

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Issue for Concurrence
January 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Setting the Minimum 2007-08 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Concurrence on Setting Minimum 2007-08 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.69(6), Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-1.099821, FAC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Statewide Kindergarten Screening

Section 1002.69(1), Florida Statutes, (F.S.) directs the Florida Department of Education to establish a kindergarten readiness screening based upon standards adopted by the State Board of Education, under Section 1002.67(1), F.S., for the VPK Education Program. These VPK Education Standards describe what children should know and be able to do at the end of the VPK year in the areas of Physical Health, Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Communication, Emergent Literacy, Mathematical and Scientific Thinking, Social Studies and The Arts, and Motor Development.

The 2008 Kindergarten Screening consists of a subset of the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) and two measures from the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and is administered within the first 30 days of kindergarten. ECHOS is a brief observational screening instrument that is designed to measure a child's performance across seven developmental areas that are aligned with the VPK Education Standards. The two DIBELS measures, Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) and Initial Sound Fluency (ISF), are screening instruments designed to measure specific skills that are important in learning to read and that are specifically aligned with Florida's VPK standards in the area of emergent literacy. This is the fourth consecutive year these measures were administered as Florida's kindergarten screening.

Section 1002.69(4), F.S., requires that each parent who enrolls their child in the VPK program "...must submit their child for the statewide kindergarten screening, regardless of whether the child is admitted to kindergarten in a public school or nonpublic school." Each school district is required to administer the kindergarten screening to these VPK participants now attending kindergarten in a nonpublic school.

VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, requires an annual calculation of the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate that is based upon the percentage of the provider's children who completed the VPK program and assessed as "ready" for kindergarten on the statewide kindergarten screening. Subparagraph (6)(a), requires the State Board of Education to, "...periodically adopt a minimum kindergarten readiness rate that...would demonstrate the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program." Subparagraph (6)(b) of this law requires that, "The minimum rate must not exceed the rate at which no more than 15 percent of the kindergarten readiness rates of all private prekindergarten providers and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in the state would fall below the minimum rate."

Consistent with Rule 6A-1.099821, FAC, a readiness rate is calculated for each private or public school VPK provider of either the school-year (540-hours) or summer (300-hours) that served at least four children who:

- attended the VPK program 70-percent or more of the total number of instructional hours, and
- participated in each of the kindergarten screenings.

Information related to the previous VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates is listed below.

	2005-06 Readiness Rate	2006-07 Readiness Rate
Total Number of VPK Providers	4,565	5,116
Number and Percent of VPK Providers with a Rate	3,772 83%	4,595 90%
Total Number of VPK Children	112,684	130,853
Number and Percent of VPK Children "Matched" to Kindergarten Screening Results	92,802 88%	108,376 83%
Number and Percent of VPK Completers	65,401 66%	98,665 75%
Number and Percent of VPK Children "In Readiness Rate"	64,026 57%	82,851 63%
Minimum Readiness Rate	201	211
Number of Low Performing VPK Providers	556	689

Low Performing VPK Providers

Section 1002.67, F.S., outlines the following consequences for providers not meeting the minimum readiness rate for consecutive years.

Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an improvement plan approved by the coalition or school district
Year 2 & Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an improvement plan approved by the coalition or school district Use of a curriculum approved by the Department of Education
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of eligibility to provide VPK

Information related to the status of 2005-06 and 2006-07 Low Performing VPK Providers is listed below.

2005-06 Low Performing Provider Status as of 12/19/2008									
Program Type	2005-06 LPP1	2006-07				2007-08			
		SY	SU	LPP2	NP	SY	SU	LPP3	NP
School-Year	481 (100%)	430 (89.4%)	32 (6.7%)	147 (30.6%)	51 (10.6%)	404 (84%)	15 (3.1%)	--	77 (16%)
Summer	75 (100%)	58 (77.3%)	36 (48%)	13 (17.3%)	39 (52%)	56 (74.7%)	27 (36%)	--	48 (64%)
LEGEND:		SY : School-Year Provider				SU : Summer Provider			
		LPP : Low Performing Provider				NP : Non-Participating Provider			

2006-07 Low Performing Provider Status as of 12/19/2008									
Program Type	2006-07 LPP1	2007-08				2008-09			
		SY	SU	LPP2	NP	SY	SU	LPP3	NP
School-Year	593 (100%)	540 (91.1%)	40 (6.7%)	--	53 (8.9%)	--	--	--	--
Summer	96 (100%)	65 (67.7%)	41 (42.7%)	--	55 (57.3%)	--	--	--	--
LEGEND:		SY : School-Year Provider				SU : Summer Provider			
		LPP : Low Performing Provider				NP : Non-Participating Provider			

2007-08 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates

Consistent with the requirements of Rule 6A-1.099821, FAC, the process to calculate the 2007-08 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates began with the posting of the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) VPK data on the readiness rate web site for review by providers, to ensure its accuracy, and approval of substantive revisions by the early learning coalitions. In December, these files were then “matched” with the kindergarten screening results. (Kindergarten screening results were released on December 18, 2008.)

2007-08 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates (cont.)

From December 22, 2008 – January 6, 2009, providers were given an opportunity to supply additional information on children for whom a “match” was not yet finalized (e.g., indicate that the child had moved out of state, make corrections to name, date of birth, etc). The 2007-08 Preliminary VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates are scheduled to be released on January 15, 2009, with Final Rates released in mid-February after the resolution of disputes.

Setting the 2007-08 Minimum VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

This presentation will provide an overview of the 2007-08 Preliminary VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates. Given that both the 2005-06 and the 2006-07 Minimum Readiness Rates did not change from the Preliminary to the Final Rates, a recommendation for the 2007-08 Minimum VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate will also be made.

Supporting Documentation Included: Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten readiness rates; Rule 6A-1.099821, FAC, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates

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