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Commissioner of Education



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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April 13, 2009

## MEMORANDUM 09-14

**TO:** Selected VPK Providers

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

**SUBJECT:** Administration of the IDEL™ (*Indicadores dinámicos del éxito en la lectura*) and Calculation of the 2008-09 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

In some of Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs, instruction is provided primarily, and sometimes exclusively, in Spanish. To address this diversity, the State Board of Education approved the use of the IDEL for a period of three years, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, to measure the performance of Spanish-speaking students in kindergarten who may be identified as English language learners. School districts were required to administer the IDEL to eligible children, as part of the kindergarten screening program, in addition to the English Letter Naming Fluency measure. These scores were then used in the calculation of the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness rates if they were higher than the children's scores on the English Letter Naming measure. In the 2007-08 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness rates, 73 providers had higher rates because of the use of the IDEL scores.

Beginning with the 2009-10 school-year, the assessments used in the kindergarten screening are changing. Specifically, the Letter Naming and Initial Sound Fluency measures and the IDEL™ are being replaced with new kindergarten reading measures. Information related to these new assessments can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/FLKRS2009.asp>.

To assist VPK providers in supporting young English language learners, we have developed *English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom*, an online course for VPK teachers, directors, owners, and early childhood educators across the state. The ideas presented in this course are designed to provide a better understanding of the characteristics and language learning experiences of colleagues, staff, children and families who are English language learners. Please access the *English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom* Course at [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare).

SHAN GOFF  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

Additionally, the following Web sites provide information about best practices with young English language learners.

**National Organizations:**

- Florida Department of Education, Office of Academic Achievement through Language Acquisition (AALA)  
<http://www.fldoe.org/aala>
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)  
<http://www.naeyc.org>
- National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)  
<http://www.nabe.org>
- National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition and Instruction  
<http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/>
- Office of English Language Acquisition  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html>
- U.S. Department of Education  
<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>

**Programs, Resources and Articles:**

- Carol Hurst Children's Literature Site  
<http://www.carolhurst.com/index.html>
- ¡Colorín, Colorado!  
<http://www.colorincolorado.org/homepage.php>
- English alphabet  
<http://www.hello-world.com/English/learn/alphabet.php>
- ESL Gold- Phrases for Conversation  
<http://www.eslgold.com/speaking/phrases.html>
- Internet picture dictionary  
<http://www.pdictionary.com/>
- La mansión del inglés [The English house]  
<http://www.mansioningles.com/>
- Lee y serás, ready for school, ahead for life  
<http://www.leeyseras.net>
- Responding to cultural and linguistic diversity  
<http://www.naeyc.org/about/positions/PSDIV98.asp>

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Early Learning, at 866-447-1159 or via email at [earlylearning@fldoe.org](mailto:earlylearning@fldoe.org).

SG/db

c: Executive Directors, Early Learning Coalitions  
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