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August 6, 2010

MEMORANDUM #10-13

TO: Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors
District Prekindergarten Contacts

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor, Public Schools

SUBJECT: 2010 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Curriculum Approval Process and Approved Curriculum List for Low Performing Providers

The legislation implementing Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, [Section 1002.67\(2\)\(c\)](#), Florida Statutes, directs the Department of Education to approve and maintain a list of curricula for required use by those VPK providers that are placed on probation as a result of their kindergarten readiness rates falling below the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education for two consecutive years.

The Department has completed the 2010 VPK Curriculum Approval Process for Low Performing Providers, in partnership with a statewide Curriculum Review Committee, made up of program directors, teachers, Early Learning Coalition representatives, public school representatives, higher education representatives, and representation from the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning, in addition to other interested stakeholders.

As indicated in the [Curriculum Approval Specifications \(2010\)](#), six curricular components were reviewed: content, presentation, learning, professional development, parent/family materials, and research base.

It is important to note that all approved curriculum packages have been specially developed and packaged for Florida VPK Provider use and are composed of specially designed professional development and other supplemental materials.

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Communication with the vendor will ensure that the desired curricula is the designated Florida VPK curriculum to be purchased. Visiting the [Office of Early Learning's Curriculum webpage](#) is important to determine the full scope of what was reviewed for this VPK Curriculum Approval Process for Low Performing Providers.

The final report of the 2010 VPK Curriculum Approval Committee for Low Performing Providers is attached (see page five of the report for the list of approved curricula for low performing providers). Each approved submission is outlined in the appendices of the final report, detailing the required curriculum materials and professional development for each submission. The report, as well as information about each approved submission, will be available on our website shortly at www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/curric.asp.

As of September 15, 2010, purchases made by low-performing providers must be made from the 2010 list of approved curricula to be in compliance. Providers that purchased an approved curriculum from the 2007 list prior to September 15, 2010, are grandfathered and may continue to use the curriculum purchased for one year. However, the Department strongly urges all low performing providers to choose a current curriculum, especially one with strong research support to suggest the curriculum's effectiveness, if used appropriately. We appreciate your help in forwarding this information on to low-performing providers in your area.

The Department of Education will begin rule promulgation relating to the Curriculum Approval Process for Low Performing Providers in Fall 2010. Also during this period of time, the DOE will be working with the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) to create one set of standards for Florida's four-year-olds. The new set of standards is expected in Spring 2011. The next Curriculum Approval Process for Low Performing Providers is expected to begin in Summer 2011.

If you have any questions regarding the 2010 VPK Curriculum Approval Process for Low Performing Providers, please contact Stuart Greenberg, Director of Just Read, Florida! and the Office of Early Learning, or Dr. Tara Huls, Educational Policy Consultant, at (850) 245-0445 or via email, respectively at stuart.greenberg@fldoe.org or tara.huls@fldoe.org.

Attachment

cc: Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Regional Facilitators
Curriculum Publishers of Approved Submissions
2010 VPK Curriculum Review Committee Members
Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors
District Prekindergarten Contacts
Brittany Birken
Debby Russo