

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions
May 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program Update: Activities to Increase Capacity to Meet Projected Need

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

n/a

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

n/a

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The planning estimate for the number of four-year-olds expected to participate in the first year of the state's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program has remained at 154,697 or 70 percent of the total number of four-year-olds. Legislation implementing this constitutional amendment (HB 1A – see <http://myfloridaeducation.com/earlylearning/pdf/vpk-bill.pdf>) provides two options for the VPK program - the school-year program, which is permissive for school districts, and the summer program, which is required for school districts. This legislation also delineates specific requirements for school districts to be eligible to provide the VPK school-year program.

On April 12, 2005, the Department of Education determined that the certification of school districts as eligible to offer the school-year VPK program would be based on the 2004 class size compliance calculation. Based on these data, 59 school districts are in compliance with class size calculation for grades Prek-3 and are eligible to offer the school-year VPK program.

This presentation will provide an update on information related to district participation in the school-year VPK program and an overview of activities to increase the capacity to meet projected need.

Supporting Documentation Included:

- April 12, 2005, Commissioner's Memoranda – Class Size Reduction Requirement and School District Eligibility to Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education School-Year Program for 2005-06 and Attachment A (VPK Certification List)
- Estimated Participation at Various Rates
- School-Year VPK Program - District Participation and Estimated Capacity
- School-Year VPK Program - District Participation and Estimated Capacity by Coalition

Facilitators/Presenters:

Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning