



Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County

School Readiness Contract Termination Policy

Purpose

To establish uniformity and consistency for addressing noncompliance and termination of School Readiness Program contracts in accordance with Florida Statute 411.01, Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C., and the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract Form DEL-SR 20.

Scope

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County (ELCMC) is committed to ensuring that all contracted School Readiness (SR) providers comply with statutory, regulatory, and contractual requirements. This policy applies to each Child Care Facility that provides childcare services to children who receive or are eligible to receive financial assistance from the School Readiness Program. This policy is site specific.

I. Termination for Cause

Grounds for Termination

ELCMC may terminate the contract at any time for cause, including but not limited to:

- Conduct threatening children's health, safety, or welfare;
- Class I licensing violations;
- Material noncompliance with contract terms;
- Refusal of required program assessments, fails to maintain minimum threshold scores, and/or refuses participation in a required Quality Improvement Plan
- Failure to implement corrective actions;
- Refusal to accept official communications;
- Are convicted of public assistance fraud or appear on the USDA National Disqualified List;
- Reasonable cause to suspect fraud.

II. Emergency Termination

- Immediate contract termination may occur upon notification from DCF, licensing agencies, or the Department of Defense regarding imminent danger to children.
- A minimum of 24 hours' written notice is required with explanation and due process instructions.

III. Health and Safety Violations

The contract may be terminated for verified violations from DCF, local licensing, or the Department of Defense. These actions are considered termination for cause and follow the same notice process.



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IV. Program Assessment Termination

If termination is related to the above program assessment implications the ELCMC may revoke eligibility for up to five (5) years unless provider is deemed essential to community needs.

V. Revocation of Eligibility

If terminated under paragraphs above, ELCMC may revoke SR eligibility for five (5) years based on:

- Severity and financial impact of the violation;
- Risk to children's health and safety;
- Prior violations and consistency with ELCMC actions;
- Local community impact.

Notice of intent to revoke will be issued with termination notice.

VI. Conviction or Disqualification

ELCMC shall not contract with providers (or those who share officers/board members) who:

- Fraud-related disqualification results in a mandatory five-year ban.

VII. Provider-Initiated Termination

Providers may terminate their contract with 30 days' written notice. If insufficient notice is given, final reimbursement may be withheld. If termination occurs during an investigation, ELCMC may revoke eligibility for five (5) years.

VIII. Due Process and Review Rights

Providers may request a review of determinations made by the ELCMC in accordance to the due process procedures found in Exhibit 7 of the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract.

IX. Multi-Site Providers

Termination or revocation applies per site, unless ELCMC explicitly applies action to all sites.

X. Additional Considerations

Transferring a Facility to a Related Party does not prevent termination of its School Readiness Provider Contract. The ELCMC retains full discretion to decide on a facility's funding eligibility on a case-by-case basis. Even if a transfer does not meet the technical definition of a Related Party transaction, the Coalition may still determine it is an attempt to circumvent penalties and apply the same restrictions.

References:

Sections 1002.82, 1002.84, 1002.88, 1002.91, Florida Statutes
Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C.
Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract Form DEL-SR 20
School Readiness Health and Safety Standards Handbook