



Florida's School Readiness Program (SR)

Program Highlights

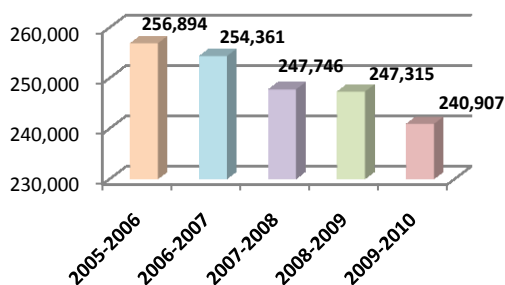
The School Readiness program is a financial assistance program for working families with low incomes and those with children at risk of abuse, neglect, or future school failure. The School Readiness program:

- Supports families in accessing and affording quality early learning services.
- Helps families become economically self-sufficient.
- Involves parents as their child's first teacher.
- Provides parents with information on child development and family well-being.
- Prepares children to enter kindergarten ready to learn which builds a foundation for success in life.

School Readiness Families

The School Readiness program enables parents to remain in the workforce, participate in workforce training, and ultimately achieve economic self-sufficiency through access to affordable, quality child care. A single parent with two young children earning \$19,200 annually is one example of a School Readiness family. Eligible families may also include those who receive temporary cash assistance and meet federal work requirements. School Readiness also serves teen parents, migrant farm workers, and families of children with disabilities and special health care needs.

Numbers of Children Participating in School Readiness



School Readiness: The Numbers 2009–2010

- More than \$617 million in federal and state funding is spent on the School Readiness program statewide.
- More than 147,000 families are currently being served in the School Readiness program.
- Nearly 19,000 child care providers are actively participating as School Readiness providers.
- The average number of families on the waiting list for School Readiness assistance is more than 80,000 monthly.

Eligibility Requirements

The School Readiness program has three basic eligibility requirements based on state and federal laws and rules:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be working or engaged in an educational activity at least 20 hours per week.
- The family must meet the income guidelines based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines per family size and most recent gross income.
- Families pay a copayment based on their income and family unit size.

For more information on the Federal Poverty Guidelines please visit <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>

