



October 29, 2025
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Early Learning Coalition of Duval
In Person/Zoom Call

Agenda

11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Welcome	Marcus Rowe
	Chair Report Approval of August 27, 2025 Minutes	Marcus Rowe
11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	CEO Report	Angel Carro
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Town Hall & Small Provider Meetings2. SR SMI 55%3. Provider Grants4. VPK Enrollments5. Federal Shutdown6. Staff Highlights	
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Committee/Workgroup Updates	
	Finance Committee Appeals Committee DELDN	Melanie Patz Sarah Hulsberg Carla Whiteside
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Grants & Projects	Johnna Cooper-Daniels
1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Public Comment/Other Business/ Announcements	

Next Meeting – December 17, 2025



Wednesday August 27 , 2025

In-Person/Zoom Board Meeting 11:30 am

Quorum met 19 of 25 members present

Board Members Present: Karen Feagins, Fionnuala Geoghegan, Christina Gillis, Dr. Tara Haley, Chelsea Harris, Amber Holley, Sarah Hulsberg, Dr. Letisha Jefferson, Maria McNair, Dr. Karen Patterson, Melanie Patz, Jason Roth, Marcus Rowe, Carl Smith, Cheryl Taylor, Vicki Waytowich, Carla Whiteside, Marian Wilcher, LaTanya Wynn-Hall

Board Members Absent: Dr. Christopher Bernier-excused, Carlos Esquivia-Lee-excused, Saralyn Grass-excused, Dr. Maribel Monsalve-excused, Samuel Newby-excused, James Poindexter-excused

Guest: Sonya McSwain-DCPS, Gabriela Silva-Reach Out and Read FL

ELC Staff Present: Angel Carro, Cheryl Benveniste, Lisa Zenoz, Lashonda Hicks, Cathy Odom, Tinesha Byrd, Katy Droubie, Ann Thompson, Bobby Steely, Kathy Wentworth, Catrena Patrick, Latrice Gillis, Sylvia Schmucker, Charlene Gross, Heather Mooney, Sheila Mackey, Carolyn Sabinsky, Johnna Cooper-Daniels, Gwen Carmichael, Rosa Fucci, Catina Jones, Michelle Williams, Erin Jennings, Beverly Lorde, Katy Droubie, Danielle DeCastro, Catina Jones, Latrice Roberts, Khalida Bendolph, Lori Ryals, Gwen Carmichael

Marcus Rowe began the meeting by welcoming everyone.

The June 18, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and Marcus Rowe called for a motion to approve the minutes. Jason Roth made a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE JUNE 18, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Fionnuala Geoghegan seconded and motion was approved by all

Angel Carro presented the CEO report as follows:

- School Readiness Parent Fees
- VPK Accountability
- VPK Campaign
- Staff Highlights

Melanie Patz communicated the financials as follows:

- We are currently serving 8,396 children in SR
- We are currently serving 6,290 children in VPK



- We have 2,107 (1,346 children 0-5) on the waiting list.
- We are currently at 95% return rate for New Enrollment in July.

Melanie Patz discussed Action Item #1: The coalition is seeking the board to approve the three-year renewal contract with Moss Krusik and Associates.

MOTION: TO APPROVE BY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Karen Feagins seconded and motion was approved by all

Melanie gave an overview on Action Item #2: The coalition is seeking the board to approve a contract with TORSH. Melanie Patz made a motion to approve the one year contract.

MOTION: TO APPROVE A ONE YEAR CONTRACT WITH TORSH

Dr. Tara Haley seconded and motion was approved by all

Sarah Hulsberg gave the Appeals committee update with no appeals to report.

Carla Whiteside gave an update on DELDN. The Board was invited to attend the DELDN conference.

Angel Carro gave an update on the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan.

Angel Carro discussed the funding update with the 2025-2026 School Readiness Budget Adjustment as follows

- Childcare slots to decrease the wait list and keep enrollments as high as possible.
- Quality support for childcare providers.
- Three percent staff cost of living and incentive adjustments

A motion to approve the 2025-2026 School Readiness Budget Adjustment. Melanie made a motion to approve

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL READINESS BUDGET
ADJUSTMENT**

Jason Roth seconded and motion was approved by all

With no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tinesha Byrd



CEO Report – October 29, 2025

Town Hall & Small Provider Meetings

We held a virtual provider town hall on 10/15/25. We covered School Readiness funding and enrollments, updates to the CLASS tool, and provider grants.

We held a small provider meeting on 10/22/25 and have another on 10/29/25. We had 13 directors attend. The meeting focused on needing help with special needs children, how to get the special needs rate in school readiness, CLASS assessments, and VPK accountability scores.

School Readiness Eligibility

House Bill 1255 that passed during the 2025 legislative session changed the entry income for the School Readiness program from 150% of federal poverty level to 55% of the state median income as of 10/1/25.

----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family -----

	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
150%FPL	\$ 31,725	\$ 39,975	\$ 48,225	\$ 56,475	\$ 64,725
55% SMI	\$ 38,546	\$ 47,615	\$ 56,685	\$ 65,754	\$ 74,824
85% SMI	\$ 59,571	\$ 73,587	\$ 87,604	\$ 101,620	\$ 115,637

ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — earning above the FPL, but not enough to afford basic expenses in the counties where they live.

Florida Survival Budget, Florida 2023

One Adult, One in Child Care - \$53,052

Two Adults, Two in Child Care - \$86,688

Provider Grants

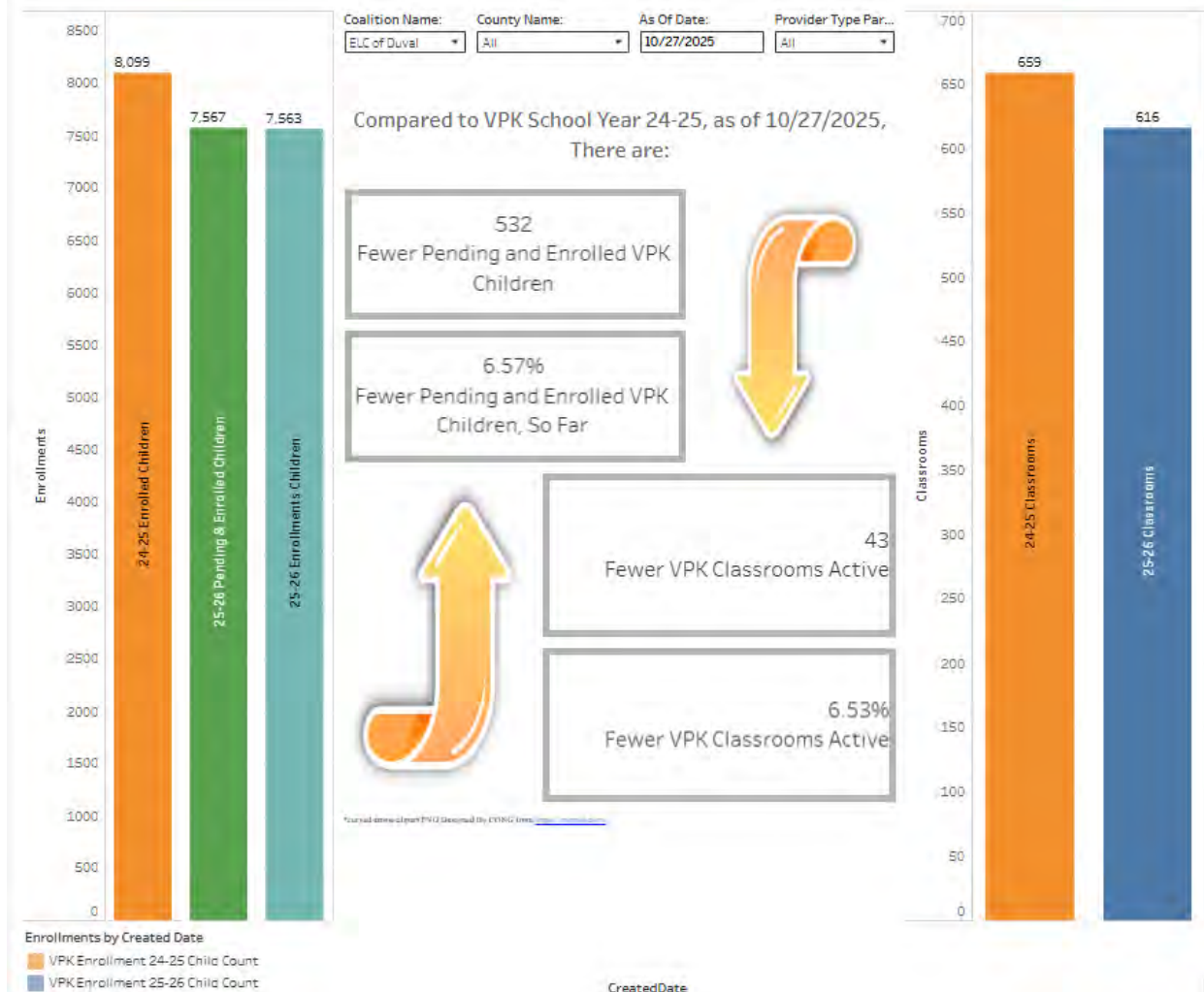
We currently have two grants out for providers. The first is a \$5,000 curriculum grant for VPK providers who were placed in probation because of the VPK accountability score. The second is a School Readiness professional grant. School Readiness contracted providers who did not receive last years grant can apply for the grant that will have a focus on STEAM activities.

Federal Shutdown

As of now, the federal shutdown is not affecting our School Readiness funding. DEL has told us everything is business as usual, and they will let us know if anything changes.



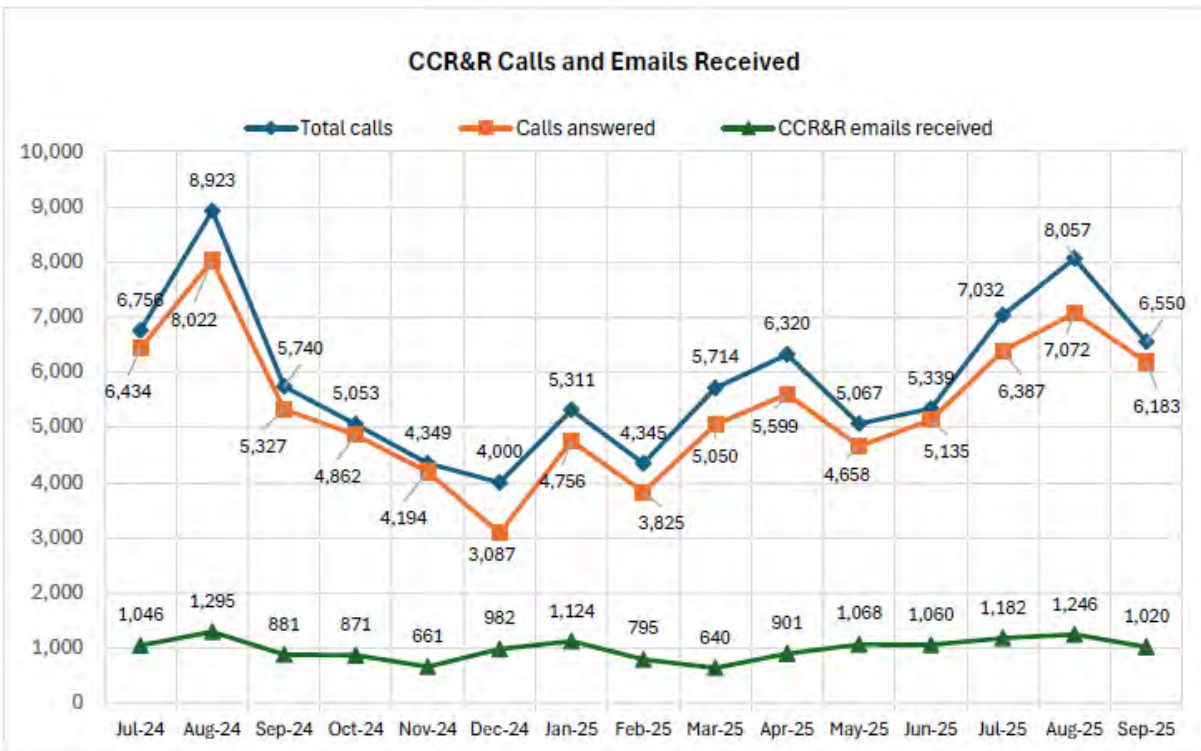
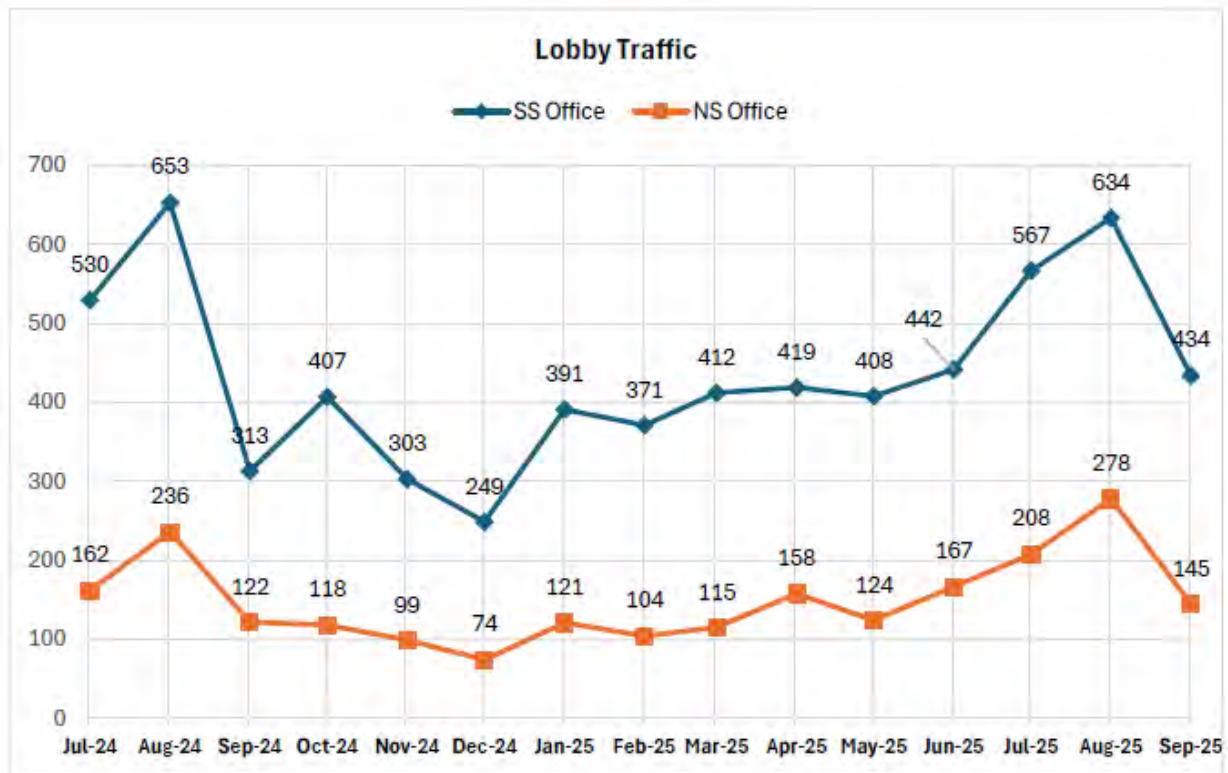
VPK enrollments

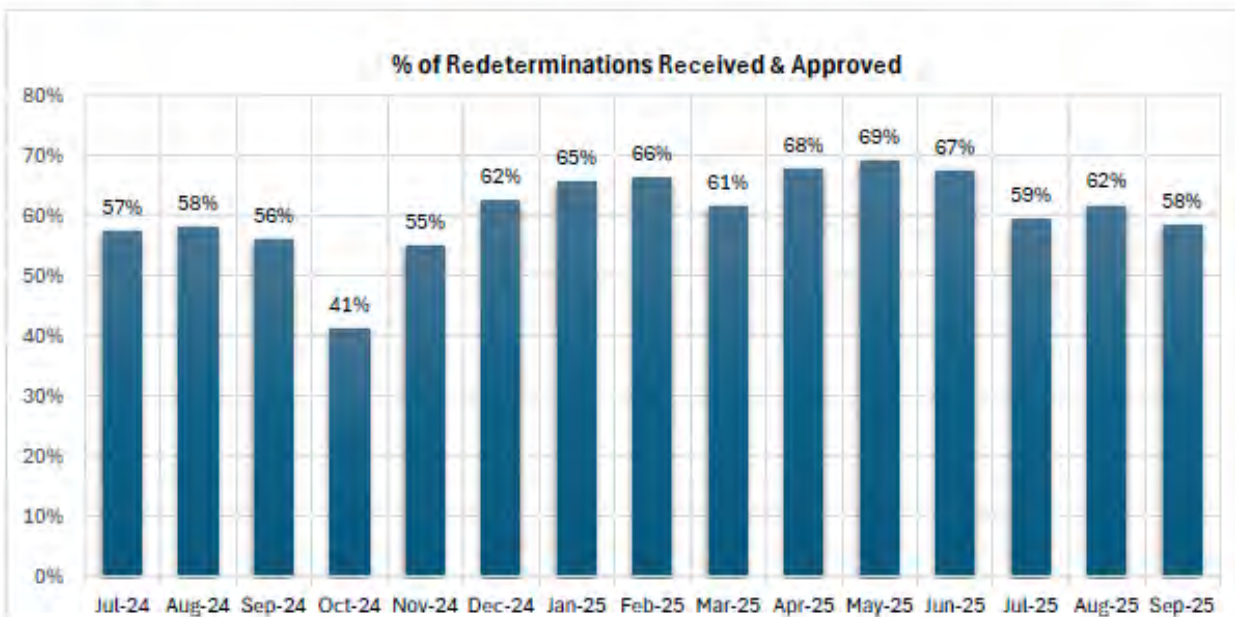
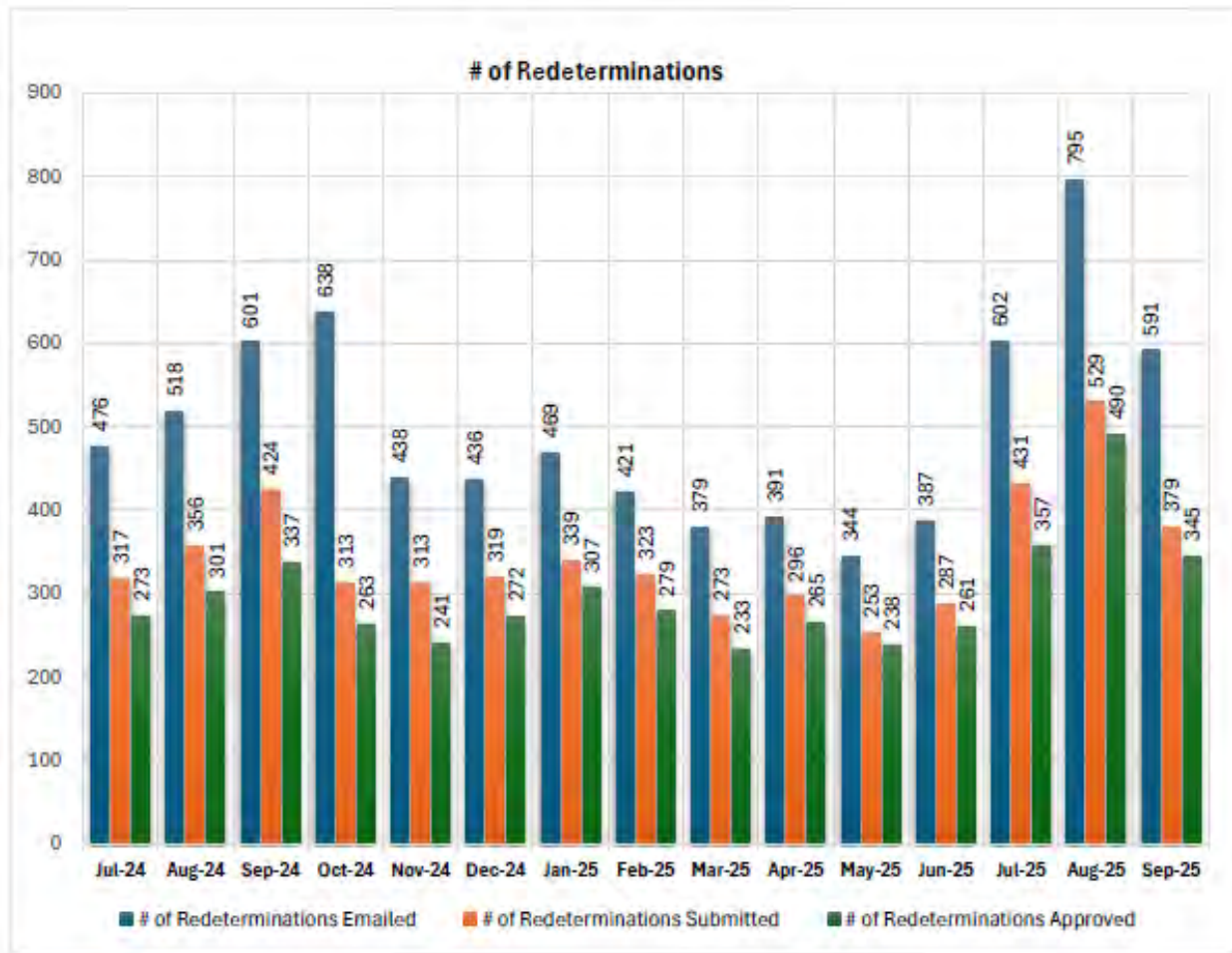


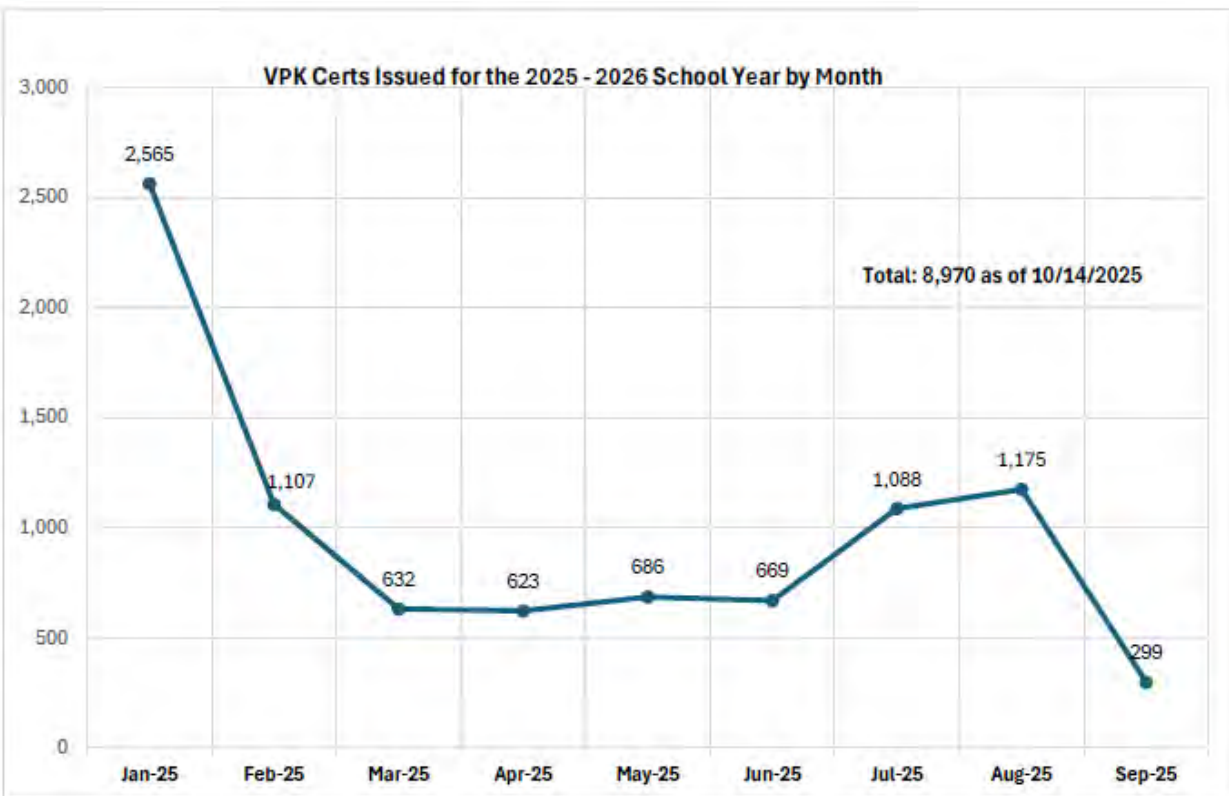
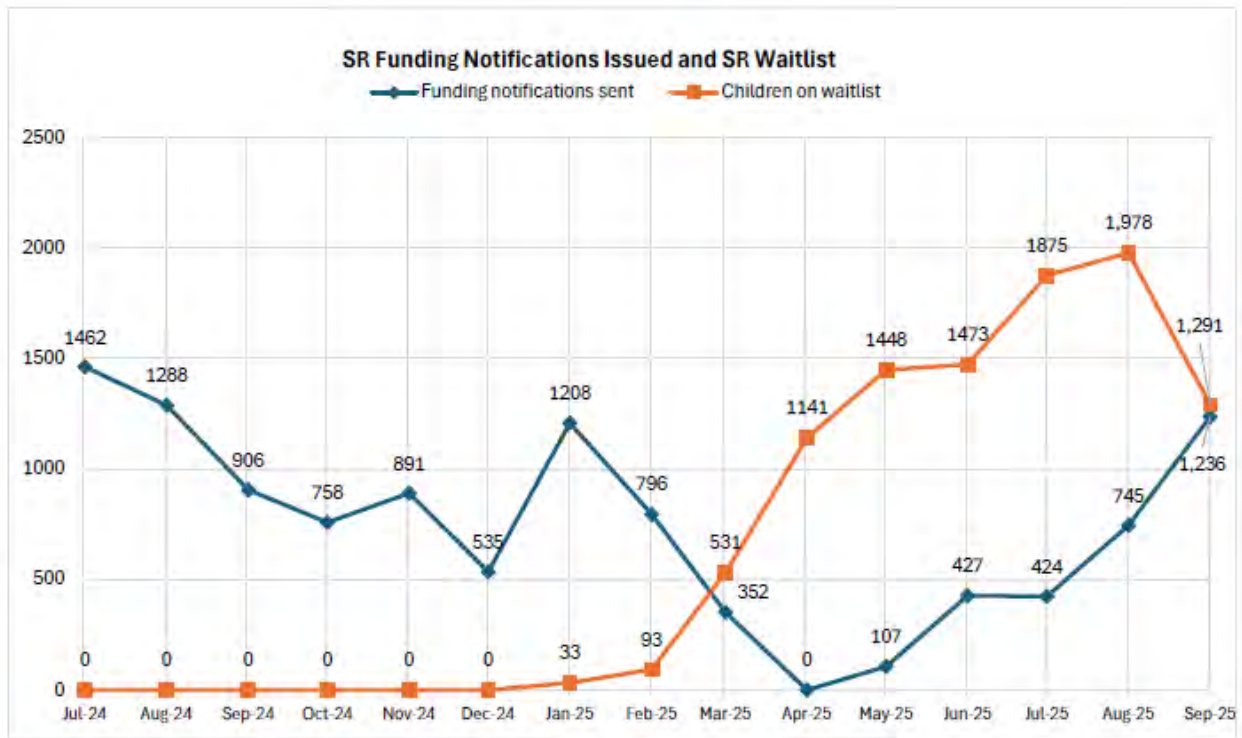
Staff Highlights for the last two months

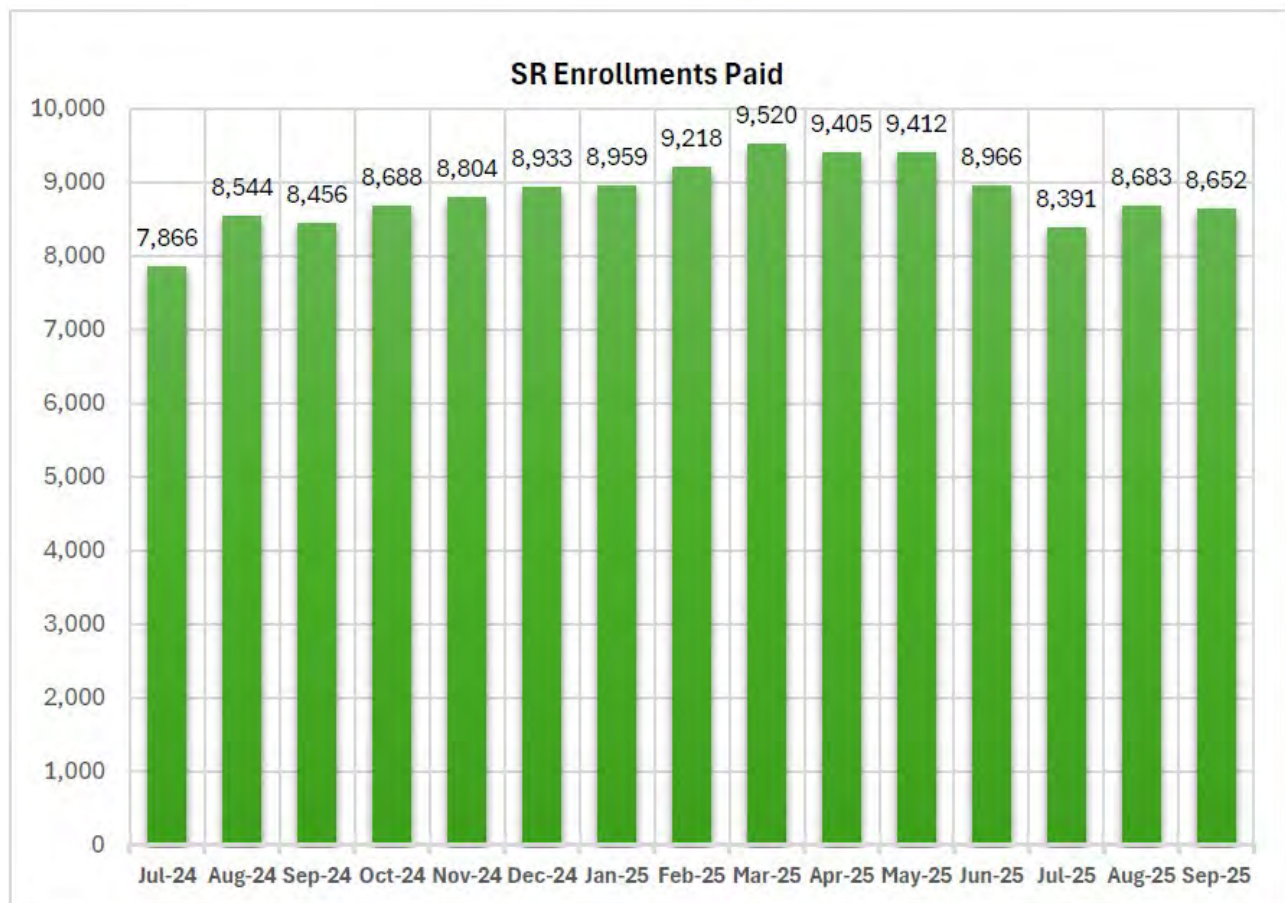
- Professional Development has started offering TA (Technical Assistance) support to our PD participants. If providers need extra support on completing implementation plans or would like additional knowledge on how to implement the content from our training into the classroom, our team is offering TA to the providers. We can conduct TA through center visits or ZOOM/phone calls depending on the preference of our participants.
- We held a very successful "Fall-a-Day" event on 10/25 at Eartha's Farm and Market. 110 Families received \$15 worth of free produce and over 400 children participated in engaging fall-related activities, including decorating pumpkins, making bird feeders, and scare crows. Help me Grow conducted screenings, and CCRR shared resources on VOK and SR with families.
- Keiser University's staff and students held a book drive on our behalf. They collected over 300 new and gently used books for us to share with providers for their share-a-book libraries.

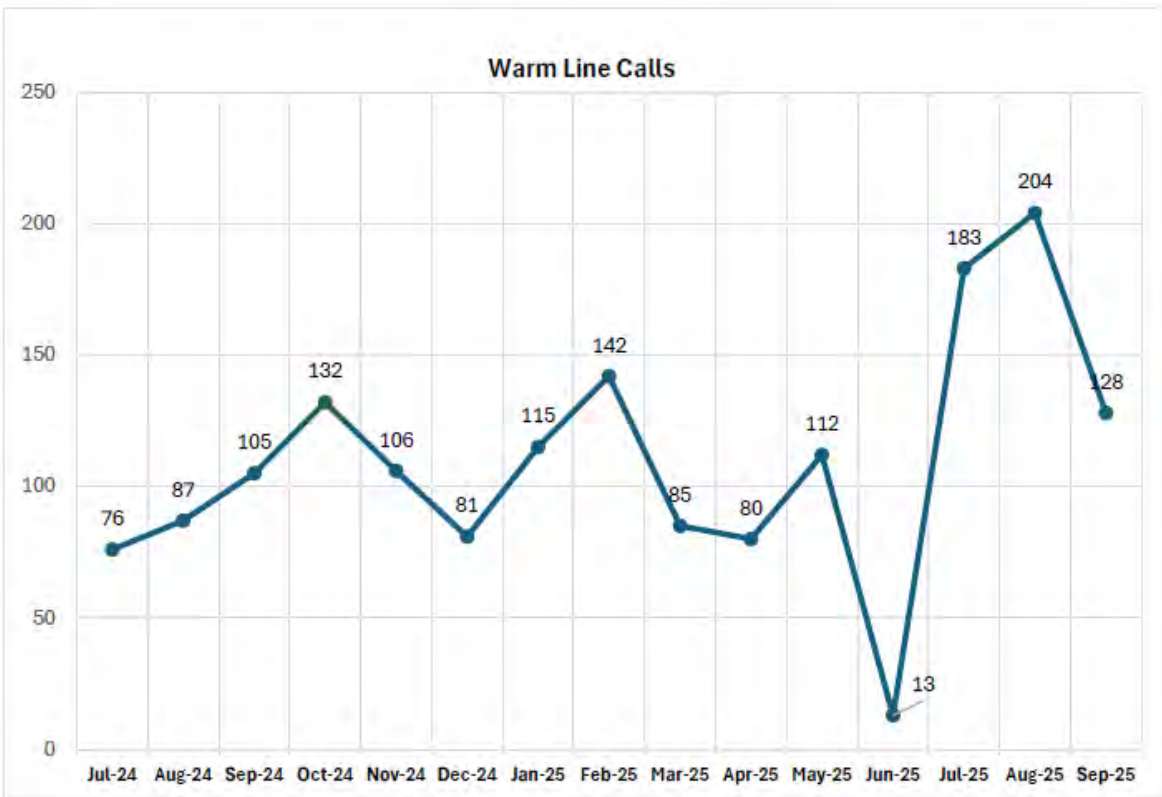
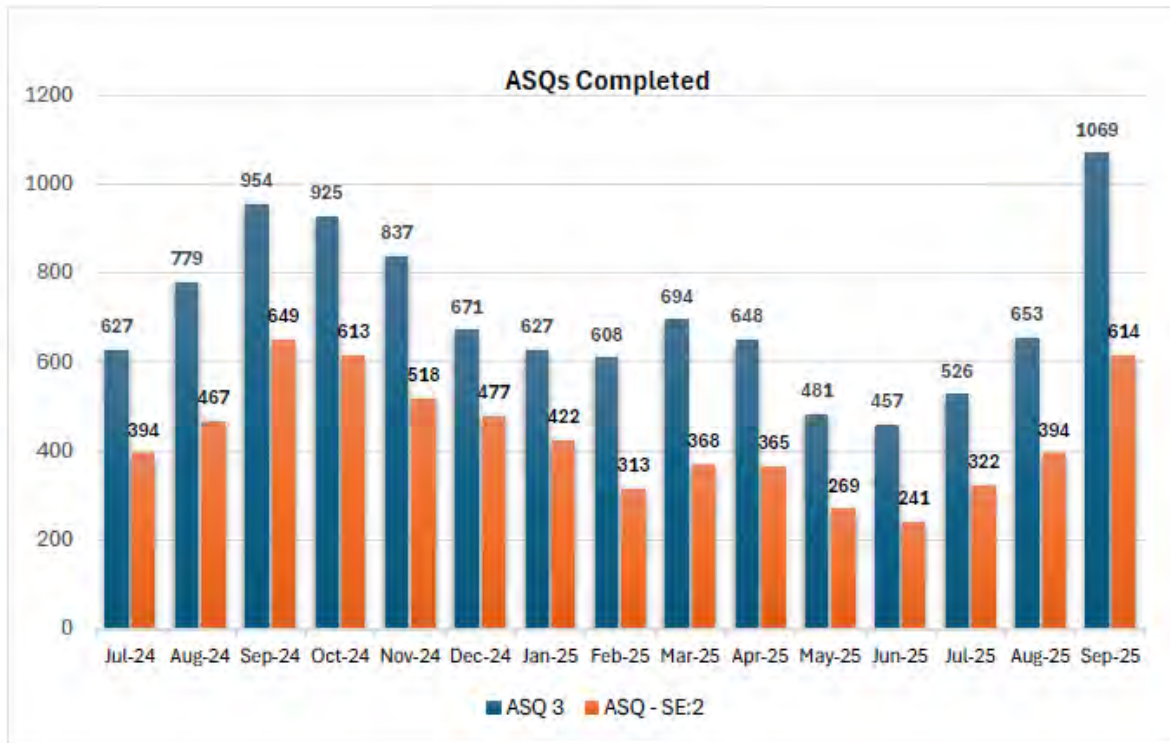
ELC Dashboard

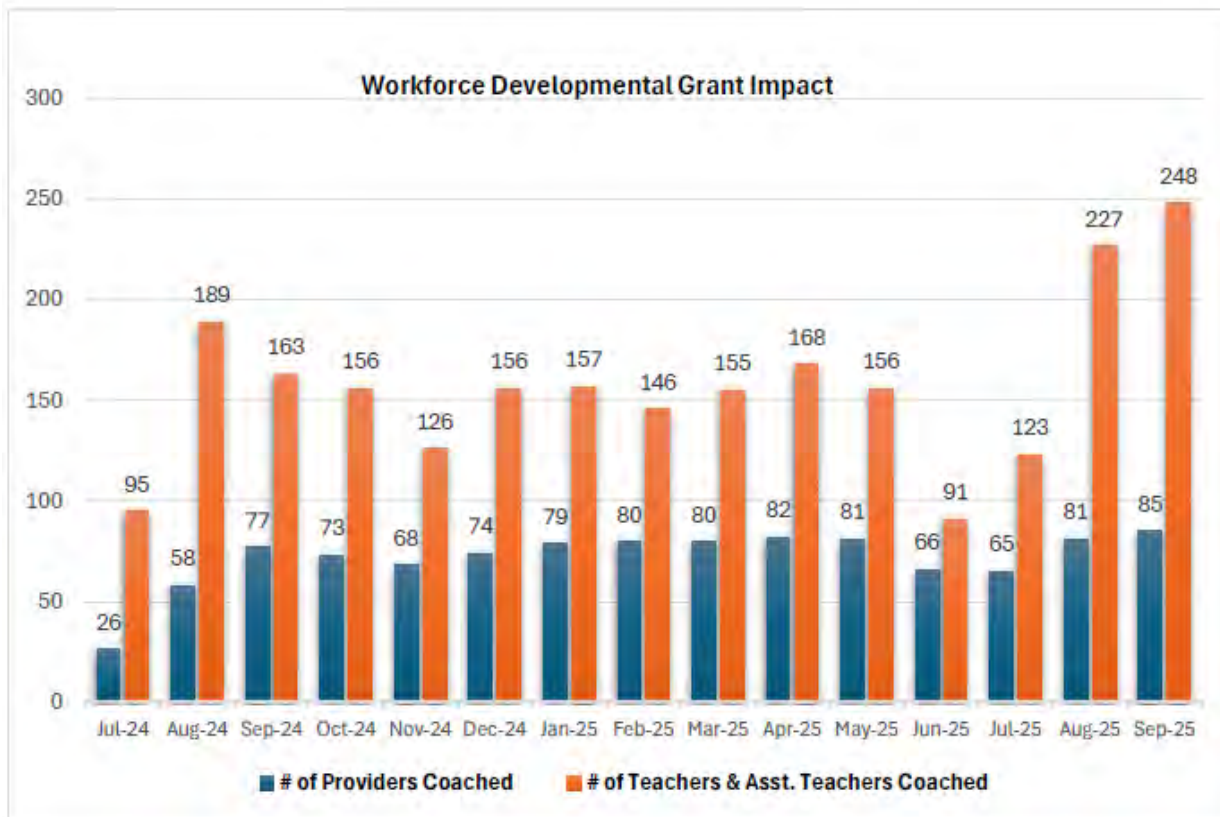
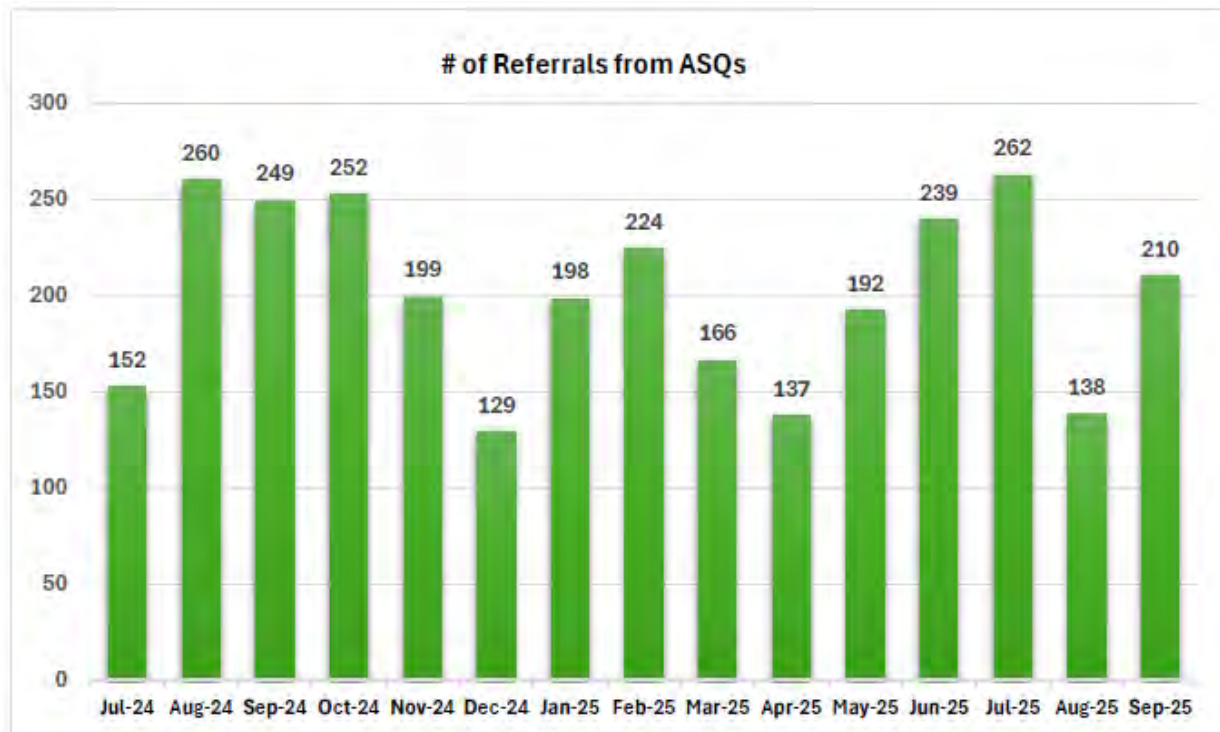


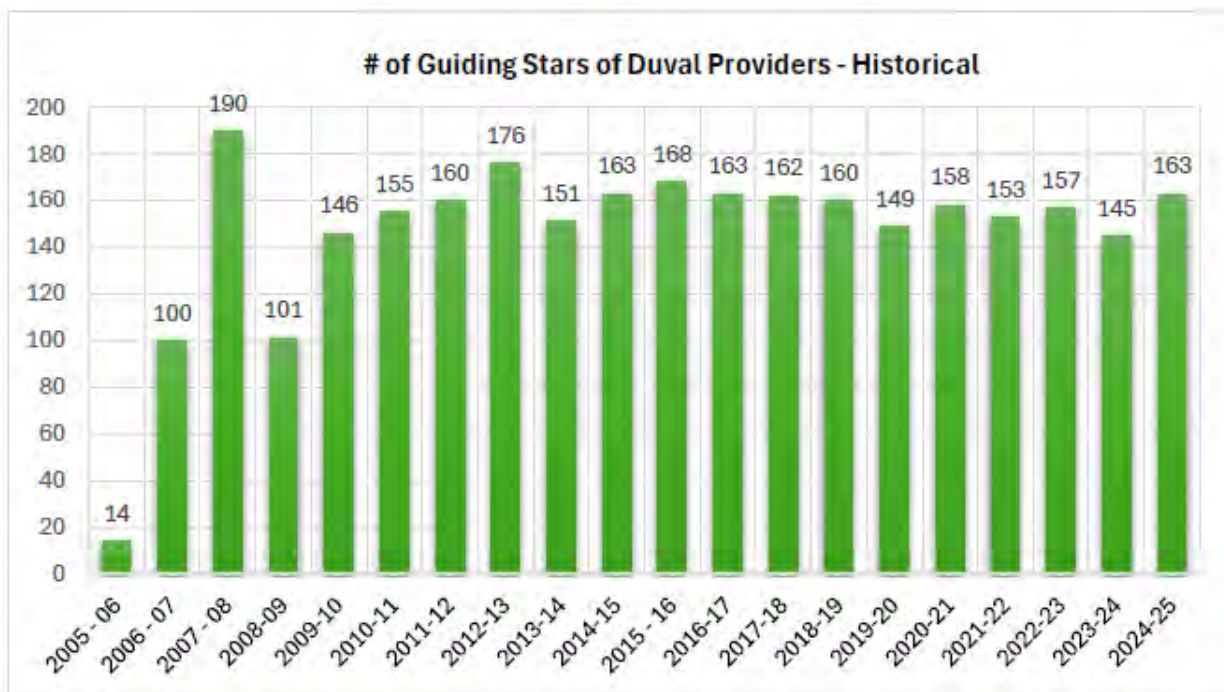
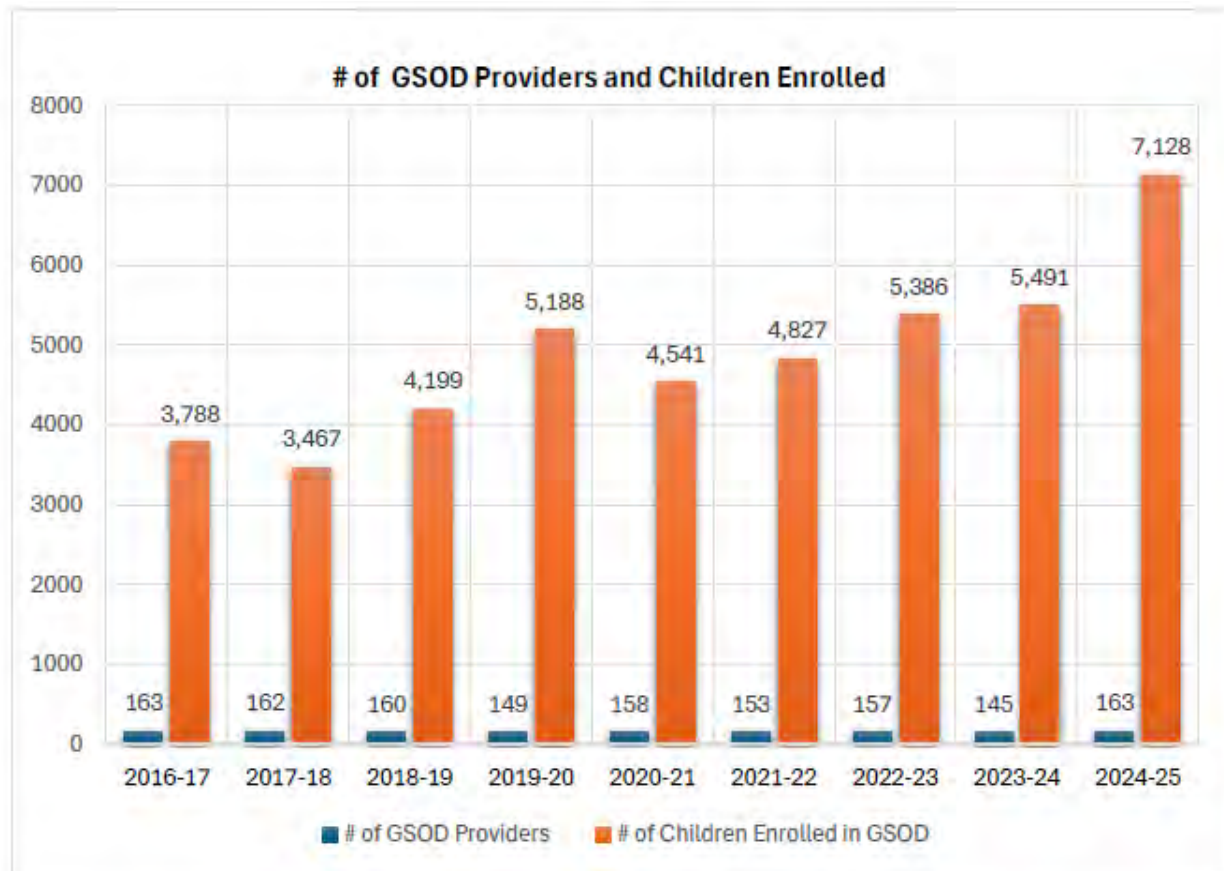












Early Learning Coalition of Duval Finance Summary September 2025

Child Care:

Children Served	September 2025	September 2024	% Change
School Readiness with Match	8,763	8,456	3.6% ↑
SR Plus	21	0	N/A
VPK	7,131	7,585	-6.0% ↓

School Readiness	October 2025	Prior Month	October 2024	% Change from PY
Wait List – Birth through 5	213	137	226	-6% ↓
Wait List – School Age	886	1,060	653	36% ↑
Wait List – Total	1,099	1,197	879	25% ↑

School Readiness	Returned	Approved	% Change
New Enrollments September (974)	86%	50%	N/A
Redeterminations September (591)	66%	57%	N/A

VPK	October 2025	October 2024	% Change
VPK Enrollments	7,231	7,727	-6.4% ↓

- We are currently sending enrollment packets weekly. We are currently sending packets to families through the following application dates:
 - Children *Birth through Five Economically Disadvantaged (BG8 Priority 3)*: 10/14/2025
 - Children *Over Age Nine At Risk DCF Referrals (BG1 Priority 5)*: 10/14/2025
 - Children *School Age Economically Disadvantaged (BG8 Priority 6)*: 08/18/2025
- The 401K Audit was completed, and Form 5500 has been submitted.
- The Single Audit is underway.
- The State Fiscal Monitoring for FY 2024-2025 has begun.

Key	
DEL	Division of Early Learning
SR	School Readiness – Program funded through DEL with Federal and State Dollars
SR Plus	School Readiness Plus Program funded through State of Florida general revenue to extend child care services for families that have exited the SR Program
VPK	Voluntary Prekindergarten – Program funded through DEL with state of Florida general revenue
New Enrollment	Families who are on our waitlist and we are trying to enroll into SR
Redetermination	Current family in SR that is trying to renew their eligibility
Packet	Application sent to SR family to enroll or renew their SR eligibility. May include more than 1 child.

ELC OF DUVAL 2025-2026: School Readiness Slots

20-Oct-25

	Month	Beginning Census	Actual Increase (Decrease)	Ending Census	Care Days In Month	Daily Unit Cost	Avg. Monthly Cost	MONTHLY COST *		Diff
								ACTUAL	PROJECTED	
Actual Projected	JUL	8,966	-575	8,391	23	26.41	607.41	4,978,573	5,096,751	118,179
	AUG	8,391	292	8,683	21	21.82	458.20	3,944,983	3,978,593	33,610
	SEP	8,683	-31	8,652	22	23.04	506.98	4,290,982	4,386,380	95,398
	OCT	8,652	250	8,902	23	22.67	521.50	0	4,642,418	4,642,418
	NOV	8,902	150	9,052	20	23.73	474.51	0	4,295,262	4,295,262
	DEC	9,052	123	9,175	23	22.60	519.89	0	4,770,028	4,770,028
	JAN	9,175	7	9,182	22	23.72	521.83	0	4,791,438	4,791,438
	FEB	9,182	47	9,229	20	23.99	479.83	0	4,428,329	4,428,329
	MAR	9,229	-79	9,150	22	23.43	515.54	0	4,717,147	4,717,147
	APR	9,150	-74	9,076	22	23.40	514.86	0	4,672,836	4,672,836
	MAY	9,076	41	9,117	21	24.54	515.38	0	4,698,723	4,698,723
	JUN	9,117	59	9,176	22	24.57	540.44	0	4,959,088	4,959,088
TOTALS		107,575	210	107,785	261		514.33	13,214,538	55,436,996	42,222,458

Average # Children / Month	8,982
Total Annual Forecasted Cost	55,201,153
Avg Annual Cost Per Child	6,146

State Grant	64,891,113.00
Local SR Match	2,818,893.00
Total	67,710,006.00
78% Minimum Required	52,813,804.68
Current Slot Projection	55,201,152.95
Estimated Match towards 78%	1,011,130.55
Total Direct Services	56,212,283.50
Target Met (YES / NO)	YES

Under / (Over) Slot Requirement (3,398,479)

BUDGET *	55,197,569
FORECAST COSTS *	55,201,153
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(3,584)

Direct Slot Match	1,011,131	
Total Direct Forecast Costs	56,212,283	83.0%
Total Direct Budget	56,208,700	83.0%

QPI Deficit**	(662,619)
Adjusted Surplus / Deficit	(666,203)

Forecasted Direct % Based on Total Grant Spending	82.2%
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*Includes Special Needs and Gold Seal

**To be determined whether additional funds will be provided or if SR will need to cover

Early Learning Coalition of Duval School Readiness 2025-2026 Enrollment Plan

Month	Children
Nov-25	500
Dec-25	400
Jan-26	300
Feb-26	300

Month	Children
Mar-26	200
Apr-26	200
May-26	200
Jun-26	200

ACH Wires released in September 2025

Description	Date	Amount
SR - July 25 Late Rosters	9/3/2025	\$ 10,063.30
VPK - Sept 25 Adv Pay - Late Enroll	9/3/2025	\$ 2,710.01
SB6 - Aug 25	9/3/2025	\$ 1,938.40
Sept 25 Rents	9/3/2025	\$ 22,232.75
Invoice - Eastbound Tech	9/5/2025	\$ 2,695.00
Sept 25 Insurance and invoices	9/11/2025	\$ 142,775.70
SR, FFY, BOPT, KHA Aug 25	9/19/2025	\$ 4,119,916.36
FFY Aug 25 Late Roster	9/19/2025	\$ 1,513.51
Invoice - Eastbound Tech	9/19/2025	\$ 1,738.00
SR Aug 25 Late Banking Info	9/19/2025	\$ 2,845.69
Journey Aug 25	9/22/2025	\$ 42,611.84
UCC-1 Levy - Pearl Capital	9/24/2025	\$ 5,226.51
VPK Aug 25 Act Oct 25 Adv - no DCPS	9/29/2025	\$ 2,277,902.54
SB6 - Sept 25	9/30/2025	\$ 1,482.59

Statement of Financial Position
As of 9/30/2025

	<u>Current Year</u>
Assets	
Cash	<u>266,692.26</u>
Total Cash	266,692.26
Grants Receivable	<u>16,344,963.65</u>
Total Grants Receivable	16,344,963.65
Prepaid Expenses	<u>3,072,986.17</u>
Total Prepaid Expenses	3,072,986.17
Property, Plant, & Equipment	<u>901,005.03</u>
Total Property, Plant, & Equipment	901,005.03
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(469,694.51)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(469,694.51)</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>20,115,952.60</u></u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	<u>8,021,441.55</u>
Total Accounts Payable	<u>8,021,441.55</u>
Other Liabilities	<u>11,562,858.21</u>
Total Other Liabilities	<u>11,562,858.21</u>
Total Liabilities	19,584,299.76
Net Assets	
Beginning Balance	<u>526,907.72</u>
Total Beginning Balance	526,907.72
Current Year	<u>4,745.12</u>
Total Current Year	<u>4,745.12</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>531,652.84</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u><u>(20,115,952.60)</u></u>



Statement of Activities
Month ended 9/30/25

Revenues

Grants	20,961,428.84
Contributions	4,037.67
Other	<u>1,022.00</u>
Total Revenues	20,966,488.51

Expenses

Salaries	1,520,245.59
Benefits	514,886.66
Professional	4,062.38
Contractual & Program	502,662.95
Operational	162,300.39
Asset Purchase	7,366.55
Quality Initiatives	66,864.44
Outreach	2,750.00
Travel	15,070.58
Insurance	3,278.26
Provider Payments	18,113,552.14
Other	<u>48,703.45</u>
Total Expenses	20,961,743.39
Net	<u><u>4,745.12</u></u>

**School Readiness Providers Currently on ELC Probation
Probation and SR/DCF Violations within the past 2 years**

PROVIDER NAME	GSOD	PROBATION PERIOD	CAP(s)	CLASS 1 VIOLATIONS	CLASS 2 VIOLATIONS	CLASS 3 VIOLATIONS
Aunt Barbara's at King Academy	Yes	7/28/2025 - 1/28/2025	0	1	1	2
Childtime Learning Center 317	Yes	6/9/2025 - 12/9/2025	4	0	5	9
Gate Parkway Kindercare	No	1/29/2025 - 7/29/2025 7/30/2025 - 1/30/2026	8	0	13	18
Kid City USA Durbin (Hive and Honey LLC)	No	4/29/2025 - 10/29/2025	1	1	2	5
KidsPark (CSJ Leagacy LLC)	No	9/25/2025 - 3/25/2026	1	1	3	2
Montessori Kids Universe of Baymeadows (no SR in 25-26)	No	5/16/2025 - 11/16/2025	5	0	6	19
Southside KinderCare	No	4/29/2025 - 10/29/2025	5	1	10	15
Wayman Early Learning Academy Westside	No	7/24/2025 - 12/24/2025	1	1	1	5

**School Readiness/VPK Contract Terminations within the past 2 years
Not Eligible for 25-26 contracts due to DCF license status of Probation:**
Arlington KinderCare

~~La Petite St Johns Bluff~~ -completed DCF Probation and is currently contracted with ELC



Grants and Projects

Board Presentation
October 29, 2025

Grants

Memory Lane by Minnie Riperton

- The Florida Department of Education and the Division of Early Learning allocated more than \$1.7 billion in relief funds to keep early care and education providers open and able to safely serve families so they could continue to work.
 - Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (**CARES Act**) funds;
 - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (**CRRSA**) funds;
 - Childcare and Development Block grant funds;
 - general revenue funds;
 - Preschool Development Grant Funds;
 - American Rescue Plan (**ARP**) Act funding

- Grants and Projects Officer Position



ARP Act Funding: Build a Better Workforce Initiatives

Recruit

- Recruitment Bonus
- Health and Safety Bonus
- CLASS Bonus

Upskill

- Early learning directors completing 29 hours of CLASS

Retain

- Child Success Grants
- CLASS Observer Director Training Grants
- Continuous Quality Improvement Grants



State and Local Provider Grant Opportunities

2023-24

ARP Act Early Learning Discretionary Grant Program

2024-25

Professional Learning Training Grant

2025-26

Professional Learning STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Grant



Projects

1. Council for Professional Recognition

Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) Observations

2. University of Florida Lastinger Center

Lastinger Learning Courses

3. LENA Grow

All About LENA Grow | LENA

- Through ARPA funding, ELC of Duval has a contract with LENA Grow to serve a total of 300 classrooms from February 1, 2024, through August 1, 2027.
- As of October 2025, the ELC of Duval has served:
 - **27** centers and family childcare homes,
 - **111** classrooms,
 - **172** teachers and administrators, and
 - over **1200** infant, toddler and preschool children.

LENA
GROW®





Guiding Stars of Duval and LENA Grow

- 88% of the Guiding Stars of Duval centers that participated in the LENA Grow program either maintained or improved their star rating for the 2025-26 program year.
- Guiding Stars of Duval centers that were rated for the first time and participated in the LENA Grow program achieved at least a 4-star rating.

CLASS Assessment Data



Center	Pre-LENA Grow CLASS Composite Score	LENA Grow Intervention Completion Date	Post-LENA Grow CLASS Composite Score
Every Child Can Learn	4.83 (4.9.24)	May 2024	5.21 (4.16.25)
St. Thomas Child Development Center	5.06 (10.26.23)	August 2024	5.0 (9.20.24)
J'Bear Learning Center	5.03 (9.11.24)	February 2025	4.61 (9.18.25)
Beyond the Books Learning Academy	4.81 (12.19.24)	February 2025	5.36 (10.9.25)
Jones FCCH	5.64 (9.15.24)	March 2025	5.61 (10.1.25)

Testimonials

Participating in the LENA Grow program helped me with the ability to reflect on and restructure my instructional strategies and change my daily practices and development goals. This also empowered me to develop intentional (just for my children), emotional (centered around that child) responsive learning areas that support each child's growth.

- *Wonza Smith, Owner of Smith Family Day Care Home*

LENA training was one of the best professional development trainings we have had at our school. It gave our staff insight into how they could improve their conversations with their students and develop back and forth conversations. Every teacher was profoundly impacted by the training and looked forward to LENA day when they would receive feedback.

- *Kristie O'Keefe, Director of Learning Ladders Preschool*

When I was offered the opportunity to be one of the first to try the program, I was excited. This program gave me the opportunity to really see how many words me and the children said in the course of the day. That was amazing itself to know that we were talking so much and not even realizing how much. It also showed me that some children were talking back and forth more than others. This program also gives you time to practice back and forth conversations which you need to be doing daily.

- *Katarwa Buckman, Director of Buckman Early Learning Academy*



Testimonials

Since starting the LENA Grow Project, I've noticed a big shift in how I communicate with my toddlers. I've become more intentional about using descriptive language during routines like diaper changes, meals, and playtime. The program helped me realize how powerful those everyday moments are for building vocabulary and encouraging back-and-forth conversations—even with our youngest learners who are just beginning to talk.

- Teacher from Deerwood Academy

Participating in the LENA Grow Program made a tremendous impact on both the teachers and myself as the operator. Implementing the program was a truly rewarding experience. We learned the importance of continuously engaging in meaningful conversations with children rather than simply talking to them.

- Myrna Wright, Owner/Operator of J'Bear Learning Center

The experience was truly an awakening experience for me. It shows how I must expound on my teaching abilities on communicating with children and how much children like to communicate if given more conversational activities. Their vocabulary increases as well as how they express their ideas. LENA Grow allowed me to be more intentional.

- Ms. Nache, Teacher, All About God's Children Academy

Future Considerations

Survivor by Destiny's Child



- Continue Professional Learning Grants
- Extend LENA Grow contract based on outcomes (2 years)



Thank you

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