

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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June 16, 2006

Dear Non-Public School Administrator:

We are writing to introduce you to the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) in which those kindergarten students in your school who attended Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) during the 2005-06 school year will be participating. Section 1002.69(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), 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 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.

FLKRS is developed from two dynamic education-related instruments, The Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) and the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). FLKRS screening measures are aligned with the *Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards*. 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.

**ECHOS** is a brief screening instrument that is designed to measure growth and development in the following areas:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics
- Social and Personal Skills
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Development and Fitness
- Creative Arts

**ECHOS** is completed by a trained individual (usually the child's teacher) who observes the child during daily classroom activities. Examples of skills to be observed are your child's ability to listen to stories, follow classroom rules, and put away materials in the appropriate place.

**DIBELS** is a screening instrument designed to measure specific skills that are important in learning to read. The following areas are included in the screening for students entering kindergarten:

- Letter Naming Fluency (Your child's ability to recognize upper and lower case letters)
- Initial Sound Fluency (Your child's ability to recognize and produce the beginning sound in an orally presented words)

**DIBELS** can be given in less than 5 minutes by a trained individual (a school district staff member such as a resource teacher or reading coach).

The public school district will provide training for those certified teachers in your school who will be teaching children who previously attended VPK. Please note that kindergarten teachers may not administer FLKRS to students they taught in VPK.

Public School District Assessment Coordinators will contact you shortly to schedule a brief (3 to 4 hours) training session. Each public school district will coordinate the dates, times, locations, and the number of participants who may attend the training sessions. Non-public school certified teachers will be trained in the administration of the ECHOS and will receive ECHOS kits and a timetable for the return of the Student Response Folders. A schedule and list of school district sites for the administration of the DIBELS portion of FLKRS will be provided at the training sessions. Please assign one person to be the FLKRS contact at your school.

If you have any questions about the screening program, please contact Dr. Martha Haynes at (850) 245-9560 or via email at [martha.haynes@fldoe.org](mailto:martha.haynes@fldoe.org). We want this school experience to be as positive as possible for your students, as well as for their parents and their teachers.

Sincerely,

John L. Winn  
Commissioner

JLW/mh