



MISSION

To provide every Orange County child with equal access to high quality early learning programs by supporting those who help children grow and develop.

VPK RATES

- Serving 30k Orange County children each year by promoting early learning in childcare centers to ensure children are prepared for kindergarten.
- Kindergarten readiness increases a child's chances of passing 3rd grade assessments and makes them 80% more likely to graduate high school.

TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Replace Federal Poverty Level (FPL) with State Median Income (SMI) to determine family benefits for School Readiness Program (SR)

- Current: Florida uses FPL 150% to determine SR benefit eligibility.
 - Example: \$46,800 a year is FPL 150% for 2 working parents & 2 children
 - They qualify for SR
- Proposed: use State Median Income (SMI) to determine benefit eligibility.
 - Example: \$63,725 a year for 2 working parents & 2 children
 - They still qualify for SR
 - This empowers working families to improve finances while keeping SR

Increase Wages for Teachers & Child Care Providers

- Child Care teachers in Florida earn an average of \$17.09 per hour

Improve Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Expand *Reimbursement Rates for Child Care Providers

- *the amount Child Care Providers are paid per child per day

CHALLENGES

- **Child care prices in FL have outpaced inflation and wage growth**
- **Affordable child care remains out of reach for many working parents**

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[DONATE](#)



(407) 841-6607

U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster
11th District
(202) 225-1002
<https://webster.house.gov>

U.S. Rep. Darren Soto
9th District
(202) 225-9889
<https://soto.house.gov>

Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings
(407) 836-7370
mayor@ocfl.net

Jim Gray- District 1
(407) 246-2001
jim.gray@orlando.gov

Tony Ortiz- District 2
(407) 246-2002
tony.ortiz@orlando.gov

Robert Stuart- District 3
(407) 246-2003
robert.stuart@orlando.gov

Maribel Gomez Cordero District 4
(407) 836-7350
district4@ocfl.net

Kelly Martinez Semrand District 5
(407) 836-7350
district5@ocfl.net

Mike Scott District 6
(407) 836-5860
district6@ocfl.net

U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost
10th District
(202) 225-2176
<https://frost.house.gov>

U.S. Rep. Cory Mills
7th District
(202) 225-4035
<https://mills.house.gov>

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer
(407) 246-2221
buddy.dyer@orlando.gov

Nicole H. Wilson District 1
(407) 836-7312
district1@ocfl.net

Christine Moore District 2
(407) 836-7350
district2@ocfl.net

Mayra Uribe District 3
(407) 836-5140
district3@ocfl.net

Patty Sheehan- District 4
(407) 246-2004
patty.sheehan@orlando.gov

Shan Rose- District 5
(407) 246-2005
shan.rose@orlando.gov

Bakari F. Burns- District 6
(407) 246-2006
bakari.burns@orlando.gov

Rep. Bruce Hadley Antone
Florida House District 41
(850) 717-5041, (407) 297-2001
bruce.antone@myfloridahouse.gov

Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith
Florida Senate District 17
(850) 487-5017, (407) 893-2422
<https://www.flsenate.gov>

Rep. Anna Vishkaee Eskamani
Florida House District 42
(850) 717-5042,
(407) 228-1451
Anna.Eskamani@myfloridahouse.gov

Orange County School Board Chair Teresa Jacobs
(407) 317-3236
Teresa.Jacobs@ocps.net

Angie Gallo- District 1
(407) 317-3236
Angie.Gallo@ocps.net

Maria Salamanca- District 2
(407) 317-3236
Maria.Salamanca@ocps.net

Alicia Farrant- District 3
(407) 317-3236
Alicia.Farrant@ocps.net

Anne Douglas District 4
(407) 317-3236
Anne.Douglas@ocps.net

Vicki Elaine Felder District 5
(407) 317-3236
Vicki.Felder@ocps.net

Stephanie Vanos District 6
(407) 317-3236
Stephanie.Vanos@ocps.net

Melissa Byrd District 7
(407) 317-3236
Melissa.Byrd@ocps.net