



New Member Information

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County is to facilitate access to high quality early education and care through an integrated system of services that includes linkages to health care and parenting supports.

ROLE OF THE COALITION

Since its inception, with the enactment of Florida Statute 411 and then modified with 1002. F.S., the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County has worked to promote high-quality, developmentally appropriate early care and education programs throughout the Osceola community. Our work builds the foundation for academic success and supports an economically healthy Osceola County.

The Coalition funds services important to parents with young children and professional staff consultants and resources to increase the quality of early education programs. Our primary programs and services include:

- **Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)** - a free service to all, providing valuable information and referrals regarding child care options, how to select high-quality early learning settings and after school programs, tips on child development and a host of other topics related to early learning.
- **School Readiness Program** - designed to serve children ages birth to twelve (0-12) and to ensure that our youngest citizens receive quality, comprehensive services appropriate to their needs, with an emphasis on assuring young children ages birth to five (0-5) enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. In addition this program helps meet the needs of working poor families on the road to self-sufficiency.
- **Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Program (VPK)** - a free service for all Osceola county four-year-olds, designed to prepare them for kindergarten and provide them with a foundation for literacy, numeracy, and self-management skills.

The Coalition is a public/private partnership governed by a volunteer board. This unique partnership of business and community leaders, health and education professionals, and government and nonprofit stakeholders have invested countless hours in the development and implementation of early learning programs designed to ensure young children are “school ready”. Working hard to address the complex issues related to early learning, the Coalition Board is responsible for establishing policies and procedures and providing oversight of the implementation of all programmatic and financial components of early learning programs.

The work of the Coalitions is built on the utilization of the existing community infrastructure and available services designed to respond to the needs of Osceola County children and families. Strategies to foster optimal child development, based on research and promising practices, have been incorporated into the plans and adapted to our community’s cultural and linguistic population to maximize the culturally diverse needs of the Osceola community.

OUR VISION

All children will enter school healthy and prepared to succeed.

LEGISLATIVE COALITION MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

The Coalition must consist of at least 15 members but not more than 30 members. While some Coalition membership positions are mandated by legislation, other positions are determined at the local level, based on community needs. Below is an overview of our Coalition membership positions.

Mandated Members

- ✓ Chair appointed by the Governor
- ✓ Two private sector business members appointed by the Governor
- ✓ Department Of Children And Families District Administrator or designee
- ✓ Regional Workforce Development Board Executive Director or designee
- ✓ County Health Department Director or designee
- ✓ President of Florida College System institution or designee
- ✓ Board Of County Commissioners Appointed
- ✓ Superintendent of schools or designee
- ✓ Head Start Director
- ✓ Representative of programs for children with disabilities
- ✓ Representative Of Private for-profit Child Care Providers
- ✓ Representative Of Faith-based Child Care Providers
- ✓ Central Agency Administrator
- ✓ Agency head of a local licensing agency

Private Sector Members

Including the three members appointed by the Governor, more than one-third of the members of the Coalition Board must be private-sector business members who do not personally have or have relatives who have a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the School Readiness or VPK programs.

A Bright Future. For Every Child.

COALITION MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

MEMBERSHIP TERM OF SERVICE

The Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County has staggered terms of membership for private sector members. Each term is three (3) years in length. Membership terms are determined by designated term vacancies at the time of membership recruitment. Members mandated by legislation do not have a specific term limit. Mandated organizations may elect to rotate their representative in self-imposed term limits or maintain the same representative indefinitely.

TIME COMMITMENT

Coalition members are asked to actively attend monthly committee meetings and Board meetings, totaling approximately 2-4 hours per month. To remain a member in good standing Board members must attend a minimum of four (4) of the five (5) Board meetings and eight (8) of the ten (10) committee meetings held each year. Members may send a representative in their place to meetings in which they cannot attend to count toward the time commitment requirements.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

New Members

- Attend a three-part Early Learning Coalition New Member Orientation
- Become familiar with the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County strategic plan, the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Program, and other pertinent information

Members

- Attend a minimum of four (4) Coalition board meetings annually
- Attend a minimum of eight (8) Coalition committee meetings annually
- Serve on one task force per year and/or serve as an officer of the Coalition
- Actively participate in discussions and the decision making process of Coalition business
- Actively act as a public relations representative in educating the community about the importance of early learning and the need to become involved
- Actively support local fundraising efforts to better support the children of Osceola County

For more information about how you can become
a Coalition member,
mail or fax the enclosed profile to:



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