



Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region

PROVIDER WEBINAR

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

The right side of the slide features four abstract, rounded blue shapes of varying shades and orientations, creating a modern, layered background effect.

WELCOME

**LIZBETH MURPHY,
CEO**

2025-26 VPK Designations

73 Excellent
37 Above Expectations
16 Meet Expectations
2 Below Expectations
7 Incomplete





AGENDA

- 01 Welcome
- 02 Webinar Guest: Florida State University, School of Communication Science & Disorders
- 03 CEO Message
- 04 ECE Update
- 05 Distance Learning Update
- 06 Family Services Update
- 07 Community Relations Update
- 08 CCR&R Update
- 09 Provider Relations Update
- 10 Closing Remarks

Florida State University

Shaylyn King-St. Remy



sk10n@fsu.edu

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

SEEKING PRESCHOOL PERSONNEL

STUDY00007809
2 August 2026

Who we are seeking

Preschool personnel working under the instruction or supervision of a lead preschool teacher, including:

- *Paraprofessionals*
- *Paraeducators*
- *Instructional Assistants*
- *Community Aides*

Participation includes

- **Survey:** Complete a 25 minute online survey about your literacy practices and perspectives on assessment and instruction.
- **Interview:** Selected participants will be invited to complete a 45-60 minute follow-up interview.

Upon completion of the survey, participants can enter to win 1 of 10 \$25 gift cards.

If selected for an interview, participants will receive a \$25 gift card upon completion.

About the study

We are seeking participants to share their experiences supporting emergent literacy and their perspectives on training, instructional practices, and professional development.



Interested?

Scan the QR code if you are interested in participating.
For questions contact:
Shaylyn King-St. Remy
(sk10n@fsu.edu)

Early Care & Education (ECE)



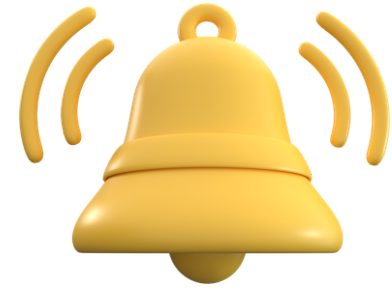
Melanie Sanders



850-552-7320



resources@elcbigbend.org



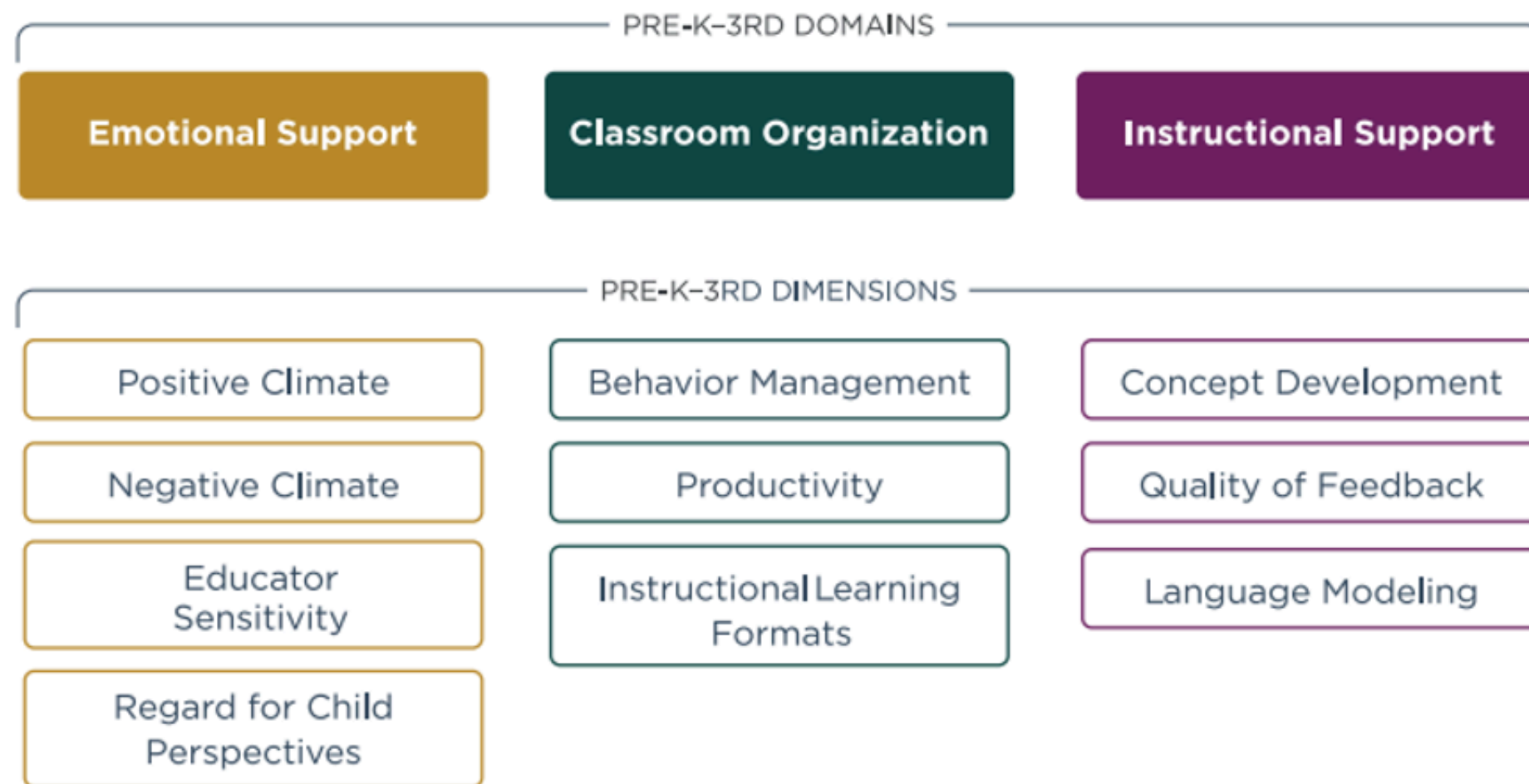
PROGRAM ASSESSMENT IS GETTING AN UPGRADE

Key Changes

- Updated dimension definitions better capture the nature of each dimension across settings.
- New indicator definitions enhance observer understanding and help observers assign indicator ranges.
- Additions, removals, and modifications of behavioral markers increase representation across contexts and settings and offer up-to-date understandings of child development.
- Additional language throughout supports the use of CLASS measurement in settings with children with varying abilities and backgrounds.
- Additional language throughout supports using CLASS measurement in various curricula or settings, such as Family Child Care programs.
- Updated language increases clarity and usability.

CLASS® 2ND EDITION

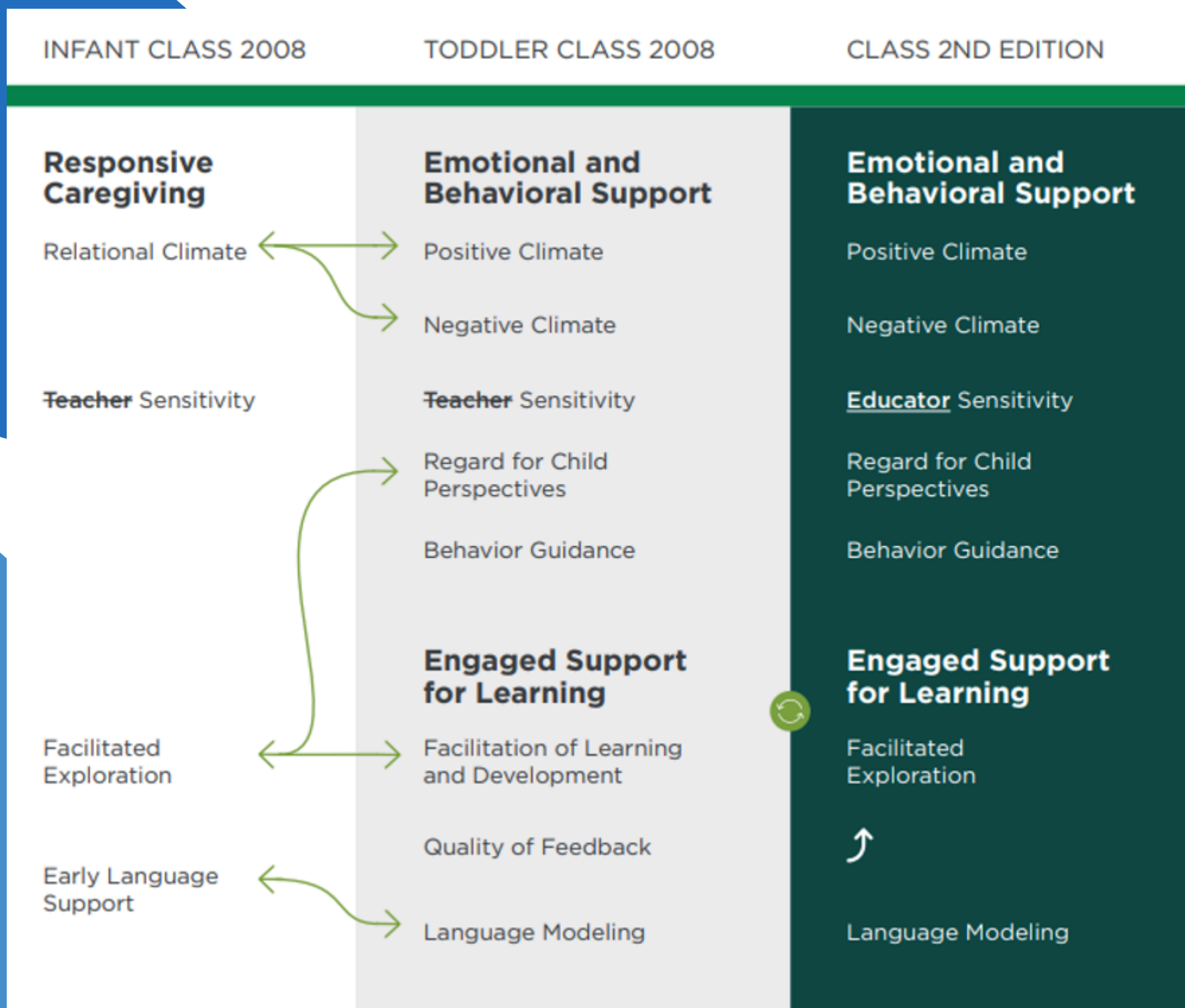
2026 -2027 PRE-K-THIRD CROSSWALK



- The CLASS® 2nd Edition Pre-K–3rd tool continues to measure the same overall domains, dimensions, and indicators that have always guided CLASS observations.
- What has changed are select terminology updates: two dimensions and a number of indicators have been renamed to more clearly reflect what they are intended to capture, and in some cases to better align with a more varied vision of effective interactions.

CLASS 2ND EDITION

2027 - 2028 INFANT-TODDLER CROSSWALK



- The CLASS® 2nd Edition Infant-Toddler tool continues to measure the same overall domains, dimensions, and indicators that have always guided CLASS observations.
- What has changed are select terminology updates: two dimensions and a number of indicators have been renamed to more clearly reflect what they are intended to capture, and in some cases to better align with a more varied vision of effective interactions.



HOW CLASS SUPPORTS YOU

- Your work with children already makes a powerful difference. We know it can also be demanding: balancing needs, managing challenges, and finding time for your professional development. The CLASS tool was designed with that in mind. It helps you:
 - **See your impact:** Notice how your daily interactions shape children's learning and development
 - **Build on strengths:** Get clear, specific feedback you can use right away to tackle challenges and spark more learning
 - **Grow with flexibility:** Choose professional learning that fits into your busy schedule
 - **Create learning settings where children thrive:** Build strong relationships and engaging environments that support children's academic and social-emotional learning
- 

DID YOU KNOW?

- Program Assessments **will not** be conducted if your VPK contract and/or VPK application are not certified. Please notify Provider Relations via email at providerrelations@elcbigbend.org when contract changes have been made.
- Teachers who have not been in an SR or VPK classroom for more than **15 days** cannot be assessed. Ensure all VPK teacher changes are promptly updated in your VPK contract, and all SR teacher changes are updated in QPS.



HAVE YOU ASKED?



Do your teachers know what a Program Assessment is before they are observed?

If not, let us help! ELC offers:

- MyTeachstone Learning Resources. (Online and self-paced)
- Making the Most of Classroom Interaction. (24 hours online or in-person)
- PreK or Toddler Overview of Instruction Support Domain. (1 hour online or in-person)
- PreK Classroom Organization Domain. (1 hour online or in-person)
- PreK, Infant, Toddler Emotional Support Domain (1 hour online or in-person)
- Overview of program assessment notes. (30 minutes per classroom - online or in-person)
- Consult with an ECE team member (30 minutes)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES



Video Library



**CLASS Discussion
Toolkit**



**Looking at
CLASSrooms**



**Making the Most of
Classroom Interactions**



**MyTeachingPartner™
Coaching**

MEET DARA! A TEACHER'S TAKE ON CLASS OBSERVATIONS



PROVIDER RESOURCE ROOM

ELC's Resource Rooms are available to all contracted child care providers. Before visiting your local ELC office, please note that the appointment time you select on the form is when you arrive to pick up your supplies.

During your appointment, you can make your own die cuts as well as roll bulletin paper.

**Please note that we no longer deliver your items, and they should be picked up during the appointment date/time you select.*



Our Wakulla Office
Resource Room is
CLOSED



AGES AND STAGES (ASQ) PROCESSING

Parents can defer a screening during the SR application process to the Provider or Coalition.

The Provider should monitor their provider portal to complete screenings that were deferred to them by the parent.

Screenings deferred to the Provider must be completed within the first 45 days from when the child started.

Per your contract, Providers who do not meet this requirement will now be placed on a Corrective Action Plan.

REGISTER TODAY!

Virtual Developmental Screening Orientation

for School Readiness Providers

 Thursday, September 17, 2026

 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

 Join us for an orientation designed to help School Readiness providers understand developmental screening requirements and processes

Meeting Objectives

- Understanding the Developmental Screening Queue in the Provider Portal
- Understanding state screening requirements for School Readiness
- Understanding the components of a developmental screening
- Reviewing provider roles, responsibilities, and best practices



Register to
Attend:



Questions? resources@elcbigbend.org

NEW WARMLINE SUBMISSION FORM



Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region

ELC Warmline Referral Request Form

The first five years of your child's life are a time of amazing growth! In our effort to ensure that each child is progressing well during this period, the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend (ELC) provides Warm Line Services which is a free support and referral service for families and childcare centers. By signing the consent form below, you permit skilled ELC staff and/or your child's teacher to provide these free services as well as permission to provide screening information and results to your child's provider and any other diagnostic agency as necessary.

Child Care Provider Name *

Child Care Provider County *

Parent/Guardian's Legal Name *

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number *

Please enter a valid phone number.

Parent/Guardian's Email *

VPK FAST 2026-2027

- PM1 testing windows are open for most programs; progress monitoring schedules have been emailed to VPK providers.
- All VPK students must be assessed within 30 days of program start.
- VPK FAST assessments must be administered by a qualified test administrator during approved VPK instructional days and hours.
- Assessments completed outside scheduled instructional time may be considered invalid and will not count for accountability purposes.
- Each student must have a completed assessment or be marked as non-participating, if applicable.
- Student results must be shared with families within 7 days using the Star Parent Report, and signed copies must be retained.
- For testing schedule or Renaissance site questions, email vpkfast@elcbigbend.org.

Distance Learning (DL)



Kathy Douglas



(850) 552-7353



kdouglas@elcbigbend.org

ELC 4728 - PREPARING TODAY'S VPK CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS IN KINDERGARTEN!

- Course Dates: October 16, 2026 – November 17, 2026
- 15 Hours, or 1.5 CEUs (cost for CEUs: \$28.00)
- Target Audience – VPK and PreK Teachers



ELC 5919 - THE ART OF LEADERSHIP AND BEST PRACTICES!

- Course Dates: October 17, 2026 - November 18, 2026
- This course meets the topic criteria for the Director Credential Renewal
- 15 Hours, or 1.5 CEUs (cost for CEUs: \$28.00)
- Target Audience – Directors, Assistant Directors & Leaders in ECE



ELC 3620 - CREATING AN INTERACTIVE ENVIRONMENT OF CURIOSITY & WONDER FOR OUR INFANTS AND TODDLERS!

- Course Dates: October 18, 2026 – November 18, 2026
- 10 Hours or 1 CEU (cost for CEUs: \$23.00)
- Target Audience – Infant and Toddler Teachers



Family Services (FS)



Sanntia Pierre-Antoine



850-552-7372



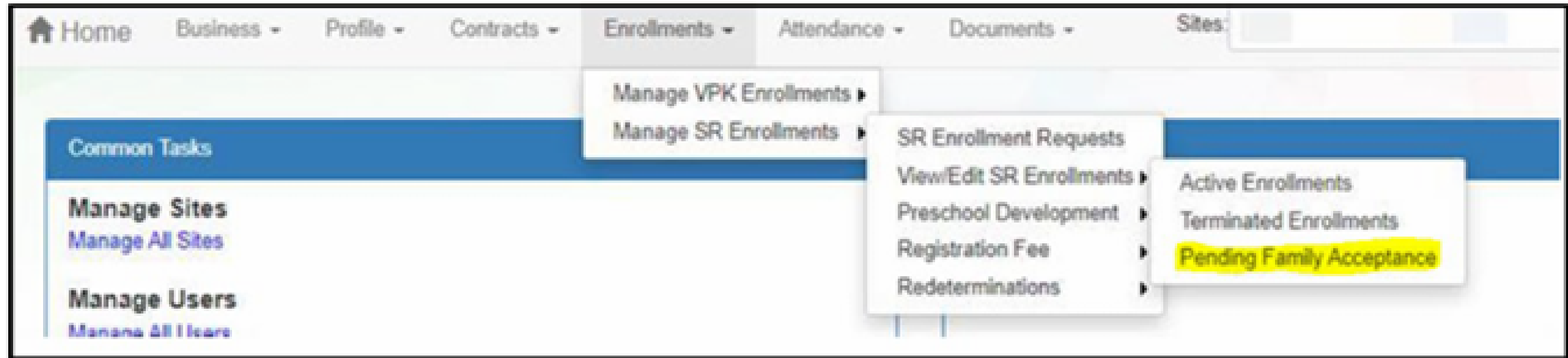
familyservices@elcbigbend.org

SCHOOL READINESS ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- ↓ Family tells ELC where child will go.
- ↓ ELC enrolls child at the chosen provider in Coalition Portal.
- ↓ ELC emails the family to accept the enrollment in Family Portal.
- ↓ Family logs in to Family Portal and accepts enrollment.
- ✓ Child shows up on your attendance roster.

ENROLLMENT MISSING?

1. Login to your Provider Portal account.



3. Review the list of children in **Pending Family Acceptance**.

4. Ask the family to login to their Family Portal account and accept their SR enrollment.

5. If the child has never and will not attend, click **Cancel Enrollment** next to the child's name and follow the portal's instructions.

SCHOOL READINESS REDETERMINATION AND REVIEW DATES

- A Redetermination date can be found on a family's SR Certificate.
- A Review Date can be found via email with ELC. Specialist will notify both the parent and provider of the review date.
- Families receive email reminders leading up to these dates from both the Family Portal and ELC.
- Co-payments are **REQUIRED** of families receiving SR services.



SCHOOL READINESS WAITLIST

- There is currently *no waitlist* for School Readiness (SR)! Families are encouraged to apply for services.
- Please remind parents to check their spam folders for any autogenerated emails from EFS Mod.

***SR Plus:**

- Families only qualify for SR plus if they are currently receiving services and there is an increase in the household income.

VPK ENROLLMENTS

Any child that is four years old
on or before September 1st
AND is a Florida resident is
eligible for VPK enrollment.



Community Relations



Aun-Drey Brown



850-552-7325



outreach@elcbigbend.org

25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Put on your best pair of boots and join us!

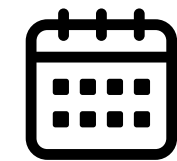
We're celebrating not only ELC's momentous achievement, but the staff, providers, and supporters that stood with us for over 20 years!



To purchase your tickets, scan the QR code here.



FALL FESTIVAL AND RESOURCE FAIR



Saturday, October 10, 2026



10:00AM - 2:00 PM



2639 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303



Free and open to the public



ccrr@elcbigbend.org

FOREST FESTIVAL



📅 Saturday, October 24th

📍 204 Forest Park Drive, Perry FL 32348

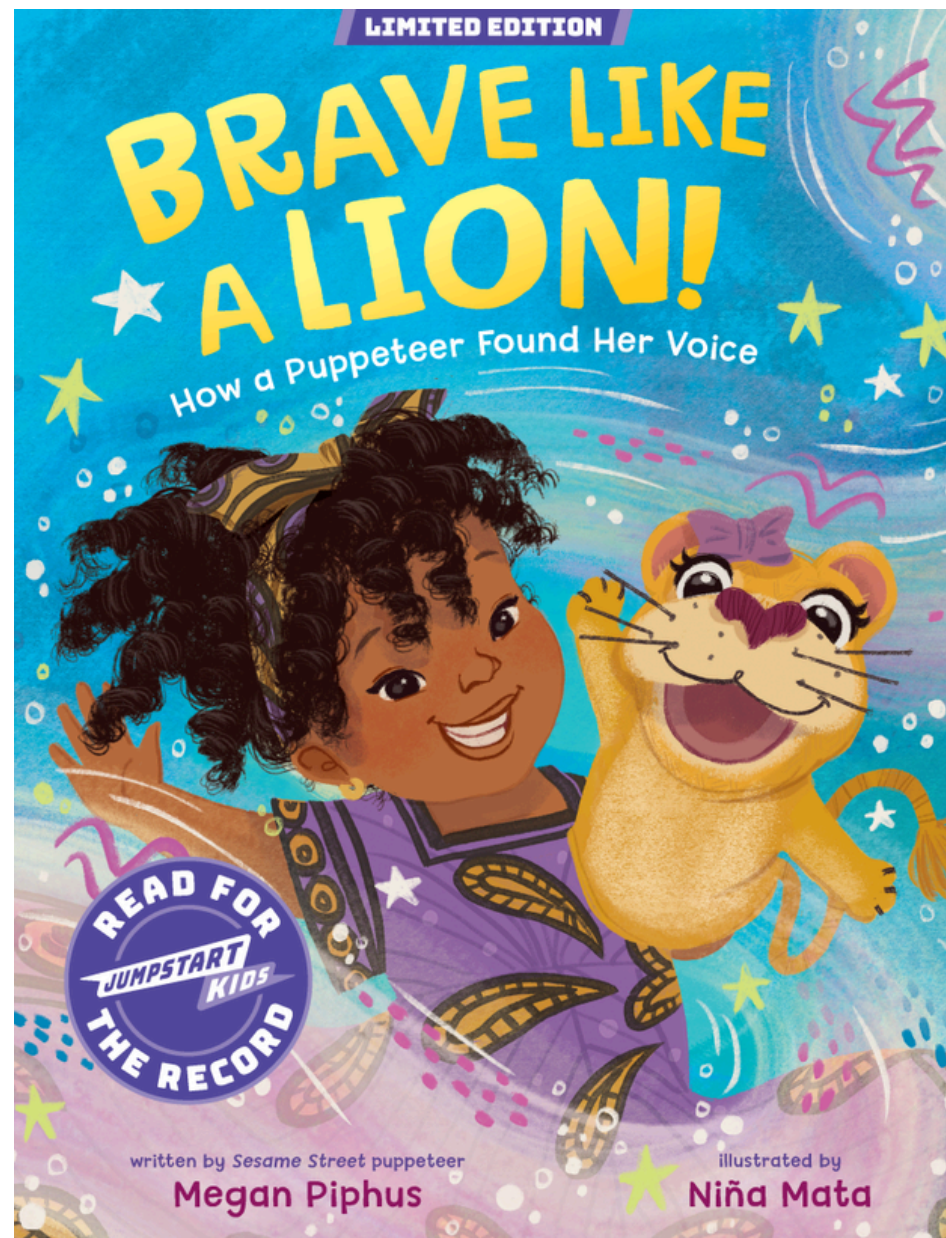
COLOR ME BLUE

SAVE THE DATE!

Color Me Blue is our annual Board of Directors signature event. This silent auction includes original artwork by children across the Big Bend Region. If you know a young artist who would enjoy the opportunity to participate in this once-a-year event, be on the look out for our Call for Artists on October 1st.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Jumpstart Kids: Read for the Record
📅 Thursday, February 25th, 2027

EARLY LEARNING CONFERENCE



Saturday, April 17, 2027



**FSU Turnbull Center, 555
Pensacola St, Tallahassee FL 32306**

CHILDREN'S WEEK



- **Call to Action:** Prepare your Celebration of Hands artwork.
- Join us on Sunday, April 18th at the Capitol to decorate the rotunda!
- Scan the QR code for more information on the full week of events.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

COLOR ME
Blue

A KID'S SILENT ART AUCTION EVENT

early learning
conference



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Taylor County Annual Forest Festival:
Saturday, October 24th
- Read for the Record: February 25, 2027

Child Care Resource & Referral



Gabrielle Aboki



866-973-9030



ccrr@elcbigbend.org

Fall Festival & Resource Fair



On October 10, join us in celebrating **25 Years of Growing Bright Futures!** At ELC, we are committed to building a community where all children are prepared for success in school. This important work would not be possible without the collaboration and support of the many community resource agencies throughout the Big Bend region.

This event is **free** and **open to the public** at our Leon County Service Center from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, where we will provide families with an opportunity to have fun while connecting with valuable community resources and services they may need. Contact Gabby Aboki for more information.

Child Safety Seat Program

- Leon and Gadsden families currently receiving School Readiness or on the Waitlist are eligible to upgrade their child's car seat for \$15.
- Caregiver must meet income guidelines.
- A \$15 money order is required.
- Caregiver must present ID when picking up car seat at either Leon or Gadsden Service Center.
- Contact ccrr@elcbigbend.org for more information.



elc Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region **KidSafe**

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED A CAR SEAT?

ELC Big Bend, in partnership with Kidsafe of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida, is able to provide new car seats for eligible Leon and Gadsden County families for just \$15.



Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ Leon or Gadsden County Resident
- ✓ Currently receiving School Readiness services or on the Waitlist

Your Car Seat Checklist:

- 1 Receive School Readiness or currently on the Waitlist
- 2 Bring a \$15 money order to your Leon or Gadsden Service Center
- 3 Present ID when picking up your car seat

The Safety Seat provided meets all safety standards and adapts to the growth requirements of a child from 5 to 100 pounds. Limit one car seat per child. Eligible families to pay \$15 via money order.

Request a Seat:

- 📞 1-866-973-9030
- 🌐 www.elcbigbend.org
- ✉ ccrr@elcbigbend.org

Provider Relations (PR)



Ludy Willis



850-552-7336



providerrelations@elcbigbend.org

MEET YOUR TEAM



Ludy Willis
PR Manager



Jim Ledbetter
**Project
Administrator**



Gloria Hall
PR Specialist



Lorraine Gibson
PR Specialist



Shatavia Roberts
PR Specialist

When to contact Provider Relations:

- Provider Profiles
- SR & VPK contracts
- SR & VPK contract Amendments
- Provider closures
- Any type of ownership change/permanent closure

Current Priorities

1. Contracting and Compliance
2. SR & VPK Monitoring



Attendance Reimbursement

Certified Contract Requirement

- You must have a certified contract with ELC to be reimbursed for VPK and/or School Readiness.

Attendance Submission Deadlines

- All submissions are due by the 3rd business day of each month, regardless of the date displayed in the Provider Portal/EFS MOD.
- Late Submissions: Will result in payment delays (paid the following month).
- Sign-in/Sign-out Sheets must be uploaded into the WebAuthor system under Provider Uploads.
- ALL Attendance Entry must be submitted in the Provider Portal (EFSMOD).

Helpful Tips

- Submit attendance early to avoid processing delays.
- Upload all Physician and "Mommy Notes" for absences.
- Remove terminated students from your roster.
- Use Provider Portal & WebAuthor to confirm submissions.
- Long Absences? Notify the Coalition if a child is absent for more than 5 consecutive days or 10 non-consecutive days without notice from the family.

Attendance Reporting Requirements

Protective Services/Rilya Wilson Act Reporting

A provider must notify the ELC and Community Based Care (CBC) agency any time a protective services child is absent for one day without contact from the parent or caregiver by the end of the day and has seven consecutive unexcused absences.

Monitoring Reminders

All contracted providers must comply with School Readiness and VPK contract requirements.

Key Reminders:

ELC staff must have access to the facility. If the director is unavailable, staff should know the location of the following required documents:

- VPK Enrollment Certificates
- Sample attendance records
- Proof of copayments received
- All contract-related records outlined in the monitoring email sent at the beginning of the monitoring program (note: this is different from program assessment emails, which are sent two weeks prior).

Failure to comply may result in placement on a corrective action plan or additional measures

VPK Monitoring

Monitoring Start: Spring

Objective: Ensure compliance with VPK program requirements and support provider quality.

Key Monitoring Areas:

- Provider Program Information: Licensure, accreditation, and director credentials
- Classroom Compliance: Instructor qualifications, student ratios, and curriculum use
- Attendance and Progress Monitoring: Daily logs, monthly certifications, and
- screening compliance
- Insurance and Contract Compliance: Worker's compensation, general liability, and E-Verify affidavit

Next Steps:

- Ensure all required documents are up to date
- Request technical assistance if needed
- Compliance findings may require a corrective action plan (CAP)

School Readiness (SR) Monitoring

Monitoring Start: Fall

Objective: Assess compliance with School Readiness program standards and support provider adherence.

Key Monitoring Areas:

- Contract Execution & Readiness: EFS Mod profile, licensing, health & safety documents
- Provider Compliance: Developmentally appropriate curriculum, child assessments, attendance certification
- Health & Safety Standards: Facility inspections, background screenings, emergency preparedness
- Financial Accountability: Parent copayment collection, reporting absences, maintaining records for audit

Next Steps:

- Providers should review and update all compliance documentation
- Any non-compliance issues will require follow-up and resolution
- Coalition staff are available for support and guidance

General Liability Insurance Requirements

Must be maintained by all contracted providers in accordance with **Florida Rule 6M-4.610** and state statutes

Coverage Minimums: Providers must secure an active general liability insurance policy offering a minimum of **\$100,000 per occurrence** and a minimum of **\$300,000 general aggregate**. If the facility transports children, transportation coverage must be explicitly included in the policy.

Coalition Designation: The local **Early Learning Coalition** must be legally designated on the policy as a **named certificate holder** and an **additional insured**.

Policy Changes & Continuity: All contracted providers must maintain active **general liability insurance** for the entire duration of their ELC contract. Gaps in coverage or failure to provide up-to-date insurance documentation directly breaches contract requirements. Non-compliance will result in immediate consequences, including being placed on a **corrective action plan (CAP)**, facing **withheld reimbursements**, or suffering **contract termination**.

TRIVIA

Which of the following structural or operational updates requires an ELC provider to contact Provider Relations immediately?

- A) Changing the classroom wall paint colors
- B) Any type of ownership change or permanent closure
- C) Adjusting the daily outdoor play schedule by 15 minutes
- D) Updating the weekly parent newsletter template

TRIVIA ANSWER

Which of the following structural or operational updates requires an ELC provider to contact Provider Relations immediately?

- A) Changing the classroom wall paint colors
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- D) Updating the weekly parent newsletter template

TRIVIA

To be eligible for School Readiness (SR) and/or VPK financial reimbursement, what is an absolute prerequisite?

- A) A 5-star Google review rating
- B) A completed facility expansion plan
- C) A certified contract with the ELC
- D) At least 50 enrolled students

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TRIVIA

Under the Rilya Wilson Act / Protective Services reporting guidelines, what immediate action must a provider take if a protective services child misses a single day of care?

- A) Notify the ELC and Community Based Care (CBC) agency by the end of the day if there is no contact from the parent/caregiver.
- B) Automatically un-enroll the student from the roster
- C) Wait 7 days before looking into the matter
- D) Drive to the child's home to conduct a wellness check

TRIVIA ANSWER

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TRIVIA

If a director is away from the facility during an unannounced ELC monitoring visit, what must staff members be able to do?

- A) Ask the inspectors to leave and return on another business day
- B) Halt all classroom instruction until the director arrives
- C) Know the exact location of required documents (such as VPK Enrollment Certificates, sample attendance records, and proof of copayments) and grant facility access.
- D) Lock the records room for privacy and security

TRIVIA ANSWER

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- D) Lock the records room for privacy and security

TRIVIA

What are the potential consequences if a provider fails to maintain active general liability insurance throughout the duration of their ELC contract?

- A) The provider will be required to offer free care for one week.
- B) The provider must change their facility hours to close earlier.
- C) The provider may face a corrective action plan (CAP), withholding of reimbursements, or contract termination.
- D) Nothing happens, as insurance is only checked once during initial contracting.

TRIVIA ANSWER

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D) Nothing happens, as insurance is only checked once during initial contracting.



Reminders

- SR & VPK Monitoring will be happening soon.
- Review closure dates now: Any changes made after the holiday may cause a delay in your reimbursement.



CONTACT US

Program Assessments, Developmental Screenings, and Trainings:

resources@elcbigbend.org

VPK FAST: vpkfast@elcbigbend.org

ELC Virtual Courses: distancelearning@elcbigbend.org

Family Service: familyservices@elcbigbend.org

Attendance: providerrelations@elcbigbend.org

Events: outreach@elcbigbend.org

All Other Provider Concerns: providerrelations@elcbigbend.org

The left side of the slide features three overlapping, rounded rectangular shapes in shades of blue. The top shape is a medium blue, the middle one is a darker blue, and the bottom one is a lighter blue. They are arranged diagonally, creating a layered effect.

Q & A

The image features several abstract blue geometric shapes on the left side. There is a dark blue rounded rectangle, a medium blue rounded rectangle, and a light blue circle, all arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion. The text 'THANK YOU' is positioned to the right of these shapes.

**THANK
YOU**