



Florida Department of Education
Office of Early Learning

Technical Assistance Paper # 06-06
Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener: Frequently Asked Questions
(FAQs)

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August 2006

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Purpose

This Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) was developed to answer *frequently asked questions* regarding the administration of the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS).

Background

In 2006–2007, the *Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener* (FLKRS) will be administered to assess the readiness of each child for kindergarten. [Section 1002.69\(1\), Florida Statutes](#), (F.S.) directed the Florida Department of Education to establish a kindergarten readiness screening based upon Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards (adopted by the Department of Education under [Section 1002.67\(1\), F.S.](#)). The 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, cognitive development and general knowledge, and motor development (go to: <http://www.myfloridaeducation.com/earlylearning/perform.htm>).

[Section 1002.69\(1\), F.S.](#) also specifies that the Department of Education shall require each public school to administer a kindergarten readiness screening to all kindergarten students in the school district within the first 30 school days of each academic school year. Additionally, each parent who enrolls his or her child in the VPK Education Program in the previous school year must voluntarily submit the child for the FLKRS, regardless of whether the child is admitted to kindergarten in a public or non-public school. [Section 1002.69\(4\), F.S.](#) also requires each school district to designate sites for administering the FLKRS for VPK Education Program participants who will be attending kindergarten in a non-public school.

The FLKRS is designed to provide for the screening of each child's readiness for kindergarten. The FLKRS includes a subset of the *Early Childhood Observation System™* (ECHOS™) and the first two measures of the *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills™* (DIBELS™) for kindergarten (Letter Naming Fluency and Initial Sound Fluency) to gather information on a child's development in emergent literacy. For each student that answers yes to two or more questions on the Home Language Survey (HLS), and whose native language is Spanish, the *Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura™* (IDEL™) is also administered.

Data from the FLKRS will be used to determine the readiness of children entering kindergarten for the first time in 2006, to inform instruction, and to provide useful information to parents. These data will also be used to annually calculate a readiness rate for private and public school providers of the VPK Education Program, according to [Section 1002.69\(2\)&\(5\), F.S.](#)

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Background Information

1. Was there a measure of kindergarten readiness prior to the FLKRS? Is this still being used?

Prior to 2006, the School Readiness Uniform Screening (SRUSS) was administered to gather information about the readiness of all public school children as they entered kindergarten. Section 1008.21, F.S., titled "School Readiness Uniform Screening," required that the Florida Department of Education implement the SRUSS beginning with the 2002–2003 school year. In December 2004, the legislation to implement the VPK program repealed s. 1008.21 and created [s. 1002.69, F.S.](#), Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten readiness rates.

Administration of FLKRS

2. Who may administer the FLKRS?

Schools will determine the best way to administer the FLKRS components within their kindergarten classrooms. Some schools may have kindergarten screening teams. Ideally, the kindergarten teacher should administer the ECHOS, so that the information may be used for planning instruction. Appropriate training is required prior to the administration of each component.

3. Are there any restrictions as to who may administer FLKRS to kindergarten students in public and/or non-public schools?

Kindergarten teachers may not administer FLKRS to students they taught in VPK. Those kindergarten teachers who were also the child's VPK teacher should consider strategies such as team teaching, cross-observing with other kindergarten teachers, or calling on the expertise of the school guidance counselor so that there is no conflict of interest.

4. Who will conduct the administration of FLKRS to non-public school students who previously attended VPK?

Non-public school teachers/administrators who have or anticipate having students who attended VPK in the prior school year should attend training on how to administer the ECHOS. They may administer the ECHOS screener to all of the students in the classroom in which the VPK students are enrolled (up to 25) but should only return the scannable response folders for those children who attended VPK.

Non-public school teachers must be either certified OR degreed in order to administer ECHOS to their students who attended VPK in the previous school year.

5. Can a school begin the kindergarten screenings prior to the beginning of school?

No. According to [s. 1002.69\(1\), F.S.](#), FLKRS must be given within the first 30 school days of the school year. Since ECHOS is an observational instrument to be used as a natural part of ongoing classroom activities and routines, it would not be feasible for it to be administered before the beginning of the school year. DIBELS must be administered between days 20 and 29 of the school year.

6. How long does it take to administer FLKRS?

The DIBELS portion will take approximately 5 minutes per child. The time to complete the ECHOS will vary, because it is an observational instrument. For those who need the IDEL, it will take approximately 5 minutes per child.

Administration of FLKRS (cont.)**7. How is ECHOS administered?**

It is an observational instrument, and can be administered through a combination of individual, small group, and whole class activities. This allows the teacher flexibility to elicit behaviors in more than one instance or setting, so that a child's ECHOS score is truly a reflection of the child's abilities and strengths.

8. If students begin school after day 30, are they also screened using FLKRS?

No. However, the demographic page of the scannable response folder should be completed indicating "entered day 31 or later" in the non-participation field under ECHOS.

9. Is the FLKRS administered to retained Kindergarten students?

No. However, the retained student should be designated as a non-participant on the scannable response folder.

10. What are criteria for non-participation in FLKRS?

The following are the criteria for non-participation:

- beginning Kindergarten on day 31 or later
- disability that cannot be reasonably accommodated (see question 11)
- retained in Kindergarten the previous year
- excessive absences
- screened elsewhere.

Participation of Children with Disabilities and Accommodations for Children with Disabilities and for English Language Learners (ELL)**11. Do children with disabilities participate in the ECHOS?**

Yes, for most children with disabilities, ECHOS is an appropriate instrument. Accommodations, such as interpreters for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, are used when necessary. However, for children who have significant physical or cognitive disabilities, ECHOS may not be appropriate

12. What is the protocol for allowing accommodations for English Language Learners (ELL) & children with disabilities on FLKRS?

For children with disabilities and ELL, a flexible setting that is quieter than the regular classroom should be considered. Although ECHOS is not a timed instrument, and can be completed throughout the first 30 days of Kindergarten, teachers of children with disabilities and those who do not speak English as their primary language may require more time to complete the screening.

Participation in the Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura™ (IDEL)**13. What are the criteria for determining which students should participate in the administration of the Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura™ (IDEL)?**

Criteria for administering IDEL are that the student answer "yes" to at least two of the Home Language Survey questions and that the student's native language be Spanish.

Participation in the Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura™ (IDEL)(cont.)**14. How many times is the IDEL administered?**

Unlike DIBELS, the IDEL is administered only once, during day 20-29 of the school year, as a part of FLKRS. For students that will receive the IDEL, it should be administered prior to the DIBELS.

Reporting of Results**15. Are the results from IDEL entered into the Progress Monitoring Resource Network system?**

No.

Pre-Identification Labels**16. What do I do if a Pre-Identification label is incorrect?**

Do not use the label.

17. What if some of the information on a Pre-identification label is missing?

If a child's information is missing from the pre-identification label, it may be gridded on the scannable response folder using a number 2 pencil.

For additional information regarding the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener, please contact the Florida Department of Education, Office of Early Learning at (850) 245-0445 or visit our website at <http://myfloridaeducation.com/earlylearning/>.