

2024-2025
ANNUAL REPORT

Early Learning Shapes Tomorrow



early
learning
coalition



OF PASCO & HERNANDO

A Message from Steve & Bimal

The 2024–2025 fiscal year was a year of growth, hope, and joy for the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. We welcomed more children than ever before into Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) classrooms—children whose curiosity, laughter, and energy remind us daily why our work matters. Each child we serve represents a story: a family we supported, a community we strengthen, and a future shaped.

Our School Readiness (SR) program enrollments continue to increase following the Florida Legislature’s approval of a new eligibility threshold, shifting from 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 55% of the State Median Income (SMI). We continue to walk alongside families as they navigate life’s daily challenges. Through every milestone, our dedicated staff and Board of Directors bring passion, care, and heart to their work. Their tireless commitment touches people’s lives in ways that cannot always be measured yet are deeply felt.

This year, we expanded programs and partnerships that truly make a difference: Loving Start, LENA, Transition to K, the START Caregiver Program, and collaborations with many community and business partners. From welcoming a first-time preschooler to supporting a teacher in her professional growth, every interaction matters. Our annual Early Learning Conference brought together educators, families, and community partners, reminding all of us of the power of connection and shared purpose. The Promise Institute continues to empower teachers and directors through training, apprenticeships, and credentialing programs—ensuring that every child has access to skilled, compassionate educators who believe in each child’s potential.

Guided by our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, we remain steadfast in our mission—serving children, families, providers, and communities with heart, vision, and purpose. As you explore this Annual Report, we hope you feel the joy, pride, and hope that drive our work—and the deep gratitude we carry for the families and communities we are privileged to serve.



Steve Knobl

Steve Knobl, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Bimal Bhojani

Bimal Bhojani
Board Chairman

Mission & 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.

Total Impact

10,813
Children

8,556
Families

3,503
Educators

296
Providers

Board of Directors

Bimal Bhojani
BOARD CHAIR, GOVERNOR APPOINTEE

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GOVERNOR APPOINTEE

Manuel “Manny” Santana
GOVERNOR APPOINTEE

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HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

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PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE PROVOST

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SUPERINTENDENT OF PASCO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT*

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PASCO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT*

Kimberly Harrison
PRIVATE SECTOR

Madelynn “Lynn” Hollingsworth
PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Adam Horn
PRIVATE SECTOR

Haris Horozovic
PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT CHILD CARE PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE

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ESE DIRECTOR, HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOLS*

Jan Jones
FAITH-BASED PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE*

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PRIVATE SECTOR

John Legg Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF PASCO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Patrick McHugh
PRIVATE SECTOR

Elizabeth Narverud
HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

Chantal Porte
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Pio Rizzo
FAITH-BASED PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE

Tim Sabba
PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT CHILD CARE PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE*

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PRIVATE SECTOR

Tanya Stanton
HERNANDO COUNTY HEAD START

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ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN HERNANDO COUNTY

Neil Thompson
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PASCO-HERNANDO WORKFORCE BOARD

Colleen Wilkinson
DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS FOR PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Rebecca Wilkinson-Shields
PRIVATE SECTOR*

Daniel Wright
PRIVATE SECTOR

Lisa Yeager
PASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

* DENOTES BOARD MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR TERM

Outreach Opportunities

Early Learning Conference

The 18th Annual Early Learning Conference, Full STEAM Ahead, brought together 245 early childhood professionals for a day of learning, connection, and collaboration. Educators attended interactive breakout sessions and keynote speeches, where they explored creative ways to incorporate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) into their classrooms.

Loving Start

In partnership with five local hospitals, the Loving Start prenatal program continued supporting new mothers. Each mother received a personalized copy of “Snuggle” by Steve Metzger, designed to be her baby’s first book. The book encourages mothers to nurture early language development and build strong relationships with their newborns, fostering a love of literacy from the very beginning. Approximately 2,700 Loving Start books were distributed across hospitals in Pasco and Hernando Counties.



Transition to Kindergarten

The Early Learning Coalition, in partnership with Pasco and Hernando libraries, hosted three Transition to Kindergarten events that welcomed over 100 families. Attendees explored valuable resources and information to support kindergarten readiness. 140 children enjoyed story-time readings and hands-on learning activities at Spring Hill Library and Regency Park Library, while 71 children had the opportunity to explore a variety of careers at Marchman Technical College. There, students from programs such as automotive, digital cinema, electricity, welding, marine service, and cosmetology guided children through interactive activities. To support continued learning at home, the Coalition distributed 211 Kindergarten Readiness Backpacks filled with educational materials.

S.T.A.R.T. Program

The S.T.A.R.T Initiative (Support, Teach, Acknowledge, Respect, and Trust), a specialized program designed for family education, continued to provide free parent resources in collaboration with United Way of Pasco County and Florida Medical Clinic. Families participated in the Circle of Security virtual workshop, discovering strategies for building strong relationships and positive engagement with their children. Families were further supported through in-person events and materials for learning at home.

3 Cohorts **24** Participating Families

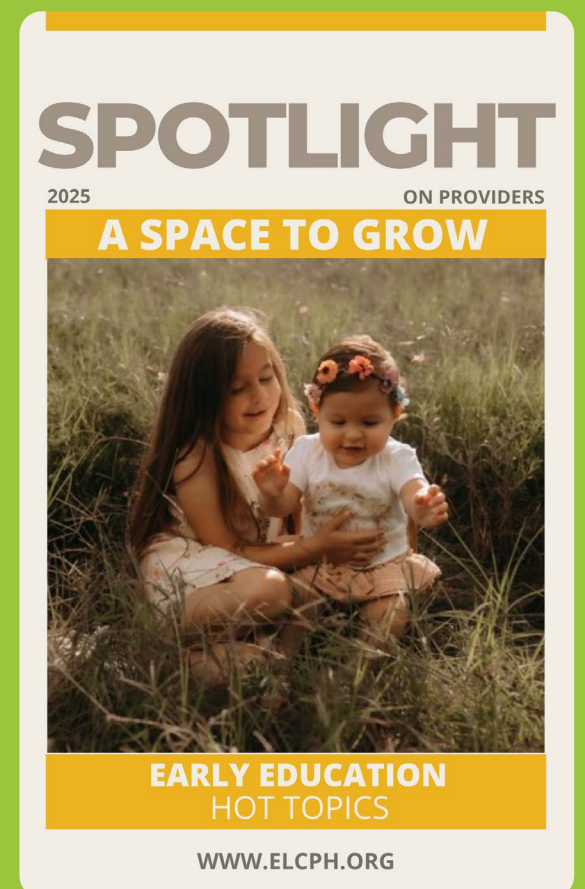
Spotlight on Providers

Childcare providers had the opportunity to contribute to The Coalition’s SPOTLIGHT on Providers, an annual digital publication that highlights local success stories and achievements among providers. Additionally, readers can stay informed on the latest data and news from The Coalition, creating a space for providers to exchange strategies, best practices, and insights with their community.

Growing Connections

Educator and Family Newsletters

Two digital newsletters, Seeds of Knowledge and The Parent Circle, were launched to strengthen connections across our early learning community. Seeds of Knowledge, distributed bi-weekly, keeps more than 2,000 early childhood professionals informed about upcoming training opportunities and educational resources. The Parent Circle, a quarterly publication, reaches over 5,000 subscribers with valuable insights on early learning topics and practical strategies to nurture strong parent-child relationships. Together, these newsletters empower educators, parents, and families with knowledge and inspiration, cultivating a more informed and connected community.



Provider Supports



The Promise Institute encourages successful outcomes for children by equipping early childhood educators with accessible, high-quality professional development tools. Through a thoughtfully curated selection of trainings, workshops, and educational resources, educators can deepen their skills and support their professional growth. The variety offered allows educators to choose resources tailored to the age groups they teach and their specific roles, including directors and providers. The Institute also extends its impact to families by offering educational courses for parents.

THE PROMISE INSTITUTE PROVIDED

217 Training Sessions **3,503** Educators & Families Trained

Early Childhood Credentialing Programs

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, in partnership with Pasco County Schools through Marchman Technical College, to offers two programs in which early childhood educators can obtain their Florida Staff Credential (Florida Equivalent CDA).

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION APPRENTICESHIP

This program enables individuals currently working in early childhood education to gain hands-on experience while completing coursework.

47 Apprentices Obtained An Early Childhood Professional Credential

600-HOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

This 18-week program offers students weekly instruction combined with practical, hands-on field experience.

14 Students earned Early Childhood Professional Credential

FLORIDA DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIAL COURSE

This 8-week course explores the role of an early childhood director, and the responsibilities involved in managing a childcare center. It also focuses on effective time management, strategic planning, and goal-setting practices specific to early childhood program leadership.

34 Educators received Florida Director's Credential

CHILDCARE EDUCATION INSTITUTE CDA PROGRAM

This online program enables educators to complete the required 120 hours of CDA coursework at their own pace, offering flexibility and convenience while pursuing their credential.

27 Educators Began Their Journey
14 Educators Supported By United Way Of Hernando County

T.E.A.C.H Wrap

To promote higher education, the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties offers financial support to early educators and sponsors participating in the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship program. This assistance enables early educators to pursue degrees in early childhood education, advancing their professional growth and expertise.

5 Number of WRAP scholarships provided **\$5,184.34** Number of WRAP scholarships provided

LENA Grow

The LENA Grow program has continued to empower educators across Pasco and Hernando counties by encouraging high-quality meaningful language interactions through a supportive, data driven improvement system.

21 Educators **15** Participating Classes

Early Literacy

The Early Literacy Initiatives support families and providers in preparing children for kindergarten with strong reading readiness skills. In partnership with Pasco and Hernando County Libraries, ELCPH hosted Virtual Storytimes and participated in statewide and national literacy events, including Literacy Week and Read for the Record.

18 Virtual Events

8,835 Children Participated And Books Distributed

Making Accreditation Possible (MAP)

The Making Accreditation Possible (MAP) program supports providers at every stage of the accreditation process by offering personalized guidance and easing financial challenges. Through direct collaboration with Coalition staff, providers receive tailored coaching, needs assessments, and assistance with accreditation fees. All School Readiness Providers who are interested in obtaining Gold Seal Accreditation are eligible for recruitment.

12 Gold Seal Providers Accredited



Provider Services

CLASS Observations

When evaluating and improving teacher-student interactions, Coalition staff members use The CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) assessment. This research-driven tool focuses on Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support, CLASS promotes warm, engaging learning environments that support children's social, emotional, and academic development.

111 School Readiness (SR) Providers CLASS Observed

209 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Providers CLASS Observed

661 Classrooms Assessed

Providers by Provider Type

PROVIDER TYPE	TOTAL PROVIDERS	SR ONLY	VPK ONLY	BOTH
Licensed Private Centers	202	40	38	124
License-Exempt Centers	11	9	1	1
Large Family Child Care Homes	13	10	1	2
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	17	17	0	0
Private Schools	7	2	5	0
Public Schools	46	0	46	0

Coaching

In January, the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando launched a collaborative, strength-based coaching program for childcare providers to support the implementation of high-quality early childhood practices. Using the TORSH data system, coaches document observations, track provider progress, and tailor support to individual needs. TORSH also facilitates ongoing communication, goal setting, and reflection through a centralized platform for video observations, feedback, and data-driven decision-making.

21 Educators Participated

188 Coaching Goals Mastered

Monitoring

The Contract and Compliance team at the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties monitors contracted School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs to ensure compliance with contract requirements.

School Readiness (SR) Provider Monitoring Sample of 119 contracted SR Providers monitored and 257 desk reviews conducted.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Monitoring 205 VPK Providers monitored.

Instructional Support

The Instructional Support Department manages Warm Line requests using the Brookes Ages and Stages Developmental Screening System to help identify children's developmental needs. The Coalition offers technical assistance, coaching, and training related to developmental delays, disabilities, social-emotional concerns, and special health needs. Staff also provide on-site support for behavior strategies, individualized plans, classroom adaptations, and family referrals.

186 Referrals made to partnering agencies

807 Intervention Practice Plans

4,775 ASQ3 and ASQ-SE2 screenings completed



Children & Families Served



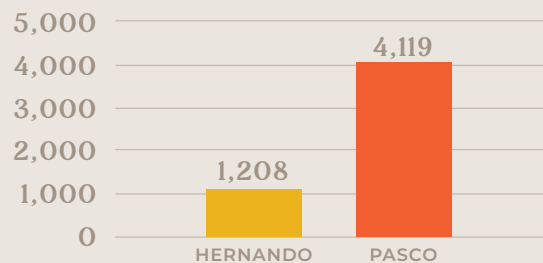
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is a free, confidential service that helps families find quality early learning and school-age care programs. Trained Coalition staff offer personalized support, including provider listings, guidance on child development and age-appropriate practices, connections to community resources, and information on financial assistance.

8,463 CCR&R Intake Requests

School Readiness

The School Readiness Program provides financial support for quality early education to low-income families with children from birth through age 12. In 2024–2025, the program served 5,327 children from families residing in Pasco and Hernando Counties.

SCHOOL READINESS ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY

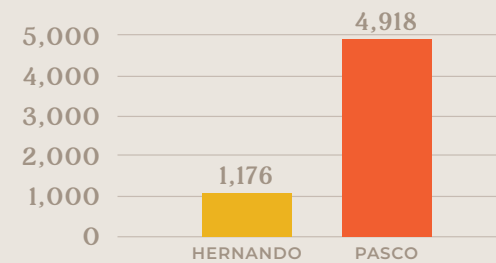


Florida VPK

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program is a free educational program for all four-year-olds in Florida born on or before September 1. Its goal is to provide early learning experiences that prepare children for kindergarten. In 2024–2025, the Coalition served 6,094 children through the VPK Program in Hernando and Pasco Counties.

*An additional 45 children participated in VPK-SIS, an alternative to traditional VPK that provides Individualized Education Plan (IEP) support such as speech, occupational, and behavioral therapies.

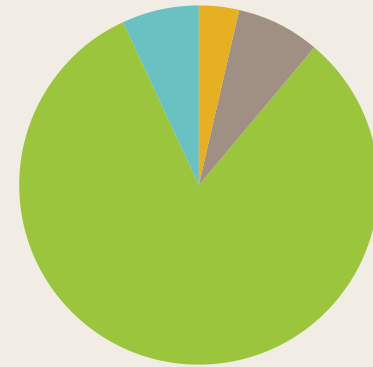
VPK ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY



Fiscal Summary

School Readiness Expenditures

Administration- 3.84%
Quality- 7.54%
Direct Services for Children – 81.94%
Non-Direct Expenditures – 6.68%



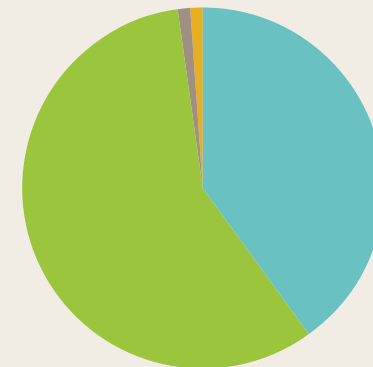
VPK Expenditures

Administration – 4%
Direct Cost Slots – 96%



2024-2025 Operating Budget

VPK – 40.97%
SR Local Match Funds – 0%
School Readiness – 58.97%
Local Grants – 0.05%
Donations – 0.01%



The Year In Photos



The Year In Photos



Visit our website at www.elcph.org



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