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NEWS RELEASE

FREE PRE-KINDERGARTEN FOR ALL 4 YEAR OLDS

It's **FREE!** All 4 year olds in Monroe can enroll in a **free** pre-Kindergarten program during July and August.

Key West, June 24, 2019. "PRE-K RALLY" is an opportunity for parents to enroll their 4 and 5 year olds in a **free** pre-kindergarten school. There are 24 licensed schools from mile marker 0 to mile marker 105.5. Children should be 4 years old before September 1, 2019. Five year olds can also qualify.

"We need every parent in Monroe County to apply, and our target is to enroll 100% of the eligible 4 and 5 year olds," explained County Commissioner Heather Carruthers. "With 24 schools, parents have convenient choices." Carruthers, a board member of the Early Learning Coalition, states that "the importance of an early start is that it prepares children to succeed later in school and in life."

With more than ten years as County Commissioner, Carruthers says, "Last year's RALLY was very successful, with more children enrolled in pre-kindergarten than in previous years. This year's goal is to surpass last year's and enroll 100% of the eligible children."

The RALLY begins in July this year to give parents two months to select a program and get their child enrolled. Some programs fill up quickly so parents should act as early as possible to secure their preferred school.

Parents should visit one of the 24 schools or call 305-296-5557 for more information. The Early Learning Coalition also has offices in Key Largo, Marathon, and Key West.

Florida State Representative Holly Raschein stated, "Florida is one of only three states that offers free pre-k for its children; a great benefit with a huge return. I encourage all Monroe County parents to take advantage of it."

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About the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe:

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties have an opportunity to receive high-quality early education. The organization was established following the enactment of the 1999 School Readiness Act. The Early Learning Coalition supports the school readiness of more than 50,000 children ages birth to 12 years old through a variety of innovative prekindergarten and early learning programs, while also encouraging parental involvement in the quest for educational success. Through a community-based, collaborative approach, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is committed to promoting early learning, advocating for better public policies on behalf of children, and preparing every child for success in both school and life.