



“Fraud” is an intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the commission of such an act. The term includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

In accordance with Florida Statutes 1002.91 and Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Rule 6M-9.400 Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and payment for School Readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program services.

Common types of fraud:

Parents/Guardians:

- Failing to report someone in the household such as a “spouse” or “significant other”
- Failing to report additional income such as income from a second job
- Providing false/altered employment verification or education documents
- Providing a false/altered at-risk referral

Child Care Providers:

- Asking a parent to sign a child in/out when they have not attended
- Signing a child in when the child is absent to be paid for that day
- Giving false information to the Coalition to receive payment for SR or VPK
- Giving false information to become or remain contracted for SR or VPK

The Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Gateway is a steward of Federal, State and local match dollars. The reporting of fraud is critical in ensuring that families who truly need child care assistance receive that assistance. Consequences of Public Assistance Fraud may include restitution and possible jail time. If you are a child care provider charged with Public Assistance Fraud, restitution is ordered, and you may be ineligible to contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Gateway for a period of five years.

If you know, or suspect, a potential instance of fraud, please contact 866-752-9770 for further investigation.

Parents/Guardians: (ext.140 or 137) or email kbrooks@elcgateway.org or ceatmon@elcgateway.org
Child Care Providers: (ext.126 or 125) or email cskinner@elcgateway.org or sdepratter@elcgateway.org