

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item
June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Approval of Rule 6A-6.040, FAC, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Endorsement for Private Providers

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

1002.57, 1002.29, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since January 1, 2004, licensed child care centers have been required to have a credentialed director, except during evening hours. The requirements for these credentials are specified in rules adopted by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). As of May, 2006, 12,238 directors have been issued one of the four types of DCF's Florida Director Credential.

As of June 1, 2006, the VPK program was delivered by followings types and numbers of providers:

- 3,506 private centers (82.8%)
- 585 public schools (13.8%)
- 119 family child care homes (2.8%)
- 26 private schools (0.6%).

The legislation implementing Florida's VPK program recognized the importance of private prekindergarten directors of programs delivering the VPK program having specific competencies/skills related to creating and maintaining a high quality educational environment. Section 1002.55(3)(f), Florida Statutes, specifies that, "Before the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, the private prekindergarten provider must have a prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director credential that is approved by the department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted Successful completion of a child care facility director credential under s. 402.305(2)(f) before the establishment of the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July 1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph" (emphasis added).

Section 1002.57(2), Florida Statutes specifies that the credential for the "new" VPK director credential must include:

- professional accepted standards for prekindergarten programs, early learning, and strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students in attaining the performance standards adopted by the department under section 1002.67, Florida Statutes

- strategies that allow students with disabilities and other special needs to derive maximum benefit from VPK program
- program administration and operations, including management, organizational leadership, and financial and legal issues.

To implement this requirement, DOE worked in collaboration with DCF and the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) to establish a Technical Workgroup composed of private prekindergarten directors and educators. This workgroup assisted in drafting the standards for the VPK director credential and in designing the training to be provided. (Additional information regarding the workgroup and the proceedings is available at: <http://www.firn.edu/doe/earlylearning/vpkdc.html>).

The “new” VPK director credential is named an “endorsement,” given that the private prekindergarten director must also possess a director credential issued by DCF. Proposed Rule 6A-6.040, FAC, includes an effective date of December 31, 2006; the date the training, specified at paragraph (2)(d) (VPK director competencies) will be available at no cost, on-line.

Supporting Documentation: Proposed Rule 6A-6.040, Approval of Rule 6A-6.040, FAC, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Endorsement for Private Providers

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