



Provider Contract Eligibility Policy

Background and Purpose:

It is the charge of every coalition to help ensure families have access to affordable, quality early care and education services. Efforts include informing and assisting parents in their efforts to choose care that provides a healthy, safe and developmentally appropriate environment for their children.

The Florida Office of Early Learning has issued statewide provider contracts. This contract includes enforcement procedures that authorize local coalitions to take action when a contracted provider fails to deliver services that meet requirements or endangers the health and safety of children. Therefore, the Coalition will include contract enforcement as an additional approach to quality improvement.

Providers need to demonstrate the capacity to meet the required elements of the contract, including their ability to meet the conditions of legal operation and licensing standards that are critical to the health and safety of the children in their care.

Contract eligibility requirements include the following:

1. The provider is not eligible to contract or remain contracted, if they have two or more Class I licensing violations within the last 12 months.
2. The provider is not eligible to contract or remain contracted, if they have three or more Class II licensing violations on separate occasions, of a similar nature, within the last 12 months.
3. The provider is not eligible to contract or remain contracted, if they have one Class I and two Class II violations within the last 12 months.
4. The provider is not eligible to contract, if they have been placed on probation by the Child Care Licensing office. If a contracted provider is placed on probation then the Coalition Executive Director will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether or not a contract may continue for the remainder of the contract period or be terminated.
5. The provider is not eligible for contracting, if they or any member of their board are under investigation by any governmental entity. If a contracted provider is under investigation then the Coalition Executive Director will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether or not a contract may continue for the remainder of the contract period or be terminated.
6. The provider is not eligible for contracting if they or any member of their board are on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. If a contracted provider is placed on the list then the Coalition must terminate the Contract for cause. In addition, if provider shares an officer or board director with a provider that is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List, coalition must terminate the Contract for cause.





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7. For license-exempt programs, the provider must supply the coalition with its accrediting/religious exemption approval agency's inspection reports for the last year. To remain contracted these reports must be submitted when completed for review by the coalition.
8. For license-exempt programs, the provider must supply the coalition with a completed health and safety checklist form that matches its specific provider type. (OEL-SR-HSC-62NPS - "Health and Safety Checklist for Non-Public Schools"; Form OEL-SR-HSC-62FB - "Health and Safety Checklist for Faith-Based Child Care Providers (Religious-Exempt)" and Form OEL-SR-HSC-62IF - "Health and Safety Checklist for Informal Child Care Providers"). The ELC will comply with the health and safety violation enforcement procedures outlined within the Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program, Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C. and Rule 6M-4.620, F.A.C.
9. Out of County Providers must have an active Agreement in good standing with the Early Learning Coalition in their county.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION:

1. Coalition School Readiness and VPK Contracts.
2. Associated documents produced by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), accreditation agencies, or other governmental agencies.
3. Accrediting/religious exemption approval agency's inspection (license exempt providers only)
4. Submit documents that meet the specific Health & Safety requirements addressed in each provider type attachment of the contract (20LE or 20L).
3. List of current Board of Directors if provider is INC or LLC

Any providers whose Agreement was terminated by the Coalition for non-compliance may reapply to be a contracted provider one year after termination.

Licensing reports will be reviewed by Coalition staff for determining eligibility for all requirements above.

The Coalition Executive Director will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether or not a contract may continue for the remainder of the contract period or be terminated, relative to provisions of the Provider Contract Eligibility Policy.

The Provider may request an appeal of determinations made. A Review Hearing Committee will address any appeals and make special exceptions, when appropriate. Their decision is final.

If there are changes to rule, statute or Office of Early Learning guidance, this policy will defer to those changes specific to the policies contained above.

