

2022-2023
**Annual
Report**



A Message from Steve & Bimal

2022 was a record year for the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. We experienced a sharp increase in Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) enrollments as we continue to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our School Readiness (SR) enrollments have remained flat, and we are preparing for anticipated eligibility challenges for families not meeting the federal and state median poverty levels due to inflation and hourly wage increases scheduled until 2026.

The influx of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds has provided additional financial support for providers. This program along with other COVID funding streams were timely and important for stabilizing early childhood programs and providers throughout our system.

The staff and Board of Directors provided consistent support and service to our families, providers, and the community. We received Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) to help providers and families. We expanded our awareness efforts by rebranding our Coalition and launching an advertising campaign in both Pasco and Hernando counties.

During the past twelve (12) months, we have launched or expanded several key community initiatives and programs including Loving Start, LENA, Feeding Tampa Bay partnership, Transition to K initiative, START caregiver program and holding the annual Early Learning Conference virtually.

The Promise Institute continues to offer popular and relevant training opportunities to our teachers and directors throughout the calendar year. With a focus on apprenticeships and credentialing, we have expanded partnerships and offerings to sustain, and expand the number of early childhood teachers in our two-county system.

We hope you enjoy reviewing the narrative and data reports that outline this year's performance and achievements in our Annual Report. We are guided by our 2020-2025 strategic plan and focused on our mission to serve children, families, providers, and our communities.

We're excited to see how much we can accomplish during the next year.

Sincerely,



Steve Knobl

Steve Knobl, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Bimal Bhojani

Bimal Bhojani
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Mission and Vision

At the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, we believe in creating a supportive community for children to be successful in school and life. Because every child deserves a quality education from day one.

What We Stand For

Confidence

With years of knowledge and expertise, we are here to provide an invaluable resource to children in our community.

Commitment

We believe that every child, caregiver, and teacher deserves the best resources for their success.

Advocacy

With unbridled support and compassion, it is our goal as an organization to represent those in need of guidance and direction.

Inclusivity

We encourage and accept all walks of life so that we can prosper together as a community.

Board of Directors

Bimal Bhojani
BOARD CHAIR, GOVERNOR APPOINTEE

Jacob Horner
GOVERNOR APPOINTEE

Manuel "Manny" Santana
GOVERNOR APPOINTEE

Amy Anderson, MD, Provost
PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

Jan Jones
FAITH-BASED PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE

Trang Chitakone
PASCO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Narverud
HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chantal Porte
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Tim Sabba
PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT CHILD CARE PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE

Jessica Weightman
PASCO-HERNANDO WORKFORCE BOARD

Mike Napier
PASCO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Maryam Belavilas, MD
PRIVATE SECTOR

Lisa Campos
PRIVATE SECTOR

Kimberly Harrison
PRIVATE SECTOR

Adam Horn
PRIVATE SECTOR

Walter D. Joseph, M.Ed.
PRIVATE SECTOR

Patrick McHugh
PRIVATE SECTOR

David Slovut, MD
PRIVATE SECTOR

Neil Thompson
PRIVATE SECTOR

Rebecca Wilkinson-Shields
PRIVATE SECTOR

Lavana Harvey
PRIVATE SECTOR

Anna Jensen
HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gina Michalicka
HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vicki Wolin
HEAD START DIRECTOR, PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Total Impact

11,346
Children

8,822
Families

4,198
Educators

275
Providers

Outreach Opportunities

Annual Early Learning Conference

“Activating the Creative Mind” Virtual Conference for Early Childhood Education professionals had over 300 early childcare professionals in attendance. The keynotes offered educators strategies to foster creativity and critical thinking, through implementing art, music, and loose parts.

A Loving Start

A Loving Start for new moms expanded with a new personalized title and message through Gardner Media, “Snuggle,” by Steve Metzger. In partnership with five local hospitals across Pasco and Hernando Counties, we distributed over 4,000 books to support their journey in building language development and relationships from birth.

S.T.A.R.T. Program

In partnership with the United Ways of Pasco and Hernando, S.T.A.R.T. (Support, Teach, Acknowledge, Respect and Trust) is a unique program for families. This is a free program for families offering tools and strategies for relationship-based parenting through the Circle of Security virtual workshop and family engagement events. Two (2) cohorts with a total of forty (40) families completed the program. In addition, the Coalition hosted its first “Family Fun Day,” to support households with basic needs, such as meal boxes, clothing, and appliance giveaways with our community partners, No Kid Hungry, Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc., and Guided Path Foundation, Resurrection House Mission, and Lions Club.

Transition to Kindergarten

The Transition to K Committee of the Coalition distributed 350 books, “Night Before Kindergarten” by Natasha Wing to VPK classrooms to help foster a smooth transition for children entering kindergarten. Transition to K backpacks with summer bridge activities were also distributed at back-to-school events across both counties.

Spotlight on Providers

“SPOTLIGHT on Providers,” rebranded its image and published its annual edition for the provider community. The ELC highlights programs, successes and current events and is distributed to all providers. Providers can contribute practical strategies to share with fellow practitioners.

Outreach Opportunities



Educational Services



Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is a free confidential service that helps families select quality early learning programs for children birth through 5 as well as programs for school age children.

CCR&R services include information about child development and developmentally preferred practices, community resources, consumer education, and financial assistance options.

👉 **Number of CCR&R Referrals Requested - 4,709**



The purpose of The Promise Institute is to empower early childhood educators to commit to ongoing professional development and learning opportunities. **Over 85 training opportunities were offered to over 4,000 early childhood educators** with a full range of professional development services, such as infant and toddler courses, preschool courses, and administration courses as well as continuing to provide professional development opportunities on an on-going basis throughout the year to providers, educators, and families.

Preschool Development Grant

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, in collaboration with Marchman Technical College, offers two programs for early childhood educators to earn their Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC). The Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship allows current early childcare program employees to count on-the-job hours toward field experience training and required coursework. Additionally, the 600-hour Early Childhood Program, which started in Fall of 2022, is an 18-week program for those interested in early childhood education. Students attend weekly classes for course content and spend the rest of the week volunteering at Early Childcare programs for hands-on learning.

👉 **Credentials received 95.**

👉 **Current enrollment 76 educators.**

Building a World Class Workforce

Through Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA), Workforce Initiative Grants were designed and awarded to support recruitment, retention, and upskilling early education professionals in the workforce.

👉 **Credential bonuses - 120 Credentialed educators - \$142,400**

👉 **90 Day New Hire - 151 educators - \$68,500**

👉 **Retention bonuses - 183 educators - \$91,500**

👉 **DCF testing reimbursement - 24 educators - \$1,912**

👉 **First Aid and CPR training - 407 educators - \$24,500**

Educational Services

T.E.A.C.H Wrap

In support of higher education, the ELCPH supports early educators and their sponsors with financial support upon their acceptance to the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship. This supports early educators in gaining higher education degrees in the Early childhood education industry.

👉 **Number of WRAP scholarships provided - 9**

👉 **Total amount paid out to Educators and Sponsoring providers - \$4,473.32**

National CDA for Early Educators

Educators can successfully earn a National CDA through Flamingo Early Learning Platform. These educators who worked and are working on their professional development pathway by taking courses through Flamingo Early Learning and participating in Communities of Practice with Coalition Staff facilitators are on their journey to receive their National Child Development Associates Credential.

👉 **16 educators successfully completed the program**

👉 **27 educators are on track to graduate in the spring of 2024**

Early Literacy Efforts

The Early Literacy Initiatives were created to assist families and providers in increasing the number of children entering kindergarten with the readiness skills necessary to promote future reading success. In partnership with Pasco and Hernando County Libraries, ELC participated in Virtual Storytimes to support Literacy efforts. Participation also includes state and national reading events such as Literacy Week and Read for the Record.

👉 **23 virtual events**

👉 **14,500 children participating and books distributed**

Inclusion

The Developmental Service department is responsible for responding to all Inclusion/Warm Line services and requests. The Coalition utilizes the Brookes Ages and Stages Developmental Screening System. These tools enable Coalition staff to assist parents and providers to quickly identify where the child is on the continuum and if there is a need for further assessment or ongoing monitoring.

The Coalition maintains a Warm-Line and informs Early Childhood programs of the availability of technical assistance, coaching and training regarding the inclusion of children with developmental delays, disabilities, social-emotional concerns, and special health care needs. Our staff provide on-site technical assistance and coaching to providers in need of assistance regarding the areas of positive behavior supports, individualized learning plans, environmental adaptations, and assist parents/guardians with referrals to community resources as needed.

👉 **5,419 ASQ Screenings completed**

👉 **4,200 Technical Assistance Supports Provided**

👉 **910 Individualized Intervention Practice Plans (IPP) created**

👉 **886 Referrals made to partnering agencies**

Provider Relations



Provider Relations

Monitoring

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties' Provider Relations team conducts monitoring of contracted School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs to ensure contract compliance.

- ☛ **School Readiness (SR) Provider Monitoring Sample of 124 contracted SR Providers monitored**
- ☛ **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Monitoring 161 VPK Private Providers and 42 Public School programs monitored**

Technical Assistance

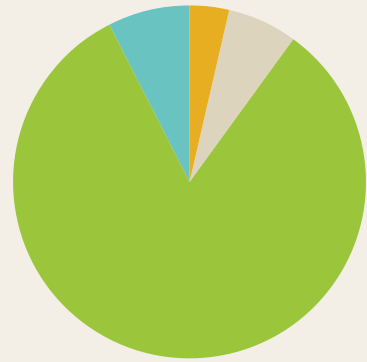
Providers are offered technical assistance and coaching in the areas that need improvement while conducting on-site monitoring. These areas can include business practices, classroom management, child development, developmentally appropriate practices, learning environments, lesson planning, and attendance procedures.

Total No. of Providers by Provider Type

PROVIDER TYPE	TOTAL PROVIDERS	SR ONLY	VPK ONLY	BOTH
Licensed Private Centers	190	35	38	117
License- Exempt Centers	10	8	1	1
Large Family Child Care Home	12	10	0	2
Licensed Family Child Care Home	15	15	0	0
Private School	6	1	5	0
Public School	42	0	42	0

Fiscal Summary

Children Served



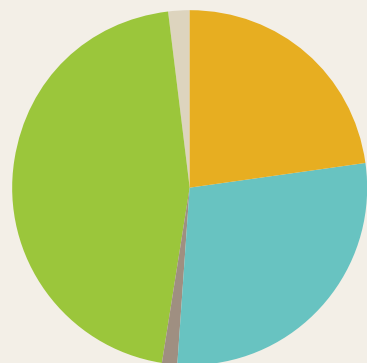
School Readiness Expenditure

Administration- 3.85%
 Quality- 6.4%
 Direct Services for Children - 82.4%
 Non-Direct Expenditures - 7.35%



VPK Expenditures

Administration - 4%
 Direct Cost Slots - 96%

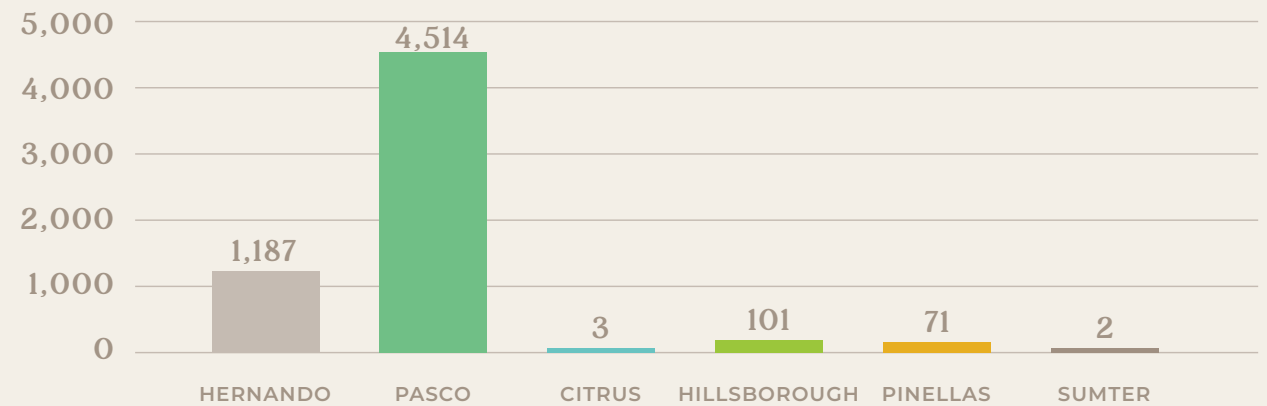


2022-2023 Operating Budget

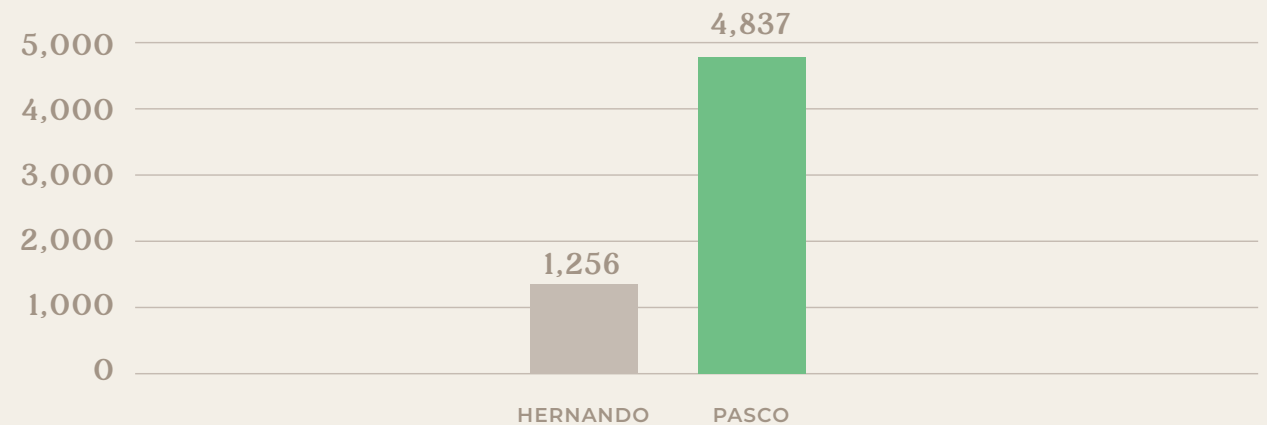
VPK - 22.9%
 SR Local Match Funds - 0%
 School Readiness - 28.3%
 Preschool Development Grants - 1.3%
 ARPA - 45.8%
 Cares (CRRSA) - 1.7%





The School Readiness Program offers financial assistance for quality early education to low-income families with children birth to 12 years old. In 2022-2023, 5,701 children attending childcare providers in Pasco and Hernando Counties were served in School Readiness Programs, and another 177 children in the neighboring counties of Citrus, Hillsborough, Sumter, and Pinellas.



Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free program available to all four-year-olds born on or before September 1 who reside in Florida. The goal of the program is to provide experiences for young children to assist them in becoming ready for kindergarten. In 2021-2022, the Coalition served 6,093 children in the VPK Program in Hernando and Pasco Counties.





early learning coalition

OF PASCO & HERNANDO



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DIVISION OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Florida **VPK**

Visit our website at www.elcph.org