

This is a new rule.

6A-6.040 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Endorsement for Private Providers.

(1) Requirements for the Endorsement. Consistent with the requirements of section 1002.55(3)(f), Florida Statutes, a private prekindergarten program delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program must have a director who has a VPK Director Endorsement, issued by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), that meets the requirements of subsection (2) of this rule. Successful completion of the Director Credential, as required by section 402.305(2)(f), Florida Statutes, and Rule 65C-22.003(8)(a), FAC., prior to the effective date of this rule July 1, 2006, shall satisfy this requirement.

(2) Training Requirements. To be eligible for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Endorsement, issued by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), applicants must successfully complete:

(a) A Florida credential certificate program, as referenced in Rule 65C-22.003(8)(a), FAC, approved by DCF and the Department of Education (DOE);

(b) DOE-approved training on the VPK Education standards adopted by the State Board of Education;

(c) DOE-approved course(s) on emergent literacy; and

(d) DOE-approved course(s) that address the following VPK

Director competencies:

1. Organizational Leadership and Management - To implement strategies and techniques that promote a responsive work and learning environment, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

a. Management strategies that support a professional culture and climate;

b. Instructional leadership skills and the provision of supports to VPK instructors;

c. Available resources and supports for VPK instructors and parents; and

d. Local processes and procedures for the transition of VPK children to public and private kindergarten programs.

2. Financial and Legal - To maintain effective financial planning and budgeting systems and sound practices related to legal obligations and responsibilities, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

a. Applicable laws and rules and legal responsibilities;

b. Roles and responsibilities of state agencies, local coalitions, and providers;

c. Monitoring requirements; and

d. Financial operating procedures.

3. Program and Performance Standards - To maintain an instructional leadership role in creating and sustaining an effective learning environment, VPK directors shall be able to

demonstrate knowledge and application of:

- a. Developmentally appropriate and research-based instructional practices and their application in the classroom;
- b. Evaluation of the appropriateness and effectiveness of available prekindergarten curricula;
- c. Effective implementation of a prekindergarten curriculum in the classroom;
- d. Effective instructional strategies for children with disabilities or other special needs and for English language learners;
- e. Developmentally appropriate methods for the on-going assessment of young children and interpretation of these data for program planning and the delivery of instruction; and
- f. Local and state accountability systems.

(3) Renewal. To maintain an active VPK Director Endorsement, the director of a private prekindergarten program delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program must meet the requirements in Rule 65C-22.003(8)(h)1-4, FAC.

(4) This rule shall become effective December 31, 2006.

Specific Authority 1002.79(1), F.S. Law Implemented

1002.55(3)(f), 1002.57, F.S. History - New -