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ELC focus

August 8, 2025



Attention VPK & SR Providers!
Please read the **NEW** and updated information below regarding VPK and SR program providers! For general questions regarding this information, please contact our Provider Relations Department at (941) 757-2900 ext. 2300.

[Learn More](#)

Sales Tax Holiday 2025

Stock up for back-to-school on qualifying school supplies, clothing, computers, and more exempt from tax **all month long** during Florida's extended Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday August 1-31st! For more information and a list of qualifying items, click the link below.

[Learn More](#)





Provider Update Meetings



August Provider Update Meeting
Join us in person or virtually on **August 12th at 1:00pm** for an opportunity to connect with our Child Development Team to learn how they can support you and your staff in the growth, learning, and well-being of the children in your care. Network, collaborate, and stay informed on important updates that support your work with children and families.

[Learn More](#)

Supporting Strong Starts

Join us for breakfast, engage with peers, learn practical strategies for teaching social-emotional learning and executive functioning skills, and leave with actionable insights to help support the children and families you serve. **Registration opens August 13th!**

[Learn More](#)



Breakfast With a Purpose:
Supporting Strong Starts
Through Social Emotional Learning



Celebrating 20 Years of VPK!
Were you a **2005 VPK Student Graduate, VPK Teacher or Child Care Director?** We want to hear from you! In celebration of 20 years of VPK, the ELC is looking for photos of original VPK students from 2005, along with present-day photos of them.

[Learn More](#)



My Florida Schools Portal

The Florida Department of Education has launched the My Florida Schools Portal - a new tool to help families explore early learning and school options. **Please create or update your profile** to ensure families have accurate information and increase your visibility in the community.

[Learn More](#)





UF | Lastinger Learning

Lastinger Learning Early Childhood Online Courses Available

FREE online courses are offered to all SR and VPK providers in Florida. Courses are available in English and Spanish, and you can earn 20 professional learning hours, 2.0 IACET CEUs per course, and a \$250 stipend upon successful completion.

Online Courses

[Learn More](#)

DOE Resiliency Reading List

The Florida Department of Education is encouraging students to escape into a good book, where they can meet role models, find hope, witness grit and build their own personal strengths. The Resiliency Reading List includes books and reading guides that help foster resiliency in young readers from prekindergarten to twelfth grade.

[Learn More](#)



UPCOMING TRAININGS

**MONDAY
AUG 11**

MarcoPolo for Educators Training

Learn more about the MarcoPolo for Educators Program and how it aligns with CLASS and STAR to enhance classroom quality and strengthen family engagement. [Learn More](#)

**TUESDAY
AUG 19**

Tuesday Tune-Up Session

Do you have questions about challenging behavior and early childhood development? **RSVP in advance** to join us via Zoom for an open forum to connect with our Child Development Team. [Learn More](#)

**TUESDAY
AUG 26**

Sleep Baby Safely

Learn how you can help prevent infant deaths from unsafe sleep environments. Review Manatee County data and key safety tips, and discuss real-life scenarios to help you support your co-workers and families. [Register](#)

**AUGUST
2025**

Handle With Care Training (Open Dates)

'Handle with Care' is an initiative aimed at helping children succeed in school by alerting school staff with a simple notice when a student experiences a traumatic event involving law enforcement or Child Protection Services (CPS). [Register](#)





VPK PROVIDER PERFORMANCE METRICS & DESIGNATIONS

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) has created a variety of resources to help VPK providers understand performance metrics, designations, and the specific requirements for providers with incomplete data or those on probation. These resources are available on the [VPK Program Accountability page](#) on the DEL website.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will release the official performance metrics and designations for the 2024–2025 VPK school year programs by **August 14, 2025**, and for **Summer VPK programs by September 23, 2025**

Accountability Resources

To support providers, FDOE has also released the [VPK Provider Performance Metrics and Designation Calculator](#). This tool allows providers to estimate their performance metrics.

Please note: the **STAR Early Literacy assessment reports** and **CLASS VPK composite scores** are essential for calculating these metrics.

For questions, please contact the Provider Relations team at providerrelations@elc-manatee.org or call (941) 757-2913.

VPK CHILD CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

Please upload your VPK COE's into the provider portal no later than Monday, August 18

1. Compile each completed VPK Child Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
2. Log into your OEL Provider Portal Account: providerservices.floridaearlylearning.com/Account/Login
3. Go to the Enrollment Tab > Manage VPK Enrollments > Request/ Change Enrollment
4. Enter the COE #, Child's Name, DOB, and First Day of Attendance for each child
5. Submit by clicking "Enroll into this Class."

Once you submit your VPK enrollment, the ELC will review and approve it. Enrollment must be approved by the ELC before you will see the child on your attendance roster or before you can terminate the child from your program. Once you enroll a child's COE in the system, the COE cannot be used at any other provider.

When you've completed enrollment, please upload your COEs in the Provider Portal Document Library in the folder titled "VPK Enrollment Certificates". This can all be in one file. We use this for VPK monitoring purposes.

VPK FAST TRAINING

FAST Training - Please make sure the annual FAST training has been completed by the VPK instructor who will be administering the assessment. Required test administrator training is available through [Educator Academy: FAST Star Early Literacy Educator Academy Enrollment Guidance](#) (Updated 5/14/25).

Administration Schedule - VPK programs shall administer FAST Star Early Literacy following the administration schedule: [Test Administration Schedule](#) (PDF) VPK programs do not need to set screening windows. Renaissance is calculating the screening windows for VPK programs within the system. If you are a VPK program administrator and have questions regarding your programs' specific progress monitoring windows, please contact the Provider Relations team at providerrelations@elc-manatee.org or (941) 757-2913.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF VPK!

Were you a 2005 VPK Student Graduate, VPK Teacher or Child Care Director? We want to hear from you!

In celebration of 20 years of VPK, the ELC and Division of Early Learning are looking for photos of original VPK students, teachers, and directors from 2005, along with present-day photos. Send us your story!

Please include:

- Names and roles (student, teacher, director, etc.)
- Where they attended or taught VPK
- Which ELC is represented
- A brief update on their current occupation or position

Share this info and image files in PNG format to: communications@elc-manatee.org.

Please note that information and photos shared may be published in print and/or digital materials through the ELC of Manatee County and the Division of Early Learning.

MY FLORIDA SCHOOLS PORTAL

The Florida Department of Education has launched the [My Florida Schools Portal](#), a new resource designed to help families explore and connect with early learning and education options that best meet their child's needs. The portal includes listings for early learning providers, traditional public schools, public charter schools, and private schools.

Please create or update your profile to ensure families have accurate and helpful information when making important decisions about their child's education. **This is a valuable opportunity for free publicity and increased visibility to families in your area.**

To get started, visit <https://onboarding.wonderschool.com/> and create an account.

If you have any questions or encounter issues, please email MyFloridaSchools@fldoe.org for support.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Florida's families.

T2K BREAKFAST WITH A PURPOSE 2025

Breakfast with a Purpose – Supporting Strong Starts Through Social Emotional Learning

Saturday, October 4, 2025
Manatee Technical College
6305 FL-70, Bradenton, FL 34203
Doors Open at 7:30am

Join us for a meaningful morning of connection and collaboration at Breakfast with a Purpose, hosted by the Early Learning Taskforce. This engaging event will open with a welcome message from the Taskforce, highlighting our shared commitment to kindergarten readiness and whole-child development.

Educators will participate in engaging breakout sessions focused on practical strategies for teaching social-emotional learning and executive functioning skills in early childhood classrooms. From fostering regulation and empathy to supporting attention and problem-solving, this event will equip educators with tools to help every child build a strong foundation for school and life success.

Enjoy breakfast, engage with peers, and leave with actionable insights to support the children and families you serve.

Registration opens on Wednesday, August 13th!

If you just opted in, you're consenting to receive marketing emails from: Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc., 600 8th Avenue West, Suite 100, Palmetto, FL 34221. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the [SafeUnsubscribe®](#) link, found at the bottom of every email. [Emails are serviced by Constant Contact](#)