

Florida's Early Learning System Under Attack!

Tell Legislators to “Vote NO” on Early Learning Legislation

House members are proposing sweeping changes to Florida's early learning system. Several bills recently introduced would:

- **Eliminate accountability to ensure educational outcomes for children.**
- **Prohibit screenings and assessments** including the ability to screen children for hearing, vision, and developmental delays. This would have a devastating impact on developmental progress. The statewide Part C Early Steps program is already underfunded and overburdened.
- **Eliminate funding for school-age children** (6-12) served through the low income working poor category. These children are unable to stay home alone safely- and may be in danger or engage in risky behaviors, which could impact the child welfare system (if parents are reported as negligent) and the juvenile justice system (if they are arrested).
- **Drastically reduce quality improvement efforts** including grants, training, resource rooms.
- **Eliminate community flexibility** to design programs that meet local needs.
- **Slash support services for parents** including parent education and referrals for additional services.
- **AND MORE!**

Bi-partisan leadership from Governors Chiles, Bush, Crist and Scott supported the *dual* mission of School Readiness: education for children AND child care for working parents.

The recent Auditor General's report recognizes that Florida's existing School Readiness model is **sufficient** and has served as a **model for other states**. Deficiencies found by the AG are already being addressed—there is NO NEED for a total re-write of the state's statutes.

Children need to be ready for school ...

Parents need nurturing, quality care for their children while they work...

Communities need to provide oversight and require accountability for the programs serving their children ...

Don't let the Legislature take all of this away!

**Please urge Florida Legislators to
“Vote No” on Early Learning Legislation**