

April 24, 2020

Richard Corcoran **Commissioner of Education**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida's Early Learning Coalitions, Early Learning Coalition Board Chairs and Redlands Christian Migrant

Shan Goff, Executive Director FROM:

SUBJECT: Administrative Memorandum 2020-14

We are pleased to provide the following information from the Office of Early Learning (OEL) that contains notifications of interest. Please distribute to others as appropriate.

TITLE, SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF APPLICABLE

In Case You Missed It





www.FLDOE.org f facebook.com/educationFL @EducationFL

Department of Education Increases Access to Child Care Services

 $^\sim$ First responders, health care professionals to receive priority placements $^\sim$

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., April 20, 2020 – The Florida Department of Education's Office of Early Learning (OEL), in coordination with local early learning coalitions, has prioritized and increased access to child care services for first responders and health care professionals. Currently, over 50 percent of Florida's child care facilities are closed due to COVID-19. Many essential professionals, first responders and health care professionals rely on this care for their children, especially those working extended hours to provide medical care to those in need. OEL has created a referral process, in partnership with employers and statewide early learning coalitions to swiftly provide priority access and expedited referrals for children of first responders and health care professionals.

"Our first responders and health care professionals are on the front lines fighting COVID-19," said Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran. "These individuals are critical to providing medical care to those affected by the virus, and finding child care for their own children while performing these life-saving jobs allows them to continue serving the public. The Department of Education is committed to doing everything it can to help first responders

ACTION REQUIRED

In case you missed it, please share this informative press release dated April 20, 2020.

SHAN GOFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING



TITLE, SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF APPLICABLE **ACTION REQUIRED** <u>Department of Education Increases Access to Child Care Services Continued</u> and health care professionals find quality child care services while school campuses are closed. First responders and health care workers needing help finding a child care provider should contact their local early learning coalition for assistance. To find a map of Early Learning Providers throughout the state visit the Office of Early Learning website. These services will be authorized for three months, and the continued need for child care will be reevaluated prior to the end of services. For more information about the Florida Department of Education, visit www.fldoe.org. Please share this ZERO TO THREE informative resource link provided by Early connections last a lifetime Reminder Zero To Three with providers and Crisis brings us together. For many families with children around our country, this families. statement rings truer now more than ever. Our homes have turned into offices and classrooms, cafeterias and yoga studios, and playgrounds and conference rooms. As all of us—young to old—are staying at home to do our part in ending this pandemic. This sudden change has, of course, brought with it a myriad of challenges for the youngest among us—challenges that ZERO TO THREE is uniquely positioned to help address. From the loss of income, to no longer having access to child care, to the ability to secure basic necessities such as food, diapers and safe housing, many families need our help right now. ZERO TO THREE's network of experts, care providers, and practitioners have stepped up by developing critical resources that address the new, unique needs that parents and their young children are facing. Please take a moment to visit zerotothree.org/coronavirus, where you will find resources on topics such as talking about the coronavirus with young children, a guide to self-care, and activities for young children experiencing social distancing. Thank you.

TITLE, SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF APPLICABLE



School Readiness Policy and Program Updates Reminder

Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) and Early Learning Classroom Support System Monthly Webinar

The Office of Early Learning will host a CLASS Initiative Technical Assistance webinar on **Monday, April 27, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.** Please plan to participate for updates and logistics on Florida's CLASS implementation and the Early Learning Classroom Support System.

To register for the CLASS updates and the Early Learning Classroom Support System Monthly Webinar on April 27, please go to

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7592328307017524491

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Attachment - April 1 CLASS Agenda

T.E.A.C.H. - Is Here For You Reminder



Our world is currently facing challenges that we haven't seen in our lifetime. As the number of individuals staying home increases to safeguard the health and well-being of our families and communities, many of us are searching for new ways to be productive.

With the help of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship program, you can do just that! For additional information on this learning opportunity, please see Attachment 2.

<u>Attachment 2 - T.E.A.C.H. is still here for you Final.doc</u>

SG/bb

ACTION REQUIRED

Please share the date and time with your staff and interested stakeholders.



Please contact T.E.A.C.H. at 1-877-FLTEACH (877-358-3224) with your questions.

T.E.A.C.H. Program Specialists and Counselors are here to help.