



For Immediate Release:

Contact:

Erin Gallagher
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
P: 561-774-9242
Email: erin.gallagher@elcpalmbeach.org

Palm Beach County Leading the Way in Florida School Readiness Gains: Early Learning Coalition of Beach County Featured in New Education Report

The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County's data-driven efforts to increase kindergarten readiness rates for our county's children were featured in a report from the Florida Chamber's Business Alliance for Early Learning.

Palm Beach County, FL – Kindergarten readiness in Palm Beach County rose from 66% in 2022–23 to over 72% in the 2024–25 school year—a six-point gain that reflects the Early Learning Coalition's focused commitment to young children's success in school and beyond. The improvement is one of the most significant gains documented in Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) system. The achievement is featured in the newly released Florida's 2024–2025 Kindergarten Readiness Report, linked [here](#) which highlights Palm Beach County as a case study in effective, community-led investment and strategic alignment.

Strategic Investment for Measurable Results

Palm Beach County's gains stem from a coordinated, multi-faceted approach that includes:

- Enhanced Educator Quality: Targeted professional development for early learning educators and leaders across all settings, with a focus on quality and sustainability
- Accelerated Learning Technology: Implementation of Age of Learning's My Reading and My Math Academy programs across 270 Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) sites, providing 20 minutes of daily instruction to over 5,000 students
- Sustained Coaching Support: Assignment of certified coaches to each VPK and school readiness site, delivering 12,500+ hours of job-embedded feedback and support.

"Improving kindergarten readiness by six points reflects the impact of making strategic investments in instructional quality, personalized learning tools, and sustained coaching—proven approaches that work for young children," said Aruna Gilbert, Chief Program and Policy Officer at the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County. "With the dedicated support of our Board, we have been able to strengthen instruction, support educators, and expand access to high-quality early learning. This recognition is a powerful testament to our mission in action."

Public-Private Partnership Powers Progress

Palm Beach County's progress reflects the strength of local partnerships grounded in shared goals and a commitment to measurable outcomes. The Early Learning Coalition collaborated closely with the School District of Palm Beach County, the Children's Services Council, and PNC Bank to align resources and support for educators, families, and early learning providers across the county.

These efforts are further supported through collaboration with national partners like Age of Learning, whose evidence-based programs help scale effective solutions and drive impact. This model of cross-sector alignment demonstrates how public, private, and community organizations can work together to improve kindergarten readiness. The progress is particularly significant given Palm Beach County's size and varied population both in demographics and socioeconomics proving that readiness rates can improve at scale and increase access for all children.

"Our data-driven partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County demonstrates how evidence-based programs like My Reading Academy and My Math Academy can accelerate learning when integrated into daily instruction with a shared vision of improving outcomes for young learners," said Sunil Gunderia, Chief Innovation Officer at Age of Learning. "Florida's unique cross-sector alignment, bringing together government, business, and community-based organizations around the bold goal of 100 percent kindergarten readiness, is a powerful example of how to maximize the impact of early learning investments for all children."

About the Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project

The Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project is a program of the Florida Chamber Foundation dedicated to making Florida the first state in the nation with early learning outcomes for every child through improved access, best practices, engagement, About the Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project. The Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project is a program of the Florida Chamber Foundation dedicated to making Florida the #1 state in the nation for early learning outcomes through improved access, best practices, and raising awareness to gaps and solutions and awareness.

About The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County

The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County (Coalition) is dedicated to supporting families and their children with a wide range of resources focused on school readiness and positive educational outcomes. As a data-driven organization, the Coalition strives to offer innovative programs that promote family confidence and support the crucial first five years of a child's life. The Coalition also serves as a connector to early learning programs and services. Our vision is every child in Palm Beach County is ready to succeed in school and life.