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Office of
Early Learning

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School Readiness Curriculum Approval Process 2014-2015 Frequently Asked Questions September 2014

Section 1002.82(2)(1), Florida Statutes, requires the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to “Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the performance standards for the school readiness program and establish a process for the review and approval of a provider’s curriculum that meets the performance standards.”

Background

- 1. Who is required to select and implement an approved curriculum?**
Early learning programs receiving school readiness funds are required to select and implement a curriculum from the approved list.
- 2. Is a provider that has a signed contract with an early learning coalition for 2014-15 allowed to continue to use the curriculum referenced in the contract?**
If the curriculum referenced in the provider’s contract is on the OEL approved list, the provider may continue to use it. If not, school readiness providers must select and implement a curriculum from the approved list by December 31, 2014.
- 3. How was the 2014-2015 list of approved curricula developed?**
The list is the result of a comprehensive and rigorous review process conducted by a panel of experts in the field of early childhood education. Review committee members were selected through an application process and trained to evaluate submissions using specified criteria.

School Readiness Providers

- 4. Where do early learning providers designate their curriculum selection?**
School readiness providers report the selected curriculum on the School Readiness Provider Contract paragraph 13 and in Exhibit 1: Provider Location (completed only if there are multiple locations).
- 5. Will financial assistance be available to purchase an approved curriculum?**
OEL will not provide financial assistance to purchase or implement a curriculum from the approved list.
- 6. Are after-school programs serving children in kindergarten-grade 5 required to use an approved curriculum?**
No. Only programs serving children ages birth to 5 years in school readiness programs are required to use an approved curriculum.
- 7. What if the program is required to implement a curriculum from the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) approved list for Low Performing Providers?**
Curricula on the 2013-2014 VPK list for Low Performing Providers are also approved for use in school readiness programs. Curricula used in VPK programs are only approved for use in school readiness providers’ 4-year-old classrooms.
- 8. Are school readiness providers able to use Montessori?**
Yes. School readiness providers may use Montessori as a curriculum with a Montessori-certified teacher in the program.

9. Will the School Readiness Curriculum Approval Process take place each year?

OEL has not established a reoccurring cycle for the curriculum approval process. Information on subsequent cycles may be found on the OEL website.

10. How long will a curriculum remain on the list of approved curricula?

Approved curricula will remain on the list until the Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Five are revised and OEL conducts another curriculum approval process using the revised standards.

11. Where can the 2014-2015 School Readiness Approved Curricula be found?

The list of approved curricula for 2014-2015 may be found on the OEL website at www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider_resources/school_readiness_curriculum.aspx.

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