

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions**  
August 16, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program Update: The First Day

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

n/a

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

n/a

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The 2005-06 school year is the inaugural year for Florida's VPK Program. Generally, VPK providers schedule the opening of their programs to be consistent with the local school district's calendar. All school districts begin school by August 16<sup>th</sup> with 25 districts beginning during the week of August 1-5<sup>th</sup>, 36 districts during the week of August 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, and the remaining 6 districts during the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

The Department of Education, Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), local school districts and early learning coalitions have worked together to ensure a smooth *First Day of VPK*. Local school districts and coalitions were provided information to assist in their collaborative efforts (see July 18, 2005 Memorandum).

The planning estimate for the number of four-year-olds expected to participate in this first year of VPK is 147,235 or 66.67% of the total number of four-year-olds. As of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, there were 90,892 children registered/enrolled and 4,396 VPK providers.

The presentation by Ms. Goff and Ms. Wilson will provide updated information on child and provider enrollment and an overview of the events of the First Day of VPK in Florida.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

- July 18, 2005 Memorandum #05-02 to District School Superintendents and Elementary School Principals, *First Day of the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program*
- August 2, 2005 - AWI/OEL VPK Statistics by County Program

**Facilitators/Presenters:**

- Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, Department of Education
- Gladys Wilson, Deputy Director, Office of Early Learning, Agency for Workforce Innovation