



House Education Appropriations -  
February 16, 2005

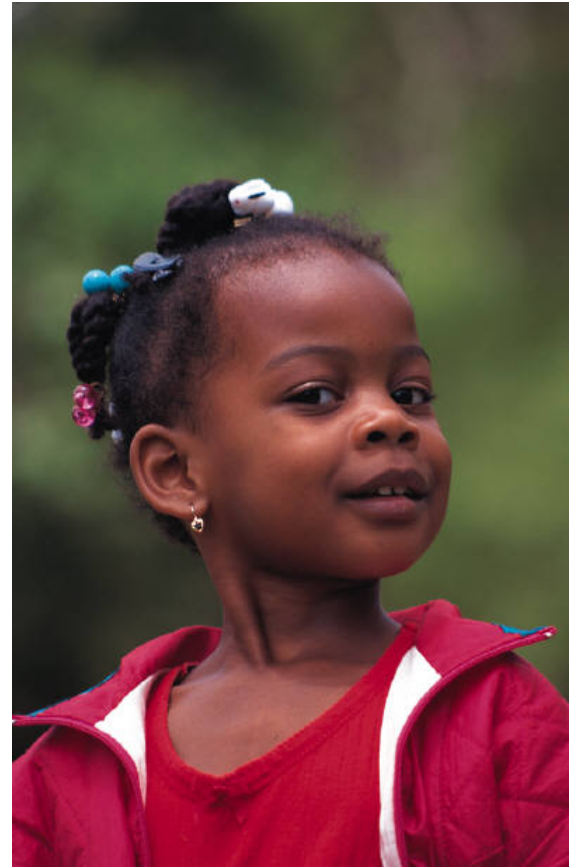
# VPK Update

Agency for Workforce Innovation  
and  
Florida Department of Education





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# VPK Update: AWI and DOE

- VPK Estimates
- Overview of Legislation
- Agency for Workforce Innovation and Department of Education
  - **Priority Functions and Activities**
  - **Timelines, Status, and Next Steps**
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Office of Early Learning  
Agency for Workforce Innovation
- Shan Goff  
Executive Director  
Office of Early Learning  
Agency for Workforce Innovation



# *VPK Estimates*

- **2004-05**
  - **212,740** – total number of 4-year-olds
  - **59,417** or **28%** of the 2003-04 number of 4-year-olds are provided services in state or federally-funded programs
  - **15,000** providers are currently paid by AWI along with **67** school districts paid by DOE
- **2005-06**
  - **220,853** – total number of 4-year-olds
  - **154,597** – **70%** of total number anticipated to participate in VPK program

(Source: November 8, 2004, Readiness Estimating Conference)

# *Legislation - Governance*

- **Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI)**
  - **Day-to-Day Operations**
  - **Accountability of Program Delivery**
  - **Payment and Attendance System**
  - **Training and Technical Assistance to Local Coalitions**
  - **Early Learning Advisory Committee**
  - **Early Learning Coalitions**

# Legislation – Governance

- Department of Education
  - Standards, Assessment, and Curricula
  - Accountability
  - Professional Development and Articulation
  - Technical Assistance



# Legislation - Governance

- **Early Learning Coalitions**
  - **Reduced to 30 or fewer by April 1, 2005**
  - **Revised membership**
    - Governor appoints chair and two other members
    - Added executive director of regional workforce, president of community college, and representative of programs for children with disabilities

# Legislation - Governance

- **Early Learning Coalitions (cont.)**
  - Included representative of private family day care home providers
  - Deleted members appointed by DCF and district school board; retains a DCF administrator and member appointed by superintendent
  - Specified that superintendent, central agency administrator, Head Start director, and representatives of private child care and faith-based providers are non-voting members

# Legislation - Governance

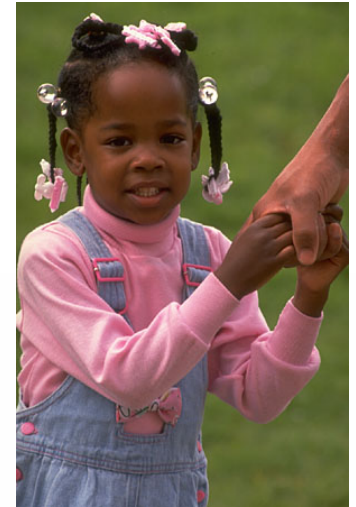
- **Early Learning Coalitions (cont.)**
  - Clarified applicable portions of the Code of Ethics
  - **Single point of entry for VPK enrollment**
  - **Responsible for local coordination, implementation, and fiscal accountability for school readiness and VPK programs**

# Legislation – Program Options

- **Prohibits enrollment in more than one program except if child has not completed more than 10 percent of the hours**
- **Provides for withdrawal due to hardship**
- **Requires parents to comply with provider's attendance policies and verify attendance**

# Legislation – Program Options

- **School-year program by private or eligible public provider\***



- **Summer program by public or private provider**



# Legislation – Program Options

- **School-Year by Private or Eligible Public Provider\***
  - **Prek classes of at least 4 but not more than 18 children**
  - **Comprised of at least 540 instructional hours**
  - **For classes with 11+, in addition to a qualified prek instructor, one additional adult instructor**

# Legislation - Program Options

- **School-Year by Private or Eligible Public Provider\* (cont.)**
  - **Prek instructor with**
    - a CDA or CDA-Equivalent who has completed an emergent literacy training course\*
    - a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood ed., prek or primary ed., prek ed., or family and consumer science
    - a bachelor's degree in elementary ed., if the instructor has been certified to teach any age from birth –grade 6

# Legislation – Program Options

- **School-Year by Private or Eligible Public Provider\* (cont.)**
  - **Prek instructor with**
    - an associate's degree or higher in child development
    - an associate's degree or higher in an unrelated field with at least 6 credit hours in early childhood or child development and at least 480 hours of experience
    - an educational credential approved by the DOE as being equivalent or greater

# Legislation – Program Options

- **School-Year by Private Provider**
  - **Accredited by a member association of the National Council for Private School Accreditation, the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation, or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools or**
  - **Hold a Gold Seal designation or**
  - **Be licensed and verified by the local coalition as meeting VPK program requirements**

# *Legislation – Program Options*

- **School-Year by Private Provider (cont.)**
  - **Licensed facility or nonpublic school or faith-based exempt provider**
  - **Have a prek director with a prek director credential that is approved by DOE as meeting requirements (2006-07)**

# *Legislation – Program Options*

- **School-Year by Eligible Public Provider**
  - **School boards determine which school is eligible to deliver program based on certification by school board that the school district “has reduced the average class size in each classroom in accordance with s. 1003.03 and the schedule in s. 1(a), Art. IC of the State Constitution and**

# Legislation – Program Options

- **School-Year by Eligible Public Provider (cont.)**
  - **has sufficient educational facilities and capital outlay funds to continue reducing the average class size in each classroom in the district's elementary schools for each year in accordance with the maximum class sizes...”**

# *Legislation – Program Options*

- **School-Year by Eligible Public Provider (cont.)**
  - **DOE reviews district's educational facilities, capital outlay funds, and projected student enrollment and concurs with school board's certification**
  - **Commissioner certifies the above to the State Board of Education**

# Legislation – Program Options

- **Summer Program by Public or Private Provider**
  - **Not begin earlier than May 1 of the school year**
  - **Not delivered earlier than the summer immediately before the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten**

# Legislation – Program Options

- **Summer Program by Public or Private Provider (cont.)**
  - **School boards determine which schools will deliver the summer program and will use educational facilities available in the summer**
  - **Private providers must meet each requirement specified for the school-year program**

# *Legislation – Program Options*

- **Summer Program by Public or Private Provider (cont.)**
  - **Comprised of at least 300 instructional hours**
  - **Prek instructor must be a certified teacher\* or one who holds one of the educational credentials specified for the school-year program (bachelor's degree or higher)**

# *Legislation – Program Options*

- **Summer Program by Public or Private Provider (cont.)**
  - **Certified teacher means one with a valid educator certificate who has the qualifications required by the district school board to instruct students in the summer prek program**
  - **School districts shall give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in early childhood**

# *AWI - Priority Functions & Activities*

- **Section 1002.75, Florida Statutes, requires AWI to adopt procedures for:**
  - **Enrolling and determining eligibility of children**
  - **Providing parents with provider profiles**
  - **Registering providers**
  - **Determining eligibility of providers**
  - **Verifying compliance of providers and removing providers from eligibility**
  - **Paying providers**
  - **Documenting and certifying student enrollment**
  - **Reconciling advance payments**
  - **Re-enrolling students.**

# *AWI - Priority Functions & Activities*

## **Section 1002.75, Florida Statutes,**

- **Requires AWI, in consultation with DOE, to adopt procedures for:**
  - **Approving improvement plans for providers on probation**
  - **Placing providers on probation and requiring corrective actions**
  - **Removing a provider from eligibility.**
- **Requires AWI to:**
  - **Adopt procedures for distribution of funds**

# AWI - Administration

- Appropriated Resources
  - 20 additional positions
  - \$4,218,010 Recurring GR
  - \$5,275,000 Nonrecurring GR
- Collaborative Partners
  - DOE
  - DCF
  - Local Early Learning Coalitions



# *AWI - Functions and Activities*

- Developing, writing and disseminating policies, procedures and rules
- Enrollment of children and providers
- Provide technical assistance to local coalitions on the implementation of VPK
  - **Meeting in scheduled February 24-24, 2005**
- Developing an accountability system for VPK
- Collaborating with DOE, DCF and local early learning coalitions and VPK providers

# *AWI - Status*

- **Pre-registration began February 1, 2005 on website and in local areas**
- **As of February 14 there were 14,807 children and 1,173 providers pre-registered**
- **VPK Implementation dollars are being sent to local coalitions**
- **Many local coalitions are holding VPK public meetings**
- **Launched website**

# *Next Steps*

- **Confirm number of local early learning coalitions – April 1**
- **Verify eligible VPK providers- May 1**
- **Enroll children with eligible providers - after May 1**
- **Develop and implement attendance and payment processes for local providers – June 1**
- **Promulgate rules – As soon as process allows**

# *AWI - External Communication*

- **Weekly conference calls with local early learning coalition executive directors**
- **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers being shared with local coalitions and on website**
- **Developing bi-weekly update for all stakeholders**
- **Regional meetings on a regular basis with local early learning coalitions as needed**

# AWI - External Communications

- Websites
  - [www.vpkflorida.org](http://www.vpkflorida.org)



# Legislation – Governance

- **Department of Education**
  - **Standards, Assessment, and Curricula**
  - **Accountability**
  - **Professional Development and Articulation**
  - **Technical Assistance**

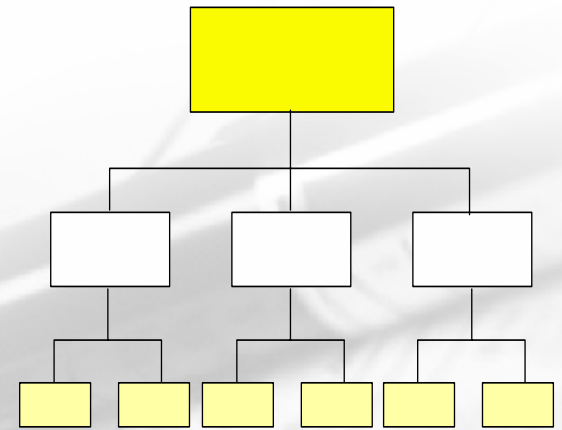
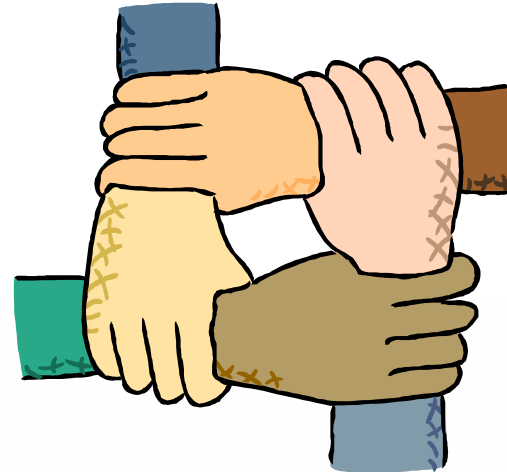


# DOE - Functions & Priorities



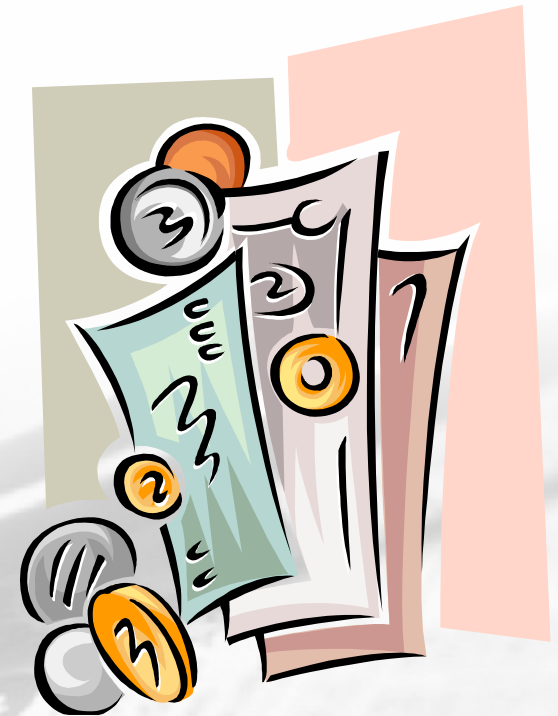
# DOE - Functions and Priorities

- **Interagency Collaboration and Administration**
  - **Implement legislation**
  - **Coordinate activities with DOE, FCRR, early learning coalitions, AWI, and DCF**
  - **Establish DOE VPK Office**



# DOE - Administration

- **Appropriated Resources**
  - 17 additional positions
  - \$1,090,300 Recurring GR
  - \$ 975,000 Nonrecurring GR
- **Collaborative Partners**
  - K-20 (Just Read, Florida!)
  - Florida Center for Reading Research
  - AWI
  - DCF



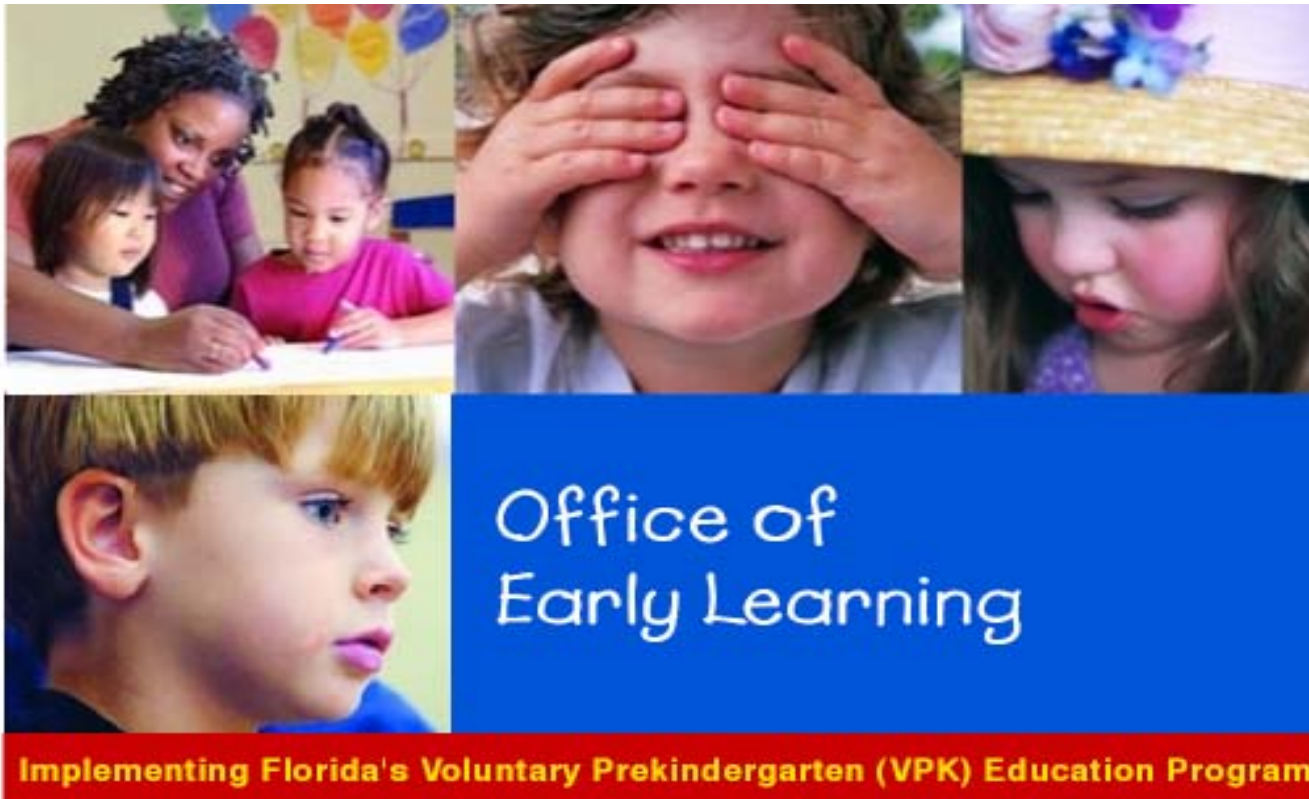
# DOE - External Communications

- **Websites**
  - [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)



# DOE - External Communications

- Websites
  - [www.myfloridaeducation.com/earlylearning](http://www.myfloridaeducation.com/earlylearning)

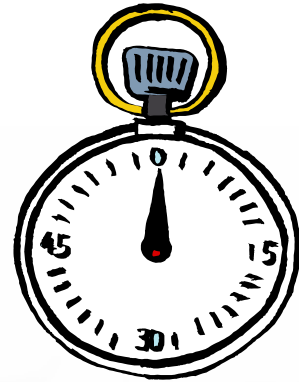


## *DOE - External Communications*

- **Weekly conference calls with local coalitions with Agency for Workforce Innovation**
- **Bi-weekly conference calls with school district representatives**
- **Calendar of related events**
- **Materials for parents, providers, and local coalitions**

# DOE - Standards

- **Setting and Aligning Standards**
  - **Performance Standards – 4/1/05**
  - **Emergent Literacy Course Standards  
Prek Instructors – 4/1/05**
  - **Curricula – 4/1/05**
  - **Equivalent Credentials for School-Year  
Program – TBA**
  - **Kindergarten Readiness Rates – 7/1/05**
  - **Articulation for Postsecondary Programs –  
9/1/05**
  - **Prek Director's Credential – 7/1/06**



## Performance Standards

- **Status**
  - **Panel of Experts identified and meeting on February 17-18 to review “current” standards/expectation for four-year-olds and identify areas for recommended revisions**
  - **All areas to be reviewed with focus on Language and Communication domain**

# DOE - Standards: Status

## Curricula Standards

- **Status**
  - **Panel of Experts will review current standards used by Florida Center for Reading Research, recommend standards, and discuss processes for review and for approval**

## **Emergent Literacy Course Standards for Prek Instructors**

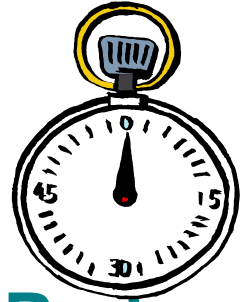
- **Status**
  - **Panel of Experts will discuss competencies needed for prek instructors given the standards/expectations for children and standards for curricula**
  - **Emergent literacy course standards will reflect prek instructor competencies**

# *DOE – Standards: Next Steps*

- **Next Steps**
  - **SBE March 15, 2005 – approval of child, curricula, and course standards**
  - **Statewide dissemination of revised standards**
  - **Conduct reviews of curricula**
  - **Finalize process for approval of curricula**

# DOE - Standards

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  - **Performance Standards – 4/1/05**
  - **Emergent Literacy Course Standards Prek Instructors – 4/1/05**
  - **Curricula – 4/1/05**
  - **Equivalent Credentials for School-Year Program – TBA**
  - **Kindergarten Readiness Rates – 7/1/05**
  - **Articulation for Postsecondary Programs – 9/1/05**
  - **Prek Director's Credential – 7/1/06**



# DOE - Functions and Priorities

- **Accountability & Quality Assurance**
  - **Certification of school district eligibility to provide school-year program – TBA**
  - **Quality assurance visits with AWI - TBA**
  - **Report kindergarten readiness rates - TBA**



# DOE - Functions & Priorities

- **Accountability & Quality Assurance**
  - **Certification of school district eligibility to provide school-year program**
- **Status**
  - **Revised timelines for districts' submission of certification**
  - **Removed item from February 15, 2005 SBE meeting**

# *DOE - Functions and Priorities*

- **Provider (Public and Private) Services**
  - **Information, training and assistance**
  - **Options for professional development opportunities**
  - **Recruitment and retention of prek instructors**
  - **Planning for programs**
  - ...

# *DOE Functions & Priorities*

- **Provider (Public and Private) Services**
  - **Information, training and assistance**
  - **Options for professional development opportunities**
- **Status**
  - **Working with early learning coalitions to hire regional DOE early learning specialists**
  - **Planning for emergent literacy training**
  - ...



