

COL A93			
SCH VIIIB-2			
REDUCTIONS			
POS	AMOUNT		CODES
EDUCATION, DEPT OF			48000000
EARLY LEARNING			48220000
PGM: EARLY LEARNING SVCS			48220400
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			13
EARLY LEARNING			1307.00.00.00
PROGRAM REDUCTIONS			33V0000
REDUCE FUNDING TO EARLY LEARNING			
COALITIONS FOR SCHOOL READINESS			
SERVICES			33V0700
SPECIAL CATEGORIES			100000
G/A - SCHOOL READINESS			103114
GENERAL REVENUE FUND	-MATCH	14,213,334-	1000 2
CHILD CARE/DEV BLK GRNT TF	-FEDERL	18,119,090-	2098 3
WELFARE TRANSITION TF	-FEDERL	11,661,835-	2401 3
TOTAL APPRO.....		43,994,259-	

AGENCY ISSUE NARRATIVE:
 SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 12-13 NARRATIVE:

IT COMPONENT? NO

Priority # 1

This issue would reduce General Revenue and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds used to provide child care services in the School Readiness program. If these reductions are taken, the state will also be unable to draw down \$18.1 million in federal Child Care and Development funds for child care services in FY 2012-13. The combined loss of state and federal funding will total approximately \$44 million in Fiscal Year 2012-13 and will have the projected impact of an estimated 8,759 fewer children receiving services in Fiscal Year 2012-13.

In order to minimize the impact to children the Office of Early Learning will work with the Early Learning Coalitions to prioritize service delivery by age and adopt a graduated parent fee scale for families who are beginning to attain economic self-sufficiency. With the assistance provided by the School Readiness program a typical single parent with two children earning \$19,200 a year spends 7% of their income on child care. Without the subsidy the cost of child care would be closer to 50% of their income. By working with Early Learning Coalitions to adopt a graduated parent fee model for participants, families would be able to prepare for the true cost of child care once they have achieved earnings of 200% of the federal poverty level. By having parents pay increased parent fees it reduces the reimbursement rate each Early Learning Coalition must pay to providers thereby minimizing the impact on children served.

School Readiness is a financial assistance program that enables children of temporary cash assistance recipients, at-risk children, and children of the working poor to participate in high-quality early learning programs. The School Readiness program is a critical feature of Florida's welfare-to-work strategy and is essential to Florida meeting federal TANF participation rate requirements.

Because the School Readiness program requires that service priority be given to children whose families receive temporary cash assistance payments or who are determined to be at-risk (protective services), this potential reduction in children

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served would disproportionately impact the other group eligible for services -- working poor families whose income is 150 percent or less of the federal poverty level. The availability of child care is often critical for a parent to obtain and retain employment. Reduced availability of services may lead many of the affected working poor families to unemployment or welfare, which would further decrease tax revenues and increase mandatory state expenditures on other safety net programs.

TOTAL: EARLY LEARNING		<u>1307.00.00.00</u>
BY FUND TYPE		
GENERAL REVENUE FUND	14,213,334-	1000
TRUST FUNDS	29,780,925-	2000

TOTAL PROG COMP.....	43,994,259-	
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