

Pinellas County Early Learning Initiative (PELI)

Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative (PELI)

PELI will focus on improving outcomes for children and ensuring they have a smooth transition into formal schooling. Children in PK classrooms and community childcare settings will benefit from (a) increased quality and quantity of language interaction at school and at home and (b) improved implementation of scientifically-based early language and literacy instruction (Project PELI). In partnership with Pinellas County Schools (PCS) and the Pinellas County Early Learning Coalition (PCELC), principals, assistant principals, directors, coaches, teachers and associate teachers will participate in high quality professional development through *Flamingo Literacy Matrix, Early Literacy Communities of Practice, and Quarterly PELI Leader Sessions*.

Educator Professional Development

PCS will partner with the Lastinger Center to provide *Bi-monthly Early Literacy Communities of Practice and Early Learning Literacy Courses* for PK teachers. Early Learning Literacy Courses are competency based and aligned to both state and national standards. The topics focused on in these professional development courses and sessions will include: Phonological Awareness, Print Concepts, Emergent Reading and Writing, Children's Vocabulary, and Letter Knowledge. Educators will complete the Early Learning Literacy Courses within the Flamingo Learning Platform, and attend virtual and face-to-face sessions on additional early literacy topics. The bi-monthly virtual communities of practice will expand on the skills and knowledge taught in the 3-day institute by providing additional support and practice as educators begin implementing the research-based practices in their classrooms. In addition, PK educators will engage in select Early Learning Literacy Courses to increase their knowledge of Phonological Awareness and Early Decoding. Educators will also analyze student data with CoP facilitators to help inform instructional practice.

Leadership Development

PK and Kindergarten PELI Leaders. The *PELI Leaders Program* has been designed as an intentional and powerful program to build the capacity of PCS to continuously improve the quality of teaching and learning for all young children in PK and kindergarten. School, Center, and District leaders are a foundational building block of a school system's strategy to assess the quality of instruction and provide actionable feedback that improves teacher effectiveness. The goal of the Lastinger Center is to work closely with PCS to develop a strong cadre of early literacy leaders that have knowledge in how to intentionally support and encourage early literacy learning that will ultimately lead to improved student literacy learning outcomes. Our goal is to strengthen instructional literacy leadership. A sample of learning objectives include, but are not limited to, the ability of participants to:

- Identify and explain research about early literacy development;
- Be able to create a master schedule that supports effective early literacy instruction; and
- Be able to make informed decisions to provide support to classroom teachers about research-based early literacy instruction and intervention.