

# Early Learning Consortium

## Legislative Priorities for 2019

Florida's Early Learning Consortium is committed to ensuring that Florida's early learning system is high quality and affordable, is accountable and equitable for providers, affords informed parental choice, ensures competent teachers, and imposes no unfunded mandates to achieve our shared vision of success for Florida's children.

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### Accountability

Support implementation of the provisions of **HB 1091** from the 2018 Legislative Session to ensure differential payments and professional development are made available to child care providers.



### VPK Assessment

Establish parameters for the procurement of a VPK Readiness assessment that follows the recommendations set forward in the **Committee for Early Grade Success** report to adequately measure learning gains and readiness across all appropriate domains.



### Increased Funding

An increased investment in the **VPK Base Student Allocation (BSA)**, allowing providers to afford the resources necessary for high quality programming.



### T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships

An appropriation of **\$10 million** to fund approximately 8,000 T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to increase the number of lead teachers in early learning with child development credentials.



### Help Me Grow

An overall appropriation of **\$4.5 million** to fund current Help Me Grow Affiliates and expand to additional counties to provide comprehensive and coordinated services statewide promoting the healthy development of children.



### WAGE\$

An appropriation of **\$525,000** to fund the infrastructure for Early Learning Coalitions to opt-in to Child Care WAGE\$ using their quality dollar allocations enabling approximately 3,000-3,500 early childhood educators, access to education-based salary supplements.

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**The Early Learning Consortium** is a group of key influential early learning leaders that have organized to work together and improve Florida's early learning system benefiting the hundreds of thousands of children served annually. Comprised of early learning provider associations, funders and subject-matter experts, the Early Learning Consortium provides recommendations to state leaders and policymakers that advance the system and improve outcomes for children.

- Association of Early Learning Coalitions
- Children's Forum, Inc.
- Florida Association of Child Care Management (FACCM)
- Florida Children's Council
- Florida Head Start Association (FHSA)
- The Children's Movement of Florida
- United Way of Florida