



What's happening in VPK?

October 2010

AWI/DOE Collaboration on One Set of Standards for Florida's Four Year Olds

The Agency for Workforce Innovation/Office of Early Learning and the Department of Education/Office of Early Learning are working collaboratively to develop one set of standards for Florida's four-year-olds participating in either the School Readiness or Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

National and state panels of experts have been identified with the goal of increasing the quality of Florida's standards. The state panel of experts will meet in November in Tallahassee to begin work on the new standards. This process will include review of current standards (School Readiness and VPK) and current research to determine areas to strengthen for 2011.

An opportunity for public input on the final draft of the standards will be made available this spring before adoption for the 2011-12 school year.

VPK Good Cause Exemption Rule Promulgation

Work has continued on drafting language for the VPK Good Cause Exemption state board rule which provides direction on the application process for a good cause exemption.

The rule notice is currently posted on the Florida Administrative Weekly site which may be accessed at <https://www.flrules.org/Default.asp>

2010 VPK Curriculum Approval Process

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.

A complete list of the 2010 Approved VPK Curriculum may be obtained by visiting the Office of Early Learning website at <http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/curric.asp>.



VPK Assessment Update:

VPK Assessment kits are continuing to be shipped to coalitions and districts that expressed an interest in using the optional assessment this year. Requests have been received for 3,700 kits. A Train the Trainer Webinar was provided on September 16, 2010 to expand capacity for professional development through face-to-face opportunities. For assistance in scheduling face-to-face professional development, please contact the VPK Regional Facilitator for your area. VPK Regional Facilitator contact information may be accessed by visiting <http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/regionalfacilitators.asp>.

Also included within the assessment kit is a professional development DVD which provides videos and narration on how to administer the assessment. Assessment Period 1 spans from October 1-29, 2010. Due to a delay in the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN), Assessment Period 1 kits are being provided at no cost. Providers wishing to continue using the assessment will be able to purchase a full VPK Assessment kit prior to Assessment Period 2. The price will be determined through the ITN bidding process.

The VPK Assessment Online Reporting System is provided at no cost as an opportunity for capturing student responses and generating reports for teachers and parents.

In November, professional development information will be shared at a deeper level regarding VPK Assessment instructional implications including benchmark information to assist teachers in interpreting reports and guiding instruction. The VPK Assessment Technical Manual will soon be released.

NOW AVAILABLE! Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom Course: This online course is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors and provides instructional strategies for increasing language and vocabulary with young children. Videos are provided of VPK teachers implementing the strategies with children, in addition to activities, and resources to support teachers as they begin to use the language and vocabulary strategies in their own classrooms. You may now register for this DOE-approved online course by visiting Department of Children and Families' Web site at <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/dcf/cct/inf0001.html>. For successful completion of the course, 0.5 CEUs will be awarded.

NOW AVAILABLE! VPK Teacher Toolkit: Mathematical Thinking Folder: This online resource is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors. This folder will provide resources, instructional strategies, and activities for each of the six areas of Mathematical Thinking outlined in the 2008 VPK Education Standards. The VPK Teacher Toolkit is available at <http://www.flvpkonline.org/teachertoolkit/>.

NEW and NOW AVAILABLE! VPK Teacher Toolkit: The Florida VPK Assessment Folder: This online resource is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors and directors. General information regarding the VPK Assessment is available as well as resource links and answers to frequently asked questions about this assessment available for optional use. The VPK Teacher Toolkit is available at <http://www.flvpkonline.org/teachertoolkit/>.

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