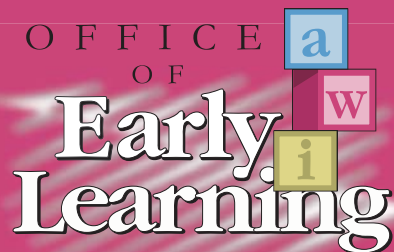


The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) legislation was signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush on January 2, 2005. This law created a program to prepare every Florida four-year-old for kindergarten and build a strong foundation for their continued educational success.

The VPK program will provide each child the opportunity to perform better in school and throughout life with quality programs that include high literacy standards, accountability, appropriate curricula, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes and qualified instructors.

The partnership between private and public providers working together to share knowledge, training and resources will benefit and improve the quality of education and care provided to Florida's children.



FLORIDA'S VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- VPK begins in the fall of school year 2005
- High quality educational program with an early literacy focus
- FREE for all children 4 years old by September 1, who reside in Florida
- No registration fee
- Both private and public providers will participate

VPK PROGRAM OPTIONS

- School Year Program – 540 instructional hours beginning fall 2005
- Summer Program – 300 instructional hours beginning summer 2006

EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS

There are Early Learning Coalitions (ELC) across the state. Each ELC helps providers meet the requirements of Florida law. Your ELC has additional information regarding the status of your application. The ELC will have a list of local providers and public schools participating in the VPK program. Your ELC contact information can be found at www.vpkflorida.org.

PROVIDERS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

The private provider must hold a director credential, be licensed (child care facility, family child care home, or large family child care home) or exempt from licensure (private school or faith-based provider) and meet one of the following:

1. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation
2. Be accredited by an approved accrediting association
3. Be licensed and demonstrate to the local coalition that the provider meets program requirements

INSTRUCTORS

- All VPK instructors must have a minimum of a Child Development Associate for the school year program or a Bachelor's degree for the summer program
- Ratios are 1 instructor to 10 children
- Class size will not exceed 18 children

CURRICULUM

- Must be developmentally appropriate
- Focus on early literacy skills
- Prepare the child to be ready for kindergarten based on standards adopted by the State Board of Education

TRANSPORTATION

- Parents are responsible for their child's transportation



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE VISIT THE AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION – OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING VPK WEBSITE AT www.vpkflorida.org OR CALL US TOLL FREE AT: 1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711)

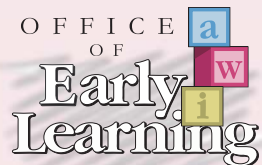
HOW DO I APPLY TO BE A VPK PROVIDER?

To sign up to provide the voluntary Prekindergarten program, you may download an application from www.vpkflorida.org and email or mail the application to your Early Learning Coalition. You may also contact your Early Learning Coalition directly for an application.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

Please visit the VPK website at www.vpkflorida.org or call us toll free at: 1-866-357-3239 (TTY:711)



For more information, contact:

PROVIDERS

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN

Agency for Workforce Innovation
Office of Early Learning



Providing every 4-year-old child in Florida a high quality Voluntary Prekindergarten program

OUR VISION

That Florida's children are eager to learn and ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten

OUR MISSION

To ensure that all children are intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially ready to enter school and ready to learn, fully recognizing the crucial role of parents as their child's first teacher