



Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. 2010-2011 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

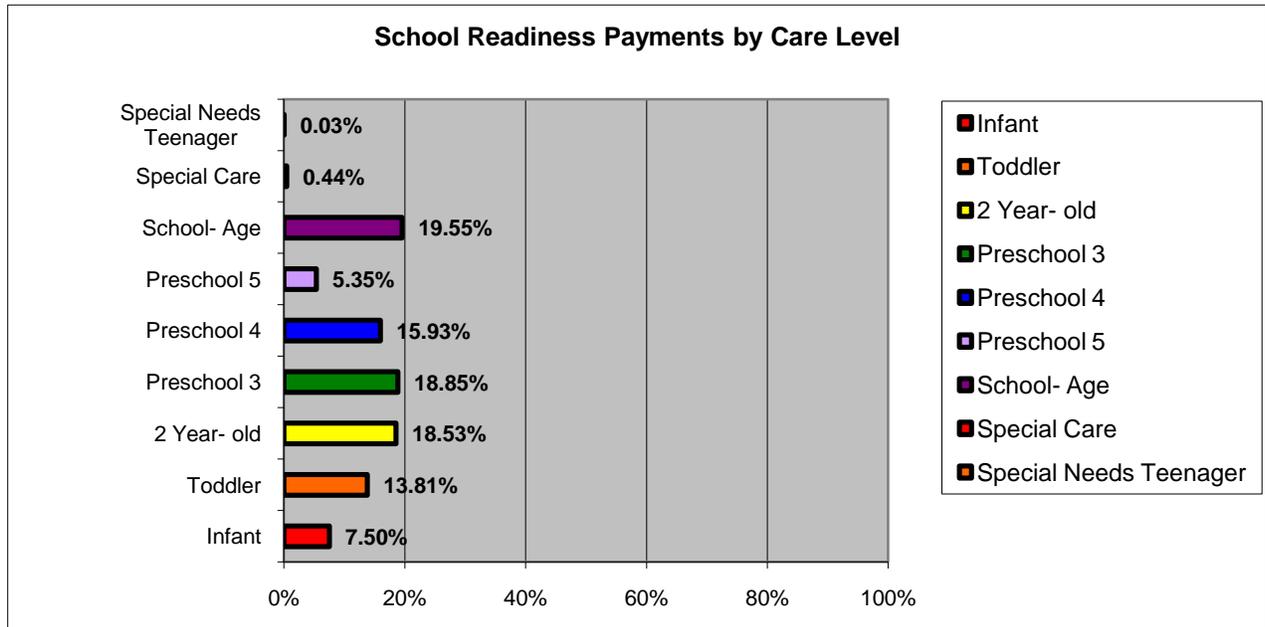
The mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. is to provide leadership and oversight for School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Programs ensuring children have the opportunity to benefit from the quality of early learning environments.

Data Summary: The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011.

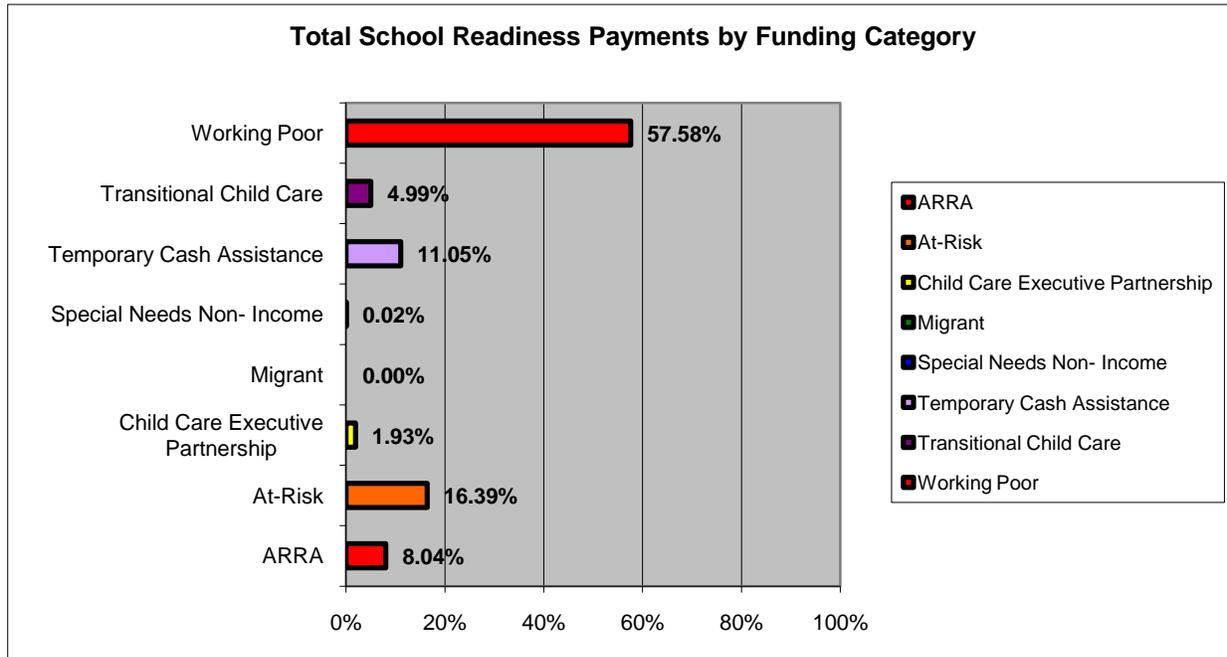
Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

6,648	SR Families
6,648	4,094

School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:



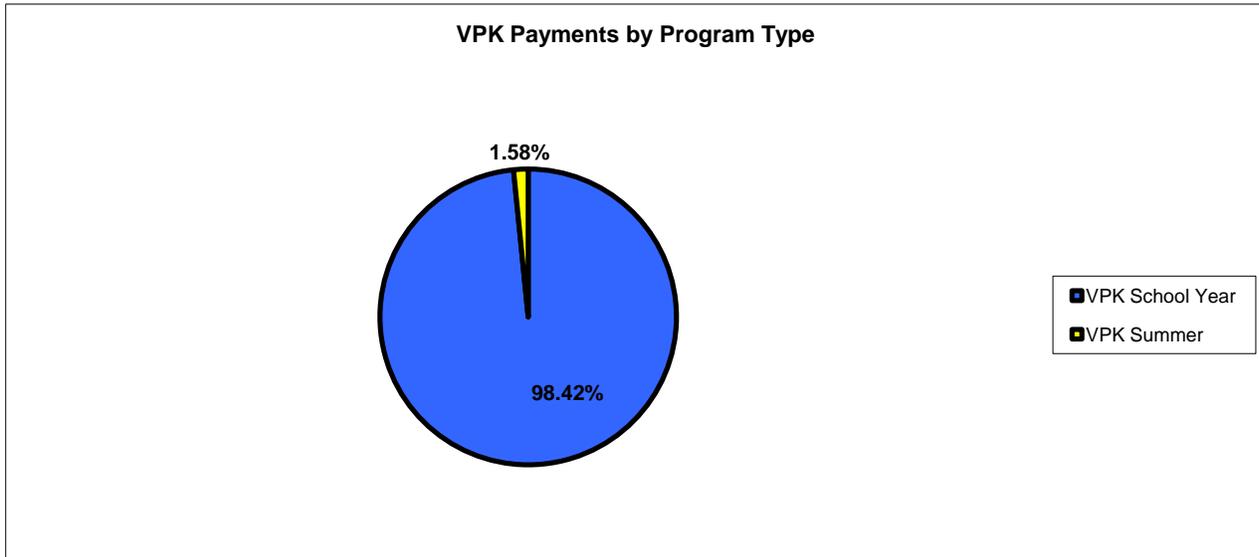
School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:



Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

VPK Children	VPK Families
4,815	4,736

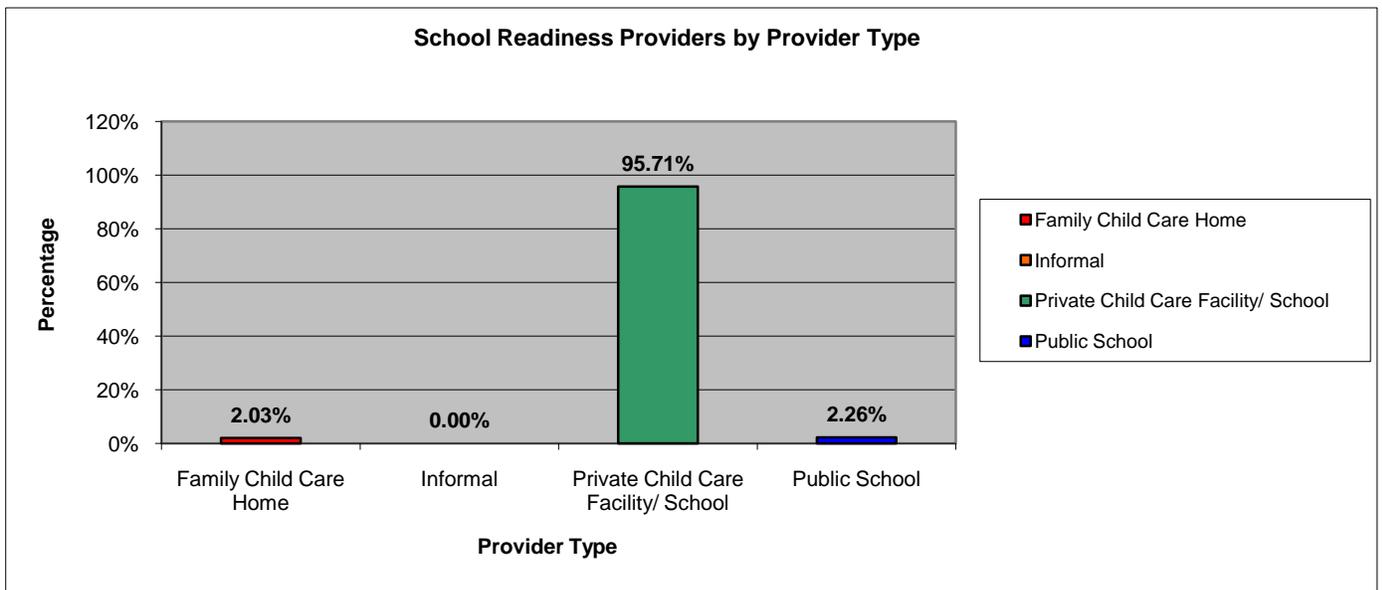
Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:



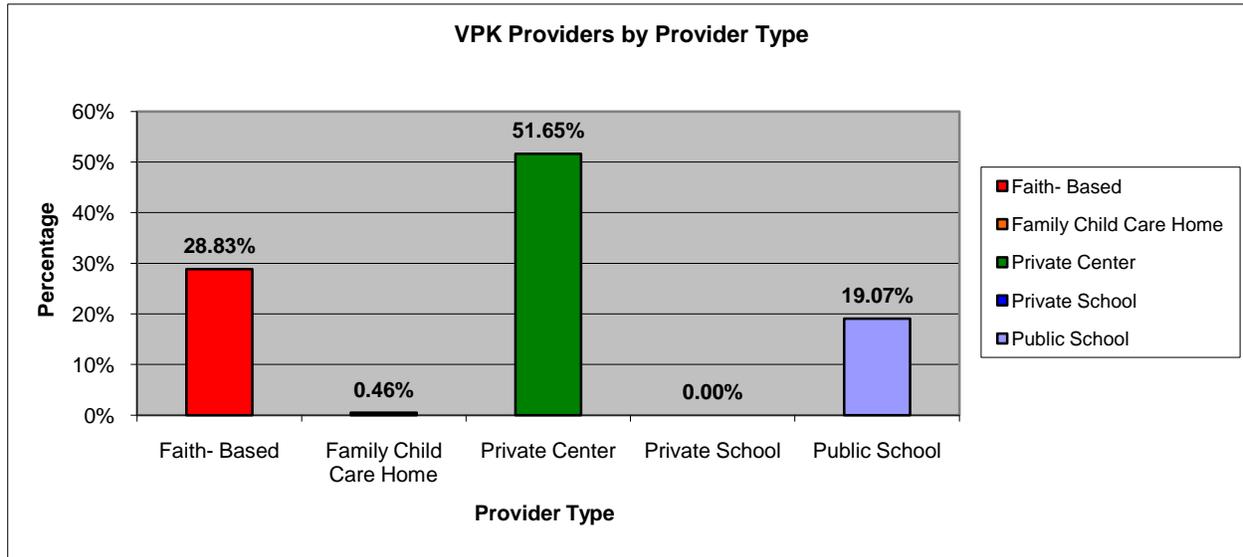
Total number of providers that participate in the coalition’s early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
193	196

Participating School Readiness providers by provider type:



Participating VPK providers by provider type:



Service Delivery Summary:

During fiscal year 2010 – 2011, the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. continued to administer the following services in-house:

- School Readiness and VPK eligibility
- School Readiness and VPK provider reimbursement
- School Readiness and VPK provider eligibility and compliance monitoring
- Screening and assessment
- Inclusion services
- Child Care Resource & Referral

Throughout the same fiscal year, the Coalition contracted program assessment responsibilities (Environment Rating Scale) and some aspects of provider training to the Florida Children’s Forum. In addition, the Coalition provided funding to the local Brevard County School District for the Florida First Start Program.

Quality Activity Summary:

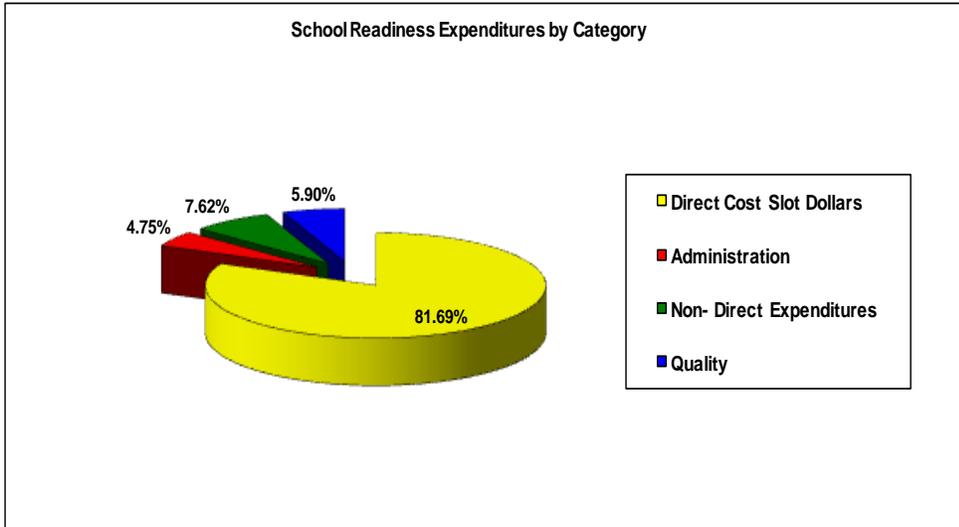
Activity	Narrative
What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?	<p>The Coalition continues to administer Brevard County's Child Care Resource and Referral program. CCR&R provided parent education and information regarding the selection of quality child care environments as well as information about a wide variety of additional community resources that are available.</p> <p>Coalition staff provided information to families about the VPK program at the approximate 20 VPK round ups held from March through August 2011. Staff provided information to families about how to check VPK provider readiness rates, the structure of the VPK program as well as discussing other child care services available such as the School Readiness program.</p>
Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.	<p>The Coalition continued to support the continued professional development of early childhood educators. The Coalition continued to fund the Learn to Earn program as well as the Higher Learning Stipend Program. Learn to Earn provides a stipend to teachers based on their attendance at a variety of early childhood education related trainings attended during the year. The Higher Learning Stipend Program provides reimbursement for higher education coursework and materials that support continuing education in the field of early learning.</p> <p>The Coalition provided scholarships for a select number of family child care providers to attend the Florida Family Child Care Association Conference in June 2011.</p> <p>The Coalition continued to operate the Provider Store during FY 10.11. Provider Store vouchers with designated point values are awarded to providers throughout the year as a way to acknowledge compliance and "above and beyond" activities that they do throughout the year. At designated times, providers are able to "cash in" their vouchers for items that can be used in their classrooms and are related to achieving high standards of quality as</p>

<p>Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>measured on the Environment Rating Scale.</p> <p>Child care providers in Brevard County are licensed by the local Department of Health Environmental Health office. In addition to the local licensing agency being represented on the Coalition’s board of directors, Coalition staff continued an open, communicative, respectful working relationship with licensing staff. The regular communication as assisted both agencies by ensuring that everyone involved has up to date and accurate information.</p> <p>In addition to the monitoring for compliance conducted by Brevard’s local licensing agency, the Coalition also monitors providers for compliance and consistency with School Readiness attendance as well as monitoring of VPK providers.</p>
<p>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance</p>	<p>The Coalition continued to provide ample opportunities for professional development during the fiscal year. All professional development opportunities are posted to the Coalition’s website (www.elcbrevard.org). The following is a sample of topics and opportunities offered and is not inclusive of all that was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard hosted the 2nd Annual Provider Conference titled “Best Practices in Planning the Early Childhood Curriculum” on February 18 – 19, 2011. The conference is a joint venture between the Coalition and the Florida Children’s Forum. • Trainings were held throughout the year on a variety of topics such as program assessment (ERS), VPK Standards, phonological awareness, screening and assessment, inclusion, curriculum, Healthy Habits for Life, Bringing Nature to the VPK Classroom and playground safety. • Technical assistance continued to be made available continually throughout the year by Coalition staff as well as staff of the Children’s Forum.

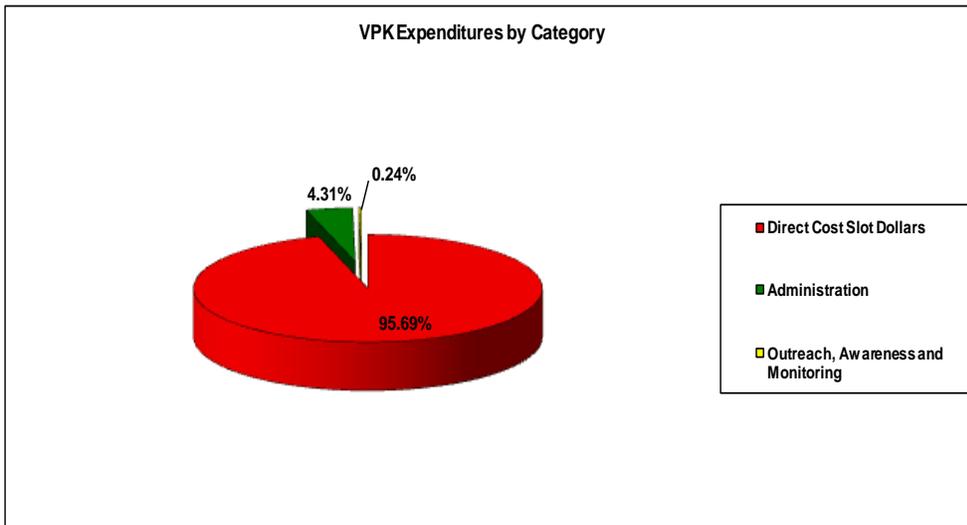
	<p>Opportunities were offered for technical assistance in terms of support for items related to the Environment Rating Scales, inclusion needs, contract and compliance issues and other topics of interest to providers.</p>
<p>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</p>	<p>The Coalition continued to operate the Learn to Earn program which provides a stipend to early childhood educators based on professional development opportunities that they attend.</p> <p>In April 2011, the Coalition assisted the Brevard Workforce staff with collecting data regarding salaries and projected openings in order to be able to continue to provide technical assistance and support to those in the field of early childhood education. Through this effort, the Coalition advocated for additional supports (fiscal and otherwise) for the industry.</p>
<p>Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.</p>	<p>Other than the use of the Environment Rating Scale for program assessment, the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard is not fully implementing a QRIS program. Coalition staff and its board of directors are eager to move forward with a system once the parameters have been established for a statewide QRIS.</p>
<p>Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.</p>	<p>The Coalition's funding of the Florida First Start demonstrates its commitment to supporting initiatives related to early language, literacy and pre-reading. Through the Florida First Start program, home visiting services are provided to teen parents and activities are conducted that encourage parent-child interaction as well as early literacy skills.</p> <p>Trainings were also conducted related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language/Cognitive Development • Phonological Awareness • Teaching Science Through Pre-Primary Children's Literature
<p>What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?</p>	<p>During FY 10.11, the Coalition's Inclusion Specialist attended training on the P.I.E.C.E program and began implementing the project with local providers. The</p>

	<p>Coalition has seen much success utilizing this model and the providers who participate are well engaged in the process. In addition, training related to inclusion topics were conducted during the fiscal year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits of an inclusive model and identifying delays • Nutrition for Children with Special Needs • Teaching Tools for Young Children with Challenging Behaviors
<p>How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other health activities including those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?</p>	<p>Many trainings were offered during the year relating to the social and emotional health of children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conscious Discipline • Social/Emotional Development Series • Early Brain Development • Music and Social Development • Play is FUNdamental <p>The Coalition also partnered with Nemours Health and Prevention in order to bring the Healthy Habits for Life training session to the providers of Brevard. The sessions covered the importance of modeling good nutrition and physical activity for children and being an agent for change in the fight against childhood obesity.</p>
<p>Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))</p>	<p>Child Care Resource and Referral continues to provide information to parents and community members about the importance of selecting high quality child care providers.</p>

Fiscal Summary: During the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, the coalition's total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was \$20,156,851.08. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



During the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, the coalition's total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$11,783,568.50. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Program Year Summary:

Fiscal year 2010 – 2011 provided an opportunity for the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard to continue to provide quality services to many children, families, providers and community partners. With a focus on improving quality of child care providers and increased opportunities for professional development, the Coalition continued its efforts to serve the early childhood education community.

As stated by clients served during the fiscal year:

- *The Coalition was “very helpful with providing me information in regards to helping me with family resources.”*
- *“I am very pleased with the service and very thankful for the help. I’m a full time student and having this assistance will help me with the continuation of my education.”*
- *“Please keep the program going. This program helps families that are trying to make a living. Parents don’t want to leave children at home by themselves.”*
- *“I have told all my friends who have children whom like me have been in hard times and whom also need child care for their small children.”*
- *“This program is very important to me. It helps a lot of young mothers to work and go to school while child care is being provided.”*