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May 23, 2006

MEMORANDUM # 06-09

TO: District Prekindergarten Coordinators
District ESOL Coordinators

FROM: Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning

Lisa C. Saavedra, Executive Director, Academic Achievement
Through Language Acquisition, K-12 Public Schools

SUBJECT: Administration of Home Language Survey and English Language Proficiency Assessment of Students in Summer Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) Education Programs

Rule 6A-6.0902, Florida Administrative Code, *Requirements for Identification, Assessment and Programmatic Assessment of Limited English Proficient Students*

(<http://www.firn.edu/doe/rules/6a-69.htm#6A-6.0902>), requires that all students enrolling into a Florida public school be administered a Home Language Survey, which is designed to identify students who may potentially be limited English proficient. We have received a number of questions regarding whether or not the Home Language Survey is to be administered to students enrolling in a public school for the Summer VPK program. This memorandum is provided as guidance to Prekindergarten Coordinators and District Summer VPK Program Administrators as you begin the implementation of Summer VPK programs.

The Home Language Survey (HLS) should be administered to all students completing the registration process required for enrollment into a Florida public school, which includes the issuance of a Florida Student ID number. However, students with affirmative responses to the HLS are not required to be assessed for English language proficiency until they enroll in a Florida public kindergarten program. For these students, the assessment to determine English language proficiency should be completed within twenty (20) calendar days from the first day of school in a public kindergarten program.

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The HLS or the assessment for English language proficiency is not required for infants and toddlers (ages birth through three) who are served in Family Literacy Program or for young children served in Head Start Programs who go through the public school enrollment process in order to obtain a Florida student ID for provision of free meals or for later transition from VPK programs into kindergarten. It is important to clarify that the Rule 6A-6.0902, F.A.C. and the 1990 Consent Decree apply to Florida public education system, which is Kindergarten through 12th grade.

We hope the above policy guidance assist you as you continue to register children in Summer VPK programs. Questions regarding the requirements for English language learners may be referred to Lisa Saavedra, Executive Director, Academic Achievement through Language Acquisition by phone at (850) 245-5074, or by email at lisa.saavedra@fldoe.org. Questions regarding the implementation of Summer VPK programs should be referred to Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning at (850) 245-0445 or via email at shan.goff@fldoe.org.

SG/LS

cc: District ESOL Contacts
District PreK Contacts
School Board Attorneys