

# 2006-07 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The following contains a list of frequently asked questions and answers.

- VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate Website
- Provider Verification of Children Served
- VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate
- Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)
- Low Performing Providers
- Improvement Process

### **VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate Website**

#### **1. What is the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate website?**

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate website displays information related to the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates and Improvement Process. The steps to calculate the Readiness Rate include the following:

- VPK providers review and verify a list of the children they served and the number of hours each child attended
- Coalitions review the information submitted and accept or decline any changes
- Preliminary Readiness Rates are released and the Provider Dispute process begins
- Readiness Rates dispute process ends
- Final Readiness Rates are released
- State Board of Education sets the minimum readiness rate.

After the minimum readiness rate is set, VPK providers who do not meet that rate will be notified of their status as a low performing provider and will be required to develop and submit improvement plans.

#### **2. How do I access the readiness rate website?**

The website address for the readiness rate is: [vpk.fldoe.org](http://vpk.fldoe.org). Existing users of the website should use the user name and password previously provided to you. New users must type in the username (4-digit number) and password mailed to you.

#### **3. What alternatives are there for providers who do not have computers?**

If you do not have a computer, you may check with your local public library for public internet access.

### **Provider Verification of Children Served**

#### **4. What happens after a provider logs on to the Provider Home Page?**

The system will prompt you in a series of steps to review and verify the list of children served in your school-year or summer VPK program. In addition to basic information about each child, you will see a breakdown of the actual Total Hours Enrolled and Total Hours Absent along with a Percent Completion and a "Yes" or "No" if the child substantially completed the program. Children who attended 70-percent of the total program hours will be included in the readiness rate. The equivalent of 70-percent of the School-Year program is 378 hours. The equivalent of 70-percent of the Summer Program is 210 hours.

#### **5. Why am I being asked to verify the children who were in my VPK program?**

This is the information that is used for calculating the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate. The information you are being asked to verify should reflect what has already been provided to you by your coalition as part of your monthly payment process, but this is an opportunity for you to see a cumulative report. The names of the children listed and the total hours enrolled and absent are from the Agency for Workforce Innovation's (AWI's) electronic data system. These data were submitted to AWI by your early learning coalition.

**6. What do I do if everything is correct?**

If all the data is correct, you must click on the [Submit] button in Step 4 to indicate that you have reviewed the list and do not have any changes.

**7. What if a child's name is misspelled or the date of birth is not the same as I have on my records?**

You will click in the field of information you wish to change on the table and make the necessary changes.

**8. What if a child is on the list who did not attend my program or a child attended my program but is not on the list?**

If a child is on the list who was not in your program you will click on the appropriate box below the column labeled "Delete."

If a child attended your program but is not on the list, you may click on the [Add Child Record](#) link. A new, blank green-colored row will be automatically added to the bottom of the table.

**9. What if I change a child's hours to be either less or more than reported?**

Any changes to the data may result in a review of attendance sheets and associated documents to adjust hours paid. Depending on the nature of the changes and findings of the review, your local early learning coalition may need to adjust your payments for the program year. This may result in the return of overpaid funds or the receipt of additional funds.

**10. How long do I have to review and submit the data?**

The verification form will be available for review and verification for 14 calendar days.

**VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate**

**11. What is the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate?**

The Florida Department of Education/State Board of Education is required by law ([Section 1002.69\(5\), Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#)) to calculate a kindergarten readiness rate every year for each private or public school VPK Provider of either the School-Year (540-hour) or Summer (300-hour) program.

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate measures how well a VPK provider prepares four-year-olds to be ready for kindergarten based upon Florida's VPK Education Standards. The VPK Standards describe what four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of the VPK experience.

**12. What information is used to calculate the readiness rate?**

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate is based on the scores of children who attended VPK and who are screened upon entry into kindergarten. The screening is administered by the district public schools for all public school kindergarten students. Children who participated in VPK and attended a non-public school for kindergarten are also provided the opportunity to participate in the screening.

**Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)**

**13. What screener is administered?**

The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) is made up of a subset of the *Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS)*, an observational instrument that is used to monitor the skills, knowledge, and behaviors a student demonstrates or needs to develop; and two probes of the *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)*, Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) and Initial Sound Fluency (ISF).

**14. How is a child's readiness for kindergarten determined by the three FLKRS measures?**

Readiness for Kindergarten has been determined to be the following:

- ECHOS scores: Consistently Demonstrating or Emerging/Progressing
- DIBELS LNF and ISF scores: Above Average or Low Risk.

**15. How will these scores be used to calculate the VPK Providers Kindergarten Readiness Rate?**

**VPK Provider Readiness Rate Calculation**

	<b>ECHOS™</b>	<b>DIBELS™ Letter Naming Fluency</b>	<b>DIBELS™ Initial Sound Fluency</b>
<b>Children Ready for Kindergarten:</b> ECHOS: Consistently Demonstrating or Emerging/Progressing DIBELS Letter Naming Fluency and Initial Sound Fluency: Above Average or Low Risk.	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Children Screened:</b> The number of children screened on each of the three measures.	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Percent of Children Ready for Kindergarten:</b> The number of Children Ready for Kindergarten divided by the number of Children Screened on each measure.	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>60</b>
The VPK Provider Readiness Rate is the sum of the Percent of Children Ready for Kindergarten.	<b>235</b>		

The percent of children ready for kindergarten on each of the three measures is calculated by dividing the number of children who score at or above the levels for readiness on each measure by the number of children screened on each measure.

For example, if, out of a total of 22 children served by a VPK provider, 22 children are screened on the ECHOS and 22 score "ready," 22 divided by 22 equals 100-percent. If 20 children are screened on DIBELS LNF, and 15 are "ready," 15 divided by 20 equals 75-percent; and if 20 are screened on DIBELS ISF, and 12 are "ready," 12 divided by 20 equals 60-percent.

The sum of the percent of children ready for kindergarten is the Readiness Rate. In the example above, the sum of the percent of children ready (100 + 75 + 60) equals a readiness rate of 235. The maximum rate is 300.

**Low Performing Providers**

**16. How is the minimum readiness rate determined?**

After the readiness rate has been calculated for all providers, the State Board of Education will set the minimum readiness rate so that no more than 15-percent of all VPK providers would fall below the minimum rate (see [Section 1002.69\(6\), F.S.](#)).

**17. What is a Low Performing Provider?**

A Low Performing Provider is a VPK provider whose readiness rate is at or below the bottom 15-percent of all providers' readiness rates.

**18. How will a Low Performing Provider be notified?**

Low Performing Providers will be notified by mail and will be required to acknowledge receipt of this designation online.

**19. Are all VPK Providers included in the readiness rate?**

All providers who served at least four children who substantially completed either the School-Year or Summer program and participated in the kindergarten screening are included in the readiness rate calculation.

**20. What about the VPK Providers who aren't included in the VPK Readiness Rate?**

All VPK Providers will be listed when the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates are released. If a provider did not receive a readiness rate because either fewer than four children were served or fewer than four children were screened on any of the three FLKRS measures, this will be displayed.

## **Improvement Process**

### **21. Who is required to submit and implement an improvement plan?**

Low Performing Providers are required to submit and implement an improvement plan. The early learning coalition or school district, as applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school district and to implement the plan (See [Section 1002.67\(3\)\(c\), F.S.](#)).

### **22. Can a Low Performing Provider continue to provide VPK if an Improvement Plan is not submitted and approved?**

A Low Performing Provider can not begin instruction for a new VPK class or program and will not receive funding for VPK until an Improvement Plan has been submitted and approved.

### **23. If a Low Performing Provider has a change of ownership, change of location, or name change, does a Provider Acknowledgement and Improvement Plan still have to be submitted?**

All Low Performing Providers, regardless of a change in ownership, location, or name, must complete and submit the Provider Acknowledgement online. In order to begin instruction and receive VPK funds for a subsequent VPK class or program, an Improvement Plan must also be submitted and approved.

Note: VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates shall be binding on new private VPK owners if a change of ownership occurred at a point in time in which seventy (70) percent or more of the VPK program remained.

### **24. How is an improvement plan created?**

After the provider acknowledges the designation as a Low Performing Provider within 21 days of the State Board of Education's adoption of the minimum readiness rate, an improvement plan template may be completed and submitted online. The plan will include pre-populated information unique to each provider.

For more information regarding Improvement Plans, please see AWI's Improvement Process Program Guidance at: <http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/VPKImprovementProcessTutorial.html>

### **25. What does an improvement plan include?**

An improvement plan includes information from a "Provider Needs Assessment" which is used to help identify a list of targeted areas for improvement; a list of specific actions already taken, or proposed to be taken, for improvement in at least two of the targeted areas; and a timeline to implement the proposed actions.

### **26. What is the timeline for the submission of an Improvement Plan?**

An Improvement Plan must be submitted within 30 days of the online submission of the Provider Acknowledgment.

### **27. Will a provider be notified once the plan is approved?**

Yes. To find out if a plan has been approved a provider should log on to the readiness rate website to view their status (approved or disapproved) by clicking on the link for the Improvement Process home page.

### **28. What happens if a provider's plan is disapproved?**

A coalition or school district has 14 calendar days from the date the plan is submitted to approve or disapprove. If a plan is not approved, the provider's status will be displayed as "disapproved" until the provider revises the plan as instructed by the coalition or school district. An amended plan must be submitted within 30 calendar days from the date of disapproval.

### **29. How will implementation of the improvement plan be monitored?**

Periodic reports of a provider's progress in implementing the plan must be completed and submitted online in November, February, May, and August of each year until the provider meets or exceeds the minimum satisfactory readiness rate. Areas targeted for improvement with dates of completion and provider comments will be displayed on the report. Approval of the progress report and date of approval, along with school district or coalition comments, will also be displayed.

---

VPK Partner Resources:

[Department of Education \(DOE\)](#) | [Agency for Workforce Innovation \(AWI\)](#) | [Department of Children and Families \(DCF\)](#)

For questions & comments regarding education issues: [Commissioner@fldoe.org](mailto:Commissioner@fldoe.org)

For technical issues regarding this website: [Email Webmaster](#)

[Copyright Florida Department of Education ©2007](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)

Free Downloads: [Acrobat Reader](#) | [Excel Viewer 2003](#) | [Word Viewer 97/2000](#) | [PowerPoint Viewer 2003](#)