

PROVIDERS

Providers offering VPK to children in their community may or may not have a rate depending on what year they began serving children. Readiness rates will be re-calculated each year as a method of measuring the performance of providers in preparing Florida's four year olds for kindergarten.

The State Board of Education sets the minimum readiness rate. A Low Performing Provider is a VPK provider whose readiness rate is at or below the bottom percent of all providers' readiness rates.

Providers who fall below the minimum readiness rate will be notified by mail and required to

- acknowledge their status
- complete a provider needs assessment
- create an improvement plan
- include in their plan a list of actions already taken or proposed to be taken and a timeline to implement the proposed actions

USEFUL LINKS

Three state agencies have been given the responsibility for administering the VPK Education Program

- For information about the VPK Education Standards, kindergarten screening, curricula, professional development and accountability, please contact the Florida Department of Education, Office of Early Learning at:

www.fldoe.org/earlylearning
1-866-447-1159

- For information about the improvement process and all other day to day operations of the VPK Education Program, please contact the Agency for Workforce Innovation, Office of Early Learning at:

www.earlylearningflorida.org
1-866-357-3239

- For information about provider licensing and credentials, please contact the Department of Children and Families at:

www.dcf.state.fl.us/childcare



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Florida Department of Education
Office of Early Learning
850-245-0445



Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate



Florida Department of Education
Office of Early Learning



THE READINESS RATE



The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate measures how well a VPK provider prepares four year olds to be ready for kindergarten based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

The FLKRS is administered to children within the first 30 days of kindergarten. As required by law, the FLKRS is aligned with the *Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Standards*. FLKRS consists of a subset of the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) an observational instrument used to monitor the skills, knowledge and behaviors a student demonstrates or needs to develop; and two measures of the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) and Initial Sound Fluency (ISF)

The maximum rate possible is 100%. Readiness rates are calculated for all VPK providers that served at least four children who

- were in attendance for at least 80% percent of either the School Year or Summer VPK program (have substantially completed the program)
- participated in the FLKRS kindergarten screening



VPK PROVIDER READINESS RATE WEBSITE

Rates for providers who served children during the 2013-2014 or 2014-2015 VPK program years are published at

vpk.fldoe.org.

The Readiness Rate Search link under Visitor Links on the VPK Readiness Rate website allows you to search for providers based on the provider name, location, and/or the type of program such as School Year or Summer

Click on the name of the provider for detailed report information specific to that provider, including

- number of children served
- number of children meeting substantial completion
- number of children screened on any measure
- number of children included in the Readiness Rate calculation
- number and percent of children ready for kindergarten

For additional information, please refer to the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) link under Visitor Links on the VPK Readiness Rate website

PARENTS

Remember that the readiness rate is only one tool available to you when deciding upon the best option for your child's early education. In addition to considering a provider's readiness rate, selecting a VPK program is a process that should include observation of the program, interviews with the VPK teacher and/or director, and knowing "what to look for." When considering a VPK program for your child, you should look for happy and active children involved in developmentally appropriate learning activities.

Children in a VPK classroom should also be involved in hands-on activities, have many opportunities to learn and practice meaningful language, and have different experiences throughout the day including small group, large group, and individual activities. Worksheets, drills, or simply allowing children to play without teacher planning and reflection are not effective methods of preparing the "whole" child for kindergarten.

As your child's first teacher, rest assured that you are taking the first step to kindergarten readiness.

