

School Readiness (SR) Required Parent Copayment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The purpose of this FAQ is to provide guidance on assessing SR parent copayments effective July 1, 2025, and reflects only the components of the rule that have changed. View Rule 6M-4.400, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), [here](#).

1. When will Rule 6M-4.400, F.A.C., take effect?

The rule will take effect May 13, 2025. However, implementation of the rule will take effect July 1, 2025.

2. Must coalitions amend and submit an annual sliding fee scale to DEL for approval?

No. Section (s.) 1002.84(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), removed this responsibility from the coalition. Coalitions must implement the DEL issued sliding fee scale each fiscal year.

3. Why was the 10% threshold on the sliding fee scale reduced to a 7% threshold?

Amended federal regulations mandate that the assessed parent subsidy not exceed 7% of a family's income. 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section (§) 98.45(l)(3).

4. Is each parent copayment set at the 7% threshold?

No, the sliding fee scale will have tiered percentages not to exceed 7%.

5. How will copayment amounts be transitioned to 7%?

Families who newly enroll on or after July 1, 2025, will be assessed copayments with the new threshold percentage. Families who redetermine on or after July 1, 2025, will have the new threshold percentage applied at that time. EFSM will calculate the copayment.

6. What are the criteria for assessing parent copayments?

Family income and authorized hours of care are used for assessing parent copayments. Family size will no longer be a factor in assessing parent copayment.

7. Will each child within the household that is enrolled into the SR program be assessed a copayment?

No. If more than one child within the household receives SR services, only one child is assessed a copayment for the entire family.

8. Will a reported change in family size have an impact on the assessed parent copayment?

Family size is no longer a factor in assessing parent copayment. See FAQ #7.

9. Which SR child is selected for the assessed copayment for households with multiple children in care?

There is no prescribed mandate on which child or enrollment to assess the single copayment. This allows coalitions utmost flexibility; however, DEL encourages coalitions to assess the single

copayment to the child with the highest cost of care.

10. If a sibling is added to care, will the assessed parent copayment be reassigned to the newly added child?

See preceding answer. DEL encourages coalitions not to reassign the single copayment when a family is in the midst of its authorization period.

11. Who is responsible for collecting the parent copayment?

The authorized provider remains responsible for collecting the parent copayment and the coalition deducts the copayment from that provider's SR reimbursement.

12. If the child(ren) attends more than one SR provider, which provider will collect the parent copayment?

The provider that accepts the child's enrollment to whom the coalition affixed the copayment will collect the copayment. Any required copayment remains reflected on the certificate.

13. For families with more than 1 child enrolled into SR, what will the payment certificates indicate for children 2 and 3?

The payment certificate will reflect a copayment of \$0.00.

14. When a child is enrolled with more than one provider, will the provider that is not required to collect the copayment receive the "full" reimbursement rate?

Yes, the provider who is not required to collect the parent copayment will be reimbursed based on the authorized hours of care and care level of the child served. The coalition does not deduct the parent copayment from the provider's SR reimbursement as no copayment was associated with that child's enrollment.

15. Will sibling discounts still apply?

No. The 7% maximum threshold for an assessed parent copayment provides additional affordability for care.

16. Can the assessed SR parent copayment be waived or temporarily reduced?

Yes, a temporarily reduced or waived copayment continues to be allowable in accordance with Rule 6M-4.400, F.A.C., and criteria outlined in the coalition's fee waiver policies within its approved SR plan.

17. Is it required for coalitions to post the sliding fee scale and DEL approved fee waiver policies on the coalition's website?

Yes.