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## AGE RANGE FOR SCHOOL READINESS SERVICES POLICY

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure adherence to the Coalition's mission "Create a supportive network to build the necessary foundation for our children to be successful in school and life."

### POLICY STATEMENT

Restricted availability of state funding and increased community need for services combine to impact the ages for which School Readiness services are available to qualified families. Effective immediately, newly qualified children for the School Readiness program in Priorities 3 through 9\* are those whose ages are birth through kindergarten enrollment.

Contingent upon availability of funding, eligible children age 6, age 7 and age 8 may be served.

All children birth through age 12 who qualify for the School Readiness program under the State of Florida's "Temporary Aid to Needy Families" (TANF) (**Priority 1\***), and children ages birth through age 9 who qualify for the School Readiness program under the State of Florida's "Protective Services" (PS) (**Priority 2\***) category, will continue to be served.

Temporary expansion of age ranges noted above, dependent on availability of funds may be authorized by the Executive Director and reported at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee/Board of Directors.

### Roll Over/Wait List Methodology

- Children ages 9 through 12 in **Priority 2\*** may roll to another priority category only if there are no children under the age of 9 on the waiting list.
- Children ages 5 (school age entry) through age 9 in **Priority 3\*** may roll to another priority category only if there are no children under the age of 9 on the waiting list.
- Children ages 5 (school age entry) through age 9 in **Priority 4\*** may roll to another priority category only if there are no children under the age of 9 on the waiting list.
- Children on the waiting list will be served on a first-come, first-served basis with the youngest children being served first.

\*Please see attached chart for additional information.

Approved by Board of Directors: May 27, 2010

Amendment: Approved by Board of Directors: March 28, 2013

Amendment: Approved by Board of Directors: January 23, 2014

**Eligibility Priorities**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Family who have a child under the age of 13 and is <u>receiving</u> cash assistance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">At-risk child younger than 9 years of age. (Domestic Violence – must reside in DV shelter, 3 month referrals; Homeless – receiving case management services, 6 month referrals)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children birth to age 5 (school entry) qualifying as working poor.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transitional Child Care clients birth through age 5 (school entry).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">If all children in Priorities 1-4 have been served, then siblings of at-risk children 9-13 years may be served, contingent upon state funding.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Working poor – any child from age 5 (school age entry) to less than 13 years of age, contingent upon state funding.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 7</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TCC clients from age 5 (school entry) to under the age of 13, contingent upon state funding,</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 8</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Special Needs children with an Individual Education Plan (3 years to age 5 (school entry)), contingent upon state funding.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority 9</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The last child eligible will be on dually enrolled in Head Start or VPK, contingent upon state funding.</p>