

2023-2024 Conference Report on SB 2500 Early Learning Highlights

Total for Early Learning Services: \$1.6 billion

Partnership for School Readiness

\$56,711,000 / 2022-2023 Funding Total: \$52,548,957 / Increase of \$4,162,043

Increased or new investments in Partnership for School Readiness include:

- \$4.5 M Help Me Grow Florida (currently contracted with Children’s Forum), \$2.7 M increase
- \$143,000 Brain Bag Literacy Program (HF 0432), \$28K increase
- \$275,000 Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System (PEARLS) (SF 1068, HF 1596), \$50K increase
- \$1,000,000 Early Learning Corps (SF 1349), new initiative/not currently funded
- \$218,000 Riviera Beach School Readiness Outreach Initiative (SF 2094), new initiative/not currently funded
- \$175,000 Tiny Talkers Preschool Initiative (HF 2106), new initiative/not currently funded

Continued investments in current Partnership initiatives:

- \$3 M Professional Development System/Teacher Training (currently contracted through UF Lastinger Center)
- \$3.9 M HIPPY (USF) of which \$2.5 is nonrecurring (SF 2809, HF 0389)
- \$10 M T.E.A.C.H. (Children’s Forum)
- \$3.5 M to implement the pay differential program in s. 1002.82 (2) (o) which funds state level contracts for Teachstone, WELS, and Brookes, and funding to ELCs to perform program assessments
- \$30 M to continue stipends for completers of the Early Literacy Micro-credentials per s. 1002.995 (1)(b)

School Readiness Program

\$1,113,347,242 / 2022-2023 Funding Total: \$1,079,034,998 / Increase of \$34,312,244

Increased investments in the School Readiness Program:

- \$889 M SR Program Allocation, which includes \$100 million recurring increase
- \$77 M to sustain or expand SR services, \$6.3 M increase over current year “Hold Harmless”

Continued investments at the same level as 2022-23 funding:

- \$30 M SR Match Program
- \$70 M Gold Seal Differentials
- \$40 M Pay Differential Program (Program and Child Assessment differentials)
- \$5 M Special Needs Differentials
- \$950,000 reallocation of recouped Fraud repayments

Nonrecurring 2022-23 \$72 M SR Expansion Initiative not funded

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program

\$427,003,731 / 2022-2023 Funding Total: \$553,417,542 / Net decrease of \$126,413,811

Investments in the VPK Program provide additional \$20 M to increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA):

- School Year BSA increased from \$2,803 to \$2,941 (increase of \$138)
- Summer increased from \$2,393 to \$2,511 (increase of \$118)

VPK Workload Adjustment: Reduction of \$46,450,545 based on February 2023 VPK Estimating Conference.

Includes 4% for administration

Nonrecurring 2022-23 \$100 M VPK \$15/hr Wage Incentive not funded

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Early Learning Standards and Accountability

\$4,942,600 / 2022-2023 Funding Total: \$4,942,600 / No change in funding

- Continuation of Implementation of VPK Program Assessments (funds to ELCs): \$4,042,600
- Continuation of funding for Regional Facilitators (through state level contract): \$900,000

Preschool Development Grant

\$15,000,000 / 2022-2023 Funding Total: \$15,00,000 / No change in funding

- Funds to complete existing Preschool Development Grant initiatives through the grant end date 12/30/23

Back of Bill Key Highlights

- **Reversion and reappropriation of Currently Funded Initiatives**
 - CRRSA – *must be liquidated by 9/30/23 so no changes in current initiative timelines*
 - ARPA Stabilization – *must be liquidated by 9/30/23 so no changes in current initiative timelines*
 - ARPA Discretionary – includes initiatives recently approved through Budget Amendment Spend Plan
 - CCDF Supplemental Disaster Relief funds (ELCs of Northwest Florida and Big Bend, must be liquidated by 9/30/23)
- **ARPA Discretionary New Initiatives for 2023-2024**
 - **\$315,000,000** to implement a Discretionary Grant Program the following purposes: Increasing/Building the Supply of Child Care, Training and Professional Development Activities, Workforce Initiatives, Local Initiatives/Pilot Projects to Improve Kindergarten Readiness, Community Outreach and Family Engagement, Mental Health Supports, and Equipment, Supplies, Classroom/Child Care Materials, Curriculum, Business Administration Computer Software, and School Readiness Learning Computer Software
 - **\$750,000** for a formal cost of care study for the school readiness program conducted by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research in accordance with section 1002.90, F.S, for the purpose of collecting and analyzing the financial data necessary to develop the cost of care, with a final report due by January 1, 2024
- **2022-2023 VPK Program**
 - **\$35 million reversion** of General Revenue based on the February VPK Estimating Conference Workload
 - **\$20 million reversion** of ARPA Discretionary and **\$5 million appropriation** of General Revenue for the \$15/hr Wage Incentive program