2008-09 Kindergarten Screening Results and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program - 2009-10 Fact Sheet

Kindergarten Screening

- All public school kindergarten students are administered a screening within the first 30 days of kindergarten. Children who participated in VPK and attended a non-public school for kindergarten are also provided the opportunity to participate in the screening.

- In 2008-09, the statewide kindergarten screening consisted of a subset of the *Early Childhood Observation System* (*ECHOS*™) and the Broad Screen/Progress Monitoring portion of the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR).

- The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) are no longer administered as part of the kindergarten screening.

- *ECHOS*™ is an observational instrument that is used to monitor the skills, knowledge, and behaviors a student demonstrates or needs to develop. Results of the *ECHOS*™ were calculated by using the ratings teachers assigned to 19 activities as a result of their on-going classroom observation. Scores are reported for *ECHOS*™ in the following readiness categories:
    - Demonstrating - the child demonstrated what he or she should know and be able to do at the beginning of kindergarten
    - Emerging/Progressing - the child demonstrated some of the skills he or she needs to know or be able to do at the beginning of kindergarten
    - Not Yet Demonstrating – the child did not demonstrate the appropriate skill during the screening

- To be considered "Ready for Kindergarten," children should be scoring at the Demonstrating or Emerging/Progressing levels on the *ECHOS*™.

- The Broad Screen portion of the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading consists of Letter Naming and Phonemic Awareness tasks. Results from the Broad Screen measures are used to calculate a "Probability of Reading Success" score which is expressed as a percent from one to ninety-nine (1% - 99%). This Probability of Reading Success is a statement about the probability of the student scoring at or above grade-level at the end of the kindergarten year on the outcome measure (Word Reading performance on the Stanford Early School Achievement Test (SESAT)).

- A Probability of Reading Success score of 67 percent (67%) or higher is considered "Ready for Kindergarten."

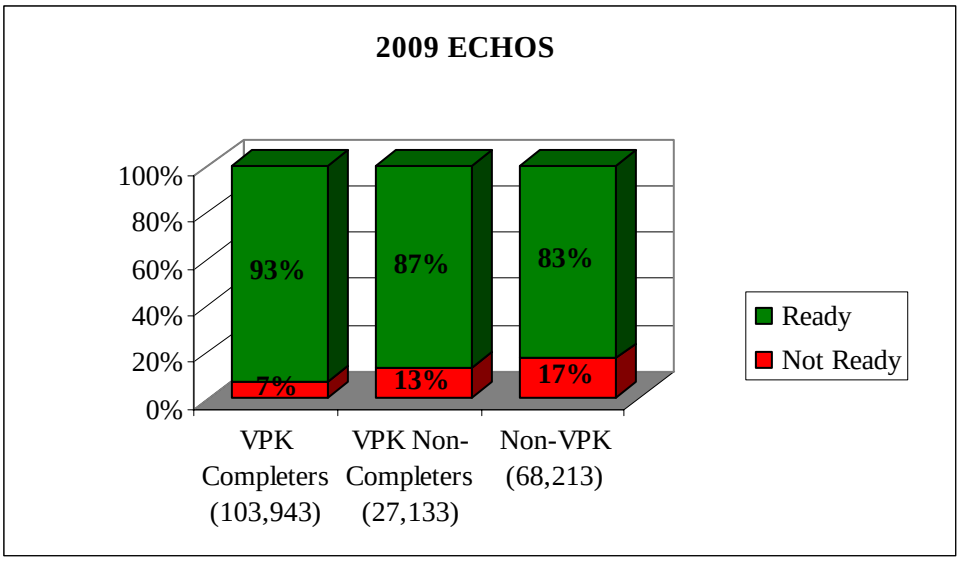
- Results for all public school kindergarten students were released on January 6, 2010. (For more information, go to: http://www.fldoe.org/news/2010/2010_06_01/Memo1-6-10.pdf.)

Kindergarten Screening Results and the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program

- For the past three years, analyses of the kindergarten screening data indicate that children who complete the VPK program out perform their peers on each of the kindergarten screening measures. (For more information, go to: http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/doc/vpsVSnon.rtf).

- As shown below, on the *ECHOS*™ portion of the kindergarten screening, 93 percent of the VPK completers were assessed as "ready" for kindergarten as compared to 87 percent of VPK Non-Completers, and 83 percent of Non-VPK Participants.

2009 ECHOS™ Results:
For 2008-09 VPK Completers, Non-Completers, and Non-VPK Participants

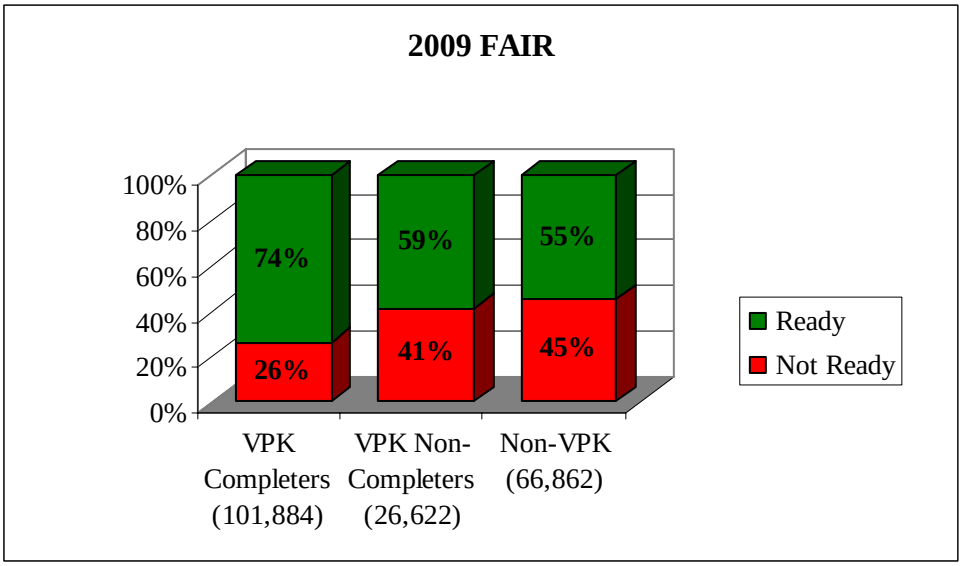


- As stated above, scores on the *ECHOS*™ are reported in three readiness categories: Demonstrating, Emerging/Progressing, and Not Yet Demonstrating. The historical data related to these categories are listed below.

ECHOS	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
VPK Completers	**92.94%**	**92.50%**	**93.40%**	**92.00%**
• Demonstrating	53.8%	54.0%	58.4%	51.7%
• Emerging/Progressing	39.2%	38.5%	35.1%	40.3%
• Not Yet Demonstrating	7.1%	7.5%	6.6%	8.0%
VPK Non-Completers	**86.76%**	**86.50%**	**88.30%**	**87.90%**
• Demonstrating	41.4%	43.6%	48.1%	44.5%
• Emerging/Progressing	45.4%	42.9%	40.3%	43.4%
• Not Yet Demonstrating	13.2%	13.5%	11.7%	12.1%
Non-VPK Participants	**83.30%**	**83.00%**	**84.10%**	**83.30%**
• Demonstrating	39.7%	42.1%	43.6%	40.2%
• Emerging/Progressing	43.7%	41.0%	40.5%	43.1%
• Not Yet Demonstrating	16.7%	17.0%	15.9%	16.7%

- On the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) Broad Screen portion of the kindergarten screening, 74 percent of the VPK Completers were assessed as "ready" for kindergarten as compared to 59 percent of VPK Non-Completers, and 55 percent of Non-VPK Participants.

2009 Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading Broad Screen Results:
For 2008-09 VPK Completers, Non-Completers, and Non-VPK Participants



FAIR – Broad Screen	2008-09
VPK Completers	73.62%
VPK Non-Completers	58.94%
Non-VPK Participants	54.85%

- Although only baseline results are available for the new FAIR screening measure, in 2008-09, 81,598 or 86.2 percent of the children completing the VPK program scored "ready" on the DIBELS Letter Naming Fluency measure and 67,119 or 72.7 percent scored "ready" on the Initial Sound Fluency measure.

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

- The VPK program began as a constitutional amendment passed by Florida's voters in November 2002 and signed into law January 2, 2005.

- The VPK program is designed to prepare Florida's children for kindergarten and develop the skills they need to become good readers and successful students. It includes standards for literacy skills, strict accountability, appropriate curricula, manageable class sizes and qualified instructors.

- The VPK program is free for all eligible children.

- Florida's VPK program is jointly administered by the Department of Education, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and the Department of Children and Families.