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April 4, 2008

MEMORANDUM #08-07

TO: Interested Persons
Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors
District Prekindergarten Contacts

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

SUBJECT: 2008 Draft Revisions of the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards

Building on the success of the 2005 VPK Education Standards development process, the Department began the revision process for the 2008 VPK Education Standards by conducting a Panel of Experts' Meeting in December 2007. This meeting brought together stakeholders from across the state, as well as nationally known early childhood content experts, specifically in the area of mathematics. A copy of the Proceedings document from this meeting is attached.

The draft 2008 VPK Standards include revisions in areas discussed by the Panel of Experts (see attachment). When reviewing these draft revisions, remember that each standard and benchmark will have instructional strategies, examples of what a VPK child demonstrating this skill may look like, environmental considerations, etc. We believe that the addition of benchmarks for the mathematics standards will help VPK instructors outline the sequence of what the child is learning when learning a skill.

Seven rule development workshops were held to gather input on these draft revisions (see attached Powerpoint presentation). In addition to the workshops, **we are soliciting additional public comment until April 30, 2008** via:

- email at: earlylearning@fldoe.org
- the attached comment sheet faxed to (850) 245-5105
- an online survey which is available on our website and can be accessed at: <http://data.fldoe.org/vpk/performancestandards/>

SHAN GOFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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Revisions will be made to the 2008 Standards based on the public comment and will be presented to the State Board of Education in June 2008, with final adoption of the Standards Manual in August 2008. We are also working with the VPK Facilitators and other partners to outline the content of the NEW 2008 VPK Standards training that will be available in the Summer as the 2008 VPK Education Standards become effective for the 2008-09 School-year VPK program.

Input and comments from the field are very important to this process. We want to ensure that the 2008 VPK Education Standards challenge our children and provide adequate guidance and support for VPK instructors.

Please feel free to contact our office at (850) 245-0445 or via email at earlylearning@fldoe.org or if you have any questions.

TH/sgg

Attachments (4)

Panel of Experts' Meeting, December 17-18, 2007, Proceedings
2008 DRAFT VPK Education Standards
2008 DRAFT VPK Standards Rule Development Workshop Presentation
Comment Sheet

cc: Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Regional Facilitators
Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction
Brittany Birken
Debby Russo