

## **Studying the Impact of HB1091 on Child Care Access in Hillsborough County**

The implementation of HB 1091 stipulated that child care providers endeavoring to serve families and children receiving child care subsidy through the Florida School Readiness Program must meet or exceed established thresholds on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to remain or become eligible for Early Learning Coalitions to contract with them for services. As a result, the leadership team at the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELC-HC) is concerned that the thresholds proposed by the Florida Office of Early Learning might negatively and disproportionately impact families and early childhood care and education providers in Hillsborough County.

The purpose of this contract is for Dr. Knopf and his research team at the Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies (AZC) at the University of Florida to determine if the implementation of CLASS threshold requirements will present a significant barrier to families' ability to find and enroll their children in child care arrangements that meet their needs and support children's development. The AZC research team will use available administrative data provided by the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County coupled with publicly available socio-demographic data to conduct geospatial and statistical analyses that describe the potential impact that different CLASS performance thresholds have on available infrastructure for children and families that participate in the Florida School Readiness program. These analyses will inform the leadership team of Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County as they determine: (1) whether or not HB 1091 disproportionately impacts children from different communities, (2) whether or not HB 1091 disproportionately impacts certain types of providers, and (3) what, if any, accommodations should be made to maintain or increase access to child care services throughout Hillsborough County.