

2019 FACCM Legislative Agenda

VPK Assessment Accountability

Florida's Early Childhood Education System of inconsistent testing, reporting, and accountability needs alignment.

- The current system includes child assessment tasks that do not align to standards.
- The data does not inform parents of what their children are truly achieving.
- Requires unnecessary administrative work.

Reducing Excessive Regulation

Florida's regulatory agencies continue to implement new rules and regulations.

- Rules and regulations exceed what has been authorized by the Florida Legislature.
- Rules and regulations increase the cost of child care for families.

Accurate Violation Designation

Measures are needed that will ensure fair and accurate assignment when a violation occurs at a child care facility.

- Currently the child care business is automatically charged with a violation.
- There are no consequences for the individual child care personnel directly involved with putting the child at risk.
- Each violation should be impartially evaluated.
- Violation assignment should be based on who is accountable, the business, the individual, or both.

Consistent Standards for Every Child

There are many factors for a parent to consider when choosing child care options that best suits their family.

- Child safety standards should not be one of those factors.
- Consistent and fair standards should be expected and regulated across the state.
- After-care, public schools, and private child care providers should all be required to maintain the exact same standards and should be monitored equitably.

Minimizing Costs for Child Care

The increasing cost of quality child care continues to strain the budgets of Florida's working families.

- Florida's working parents and their contribution to our economy depends on affordable and high-quality child care every day.
- The high cost of child care has become one of the largest expenses, forcing parents to choose between working and staying home.
- Solving this challenge is essential to the success of our children and our future workforce.

Appropriate Funding for VPK

VPK has succeeded in reaching over 80% of Florida's 4-year-olds, yet it is underfunded.

- VPK providers are dedicated to the program in order to facilitate the future success of Florida's children.
- Low per-child spending, underpaid teachers, and inconsistent assessments create an unbalanced business model that is unsustainable.

Increase Reimbursement Rate for SR Children

The need for School Readiness has never been greater.

- The reimbursement rates have not kept up with the ever-increasing costs to serve these children.
- Child care providers cannot continue to shoulder the cost difference between school readiness reimbursements and the actual cost of child care.