

UCF-4.040 Educational Research Center for Child Development

(1) The University's Educational Research Center for Child Development (ERCCD), called the Creative School for Children, shall be an early childhood center established to:

- (a) Serve as an early childhood education center for the children of students, both graduate and undergraduate, followed by children of faculty and staff of the University and then other members of the University community.
- (b) Provide opportunities for interested University and community partners to conduct educational research, partake in experiential learning, and participate in advancement of the field of early childhood studies.
- (c) Offer a setting in which University students, both undergraduate and graduate, can receive experience in working with young children.

(2) The ERCCD plan of operations shall consist of a developmentally appropriate early childhood education curriculum that: meets the needs of the students and families in the program; offers a research-based platform for collaborative partnerships within the University and community; encourages family involvement; and disseminates experience-based practices through professional contributions to the field. The program shall maintain National Accreditation.

(3) The Board of Governor's annual allocation of the Capital Improvement and Trust Fund (CITF) fee to the ERCCD shall be used for the operation and maintenance of the ERCCD facilities. Operations may be funded either through the capital improvement trust fund fee, activity and service fee allocations, user charges, grants and donations, or any combination of these sources in accordance with applicable law and the rules, regulations, and policies of UCF and the Board of Governors. The ERCCD contracts with the Early Learning Coalition to provide programs that support families financially, such as School Readiness subsidized care and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten. The ERCCD has created a tiered fee system where University student parents pay less than faculty and staff parents.

(4) The ERCCD functions as an auxiliary program under the Student Success and Well-Being division.

- (a) The University shall appoint a Director of the ERCCD that will be responsible for day-to-day operations.
- (b) The ERCCD Director shall report to Vice President of Student Engagement and Well-Being or their designee and will be responsible for creating operational guidelines and procedures for health, safety, curriculum, enrollment, and code of conduct, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Children and Families, National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation, and the University's requirements and standards.
- (c) The ERCCD shall maintain an advisory board to give input regarding operational and programmatic issues and support the center's mission.
- (d) All procedures and guidelines for children enrolled at the ERCCD shall be reviewed annually.
- (e) The ERCCD shall operate in accordance with state laws applicable to child development centers, as well as regulations of the University and the Florida Board of Governors governing the establishment, operation and supervision of such centers.

(5) The ERCCD enrolls children 6 weeks to entry into kindergarten. The ERCCD's intent is to provide research and training activities which are representative of a comprehensive scope of child development needs throughout the community. Therefore, in accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 10.004, the ERCCD's admission process shall be inclusive of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, as well as mental and physical ability.

(6) Any research involving human subjects proposed to be conducted at the ERCCD shall be submitted to the Institutional Review Board ("IRB") for approval in accordance with IRB guidelines before commencing.

(7) The ERCCD may furnish internships and clinical experiences for students of the University. Students shall be supervised by the ERCCD staff and function under the guidelines of the ERCCD and the student's respective academic department.

Authority: BOG Regulations 1.001 and 10.004. History--New 2-24-23.