

6M-9.200 School Readiness Plus Program.

(1) Purpose. The School Readiness (SR) Plus Program is a program for current SR families transitioning off SR services to assist in economic self-sufficiency.

(2) Eligibility. During the annual SR eligibility redetermination process conducted by an Early Learning Coalition (coalition), a working family, as defined by Section 1002.81(14)(a)-(b), F.S., who is determined to be ineligible for the school readiness program funds due to family income and whose income exceeds eighty-five percent (85%) of the State Median Income (SMI) but is at or below one hundred percent (100%) SMI, is eligible to participate in the SR Plus Program. Eligibility will be authorized in 12-month increments and the family must redetermine annually. The family must:

(a) Meet all applicable eligibility requirements as outlined in Rules 6M-4.200 and 6M-4.208, F.A.C.

(b) Participate in work activities and submit the documentation identified in subparagraph 6M-4.208(4)(f)6., F.A.C.

(c) Have at least one child between the ages of birth to thirteen (13) years of age.

(d) Be responsible for a copayment for the SR Plus Program that is, at a minimum, at least ten percent (10%) of the family's current income at the time of eligibility determination.

(e) Notify the coalition within fourteen (14) calendar days of any change in address, eligible work activity, family size or family income.

(3) Coalition Responsibilities. A coalition must:

(a) Authorize twelve (12) months of services for an eligible working family in accordance with the family's eligible work activities on a first-come, first-served basis upon initial eligibility determination or redetermination.

(b) Not establish a wait list for the SR Plus program.

(c) Provide the parent with access to the State of Florida's workforce development, benefits management and career planning tool identified in Section 445.009(1)(k), F.S.

(d) Issue payment certificates to eligible families to submit to contracted SR program providers described in Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C., to enroll into the SR Plus Program.

(e) Implement the sliding fee scale provided by the Division of Early Learning to assess a parent copayment based on family size, hours of care needed, and family income. The parent copayment for the SR Plus Program will not decrease during the family's 12-month authorization period.

(f) Reimburse a contracted SR program provider based on a child's care level and unit of care using the current statewide SR reimbursement rates and any applicable differentials, as defined in Rules 6M-4.500 and 6M-4.610, F.A.C.

(g) Monitor SR program providers for compliance with provisions governing the SR Plus Program using the Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract Monitoring Tool pursuant to Rule 6M-4.630, F.A.C.

(4) SR Provider Responsibilities. A child care provider is eligible to serve SR Plus families when it executes and maintains a Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract, pursuant to Rule 6M-4.610, F.A.C. The provider must:

(a) Offer instruction and activities aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Kindergarten.

(b) Implement an approved SR curriculum.

(c) Conduct developmental child screenings.

(d) Participate in annual SR program assessments, as applicable, in accordance with the terms of the statewide provider contract.

(e) Notify the parent of any additional fees the provider will charge and for which the parent will bear responsibility.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02 FS. Law Implemented 1002.935, FS. History--New