessment Requirements Handbook (November 2022), and Proposed Rule 6M-4.741, F.A.C.

**Facilitator:** Matthew Mears, Chancellor, Division of Early Learning