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Early Learning

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School Readiness Curriculum Approval Process 2014-2015 Frequently Asked Questions June 2014

Section 1002.82(2)(1), Florida Statutes, requires the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to “Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the performance standards for the school readiness program and establish a process for the review and approval of a provider’s curriculum that meets the performance standards.”

Background

1. Who is required to select and implement an approved curriculum?

Early learning programs receiving school readiness funds are required to select and implement a curriculum from the approved list.

2. Is a provider that has a signed contract with an early learning coalition for 2014-15 allowed to continue to use the curriculum referenced in the contract?

If the curriculum referenced in the provider’s contract is on the OEL approved list, the provider may continue to use it. If the curriculum listed is not on the approved list, the provider must amend its contract with the coalition accordingly within 90 days from the release of the approved list by OEL.

(Please note that there will be an additional opportunity to submit curriculum for approval prior to September 31.)

3. How was the 2014-2015 list of approved curricula developed?

The list is the result of a comprehensive and rigorous review process conducted by a panel of experts in the field of early childhood education. Review committee members were selected through an application process and trained to evaluate submissions using specified criteria.

School Readiness Providers

4. Where do early learning providers designate their curriculum selection?

School readiness providers report the selected curriculum on the School Readiness Provider Contract paragraph 13 and in Exhibit 1: Provider Location, (completed only if there are multiple locations).

5. Will financial assistance be available to purchase an approved curriculum?

OEL will not provide financial assistance to purchase or implement a curriculum from the approved list.

6. Are after-school programs serving children in kindergarten-grade 5 required to use an approved curriculum?

No. Only programs serving children ages birth to 5 years in school readiness programs are required to use an approved curriculum.

7. What if the program is required to implement a curriculum from the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) approved list for Low Performing Providers?

Curricula on the 2013-2014 VPK list for Low Performing Providers are also approved for use in school readiness programs.

General

8. Will the School Readiness Curriculum Approval Process take place each year?

Other than the second review cycle for 2014 which will begin in July 2014, OEL has not established a reoccurring cycle for the curriculum approval process.

9. How long will a curriculum remain on the list of approved curricula?

Approved curricula will remain on the list until the Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Five are revised and OEL conducts another curriculum approval process using the revised standards.

10. Where can the 2014-2015 School Readiness Approved Curricula be found?

The list of approved curricula for the 2014-2015 process may be found on the OEL website at www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider_resources/school_readiness_curriculum.aspx.

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