

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Consent Item**

September 14, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Amendments to Rules 6M-8.610, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Credentials for Private Providers and 6M-8.615, VPK Training Requirements

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1001.213(2), Florida Statutes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. OEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

OEL is required to establish minimum standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Rule 6M-8.610, F.A.C. adopts these standards. Additionally, OEL is required to establish minimum standards for training courses on performance standards adopted by OEL. In October 2017, the State Board approved updated performance standards.

The Office of Early Learning revised the current rule text and incorporated Form OEL-VPK 25, Training Requirements: VPK Instructors (with CDA or equivalent), to adopt the new course created for the revised standards, update the reference to the new standards and update reference to the current Department of Children and Families rule applicable to VPK directors and instructors. As the standards established by DCF are incorporated by reference in a handbook, OEL is required to incorporate by reference the handbook.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rules 6M-8.610 and 6M-8.615, F.A.C. Form OEL-VPK 25, "Training Requirements: VPK Instructors (with CDA or equivalent)" (October 2018); and Florida Department of Children and Families "Child Care Facility Handbook" (October 2017) (under separate cover)

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Rodney J. MacKinnon, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning



**6M-8.610 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Credential for Private Providers.**

(1) A private prekindergarten program delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program must have a director who has a VPK Director Credential.

(a) Successful completion of the Director Credential, as required by Section 402.305(2)(f), F.S., and paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C., prior to December 31, 2006, shall satisfy this requirement.

(b) Successful completion of the minimum standards listed in paragraphs (2)(a) through (d), of this rule, and completion of the education and onsite requirements listed in paragraphs (3)(a) through (d), of this rule, prior to November 1, 2017, shall satisfy this requirement.

(2) In accordance with Section 1002.57(1), F.S., the Office of Early Learning (OEL) adopts the following minimum standards for a VPK Director Credential. The VPK Director Credential must include each of the following:

(a) An instructor-led or online course, approved by OEL, on the VPK performance standards adopted under Rule 6M-8.602, F.A.C.

(b) An online course, approved by OEL, on emergent literacy standards adopted under Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.

(c) An online course, approved by OEL, designed to deepen an individual's understanding of mathematical concepts and skills appropriate for preschool-aged children.

(d) An online course, approved by OEL, designed to deepen an individual's understanding of the use of language and vocabulary in VPK classrooms.

~~(e)~~(e) An online course, approved by OEL, that addresses the following VPK Director competencies:

1. Organizational Leadership and Management – To implement strategies and techniques that promote a responsive work and learning environment, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

a. Management strategies that support a professional culture and climate;

b. Instructional leadership skills and the provision of supports to VPK instructors;

c. Available resources and supports for VPK instructors and parents; and,

d. Local processes and procedures for the transition of VPK children to public and private kindergarten programs.

2. Financial and Legal – To maintain effective financial planning and budgeting systems and sound practices

related to legal obligations and responsibilities, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

- a. Applicable laws and rules and legal responsibilities;
- b. Roles and responsibilities of state agencies, local coalitions, and providers;
- c. Monitoring requirements; and,
- d. Financial operating procedures.

3. Program and Performance Standards – To maintain an instructional leadership role in creating and sustaining an effective learning environment, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

a. Developmentally appropriate and research-based instructional practices and their application in the classroom;

b. Evaluation of the appropriateness and effectiveness of available prekindergarten curricula;

c. Effective implementation of a prekindergarten curriculum in the classroom;

d. Effective instructional strategies for children with disabilities or other special needs and for English language learners;

e. Developmentally appropriate methods for the on-going assessment of young children and interpretation of these data for program planning and the delivery of instruction; and,

f. Local and state accountability systems; and,

~~(f) (4)~~ Education and onsite experience through the successful completion of the Director Credential, as established in section 4.7 and subsection 4.8.3 as adopted in the Florida Department of Children and Families Child Care Facility Handbook, October 2017, incorporated by reference in rule 65C-22.001, F.A.C. The Florida Department of Children and Families Child Care Facility Handbook, October 2017 is incorporated by reference. The handbook may be obtained from the Department of Children and Families website at [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare) or from the following link: <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-09845> ~~paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C.~~

~~(e) An online course, approved by OEL, designed to deepen an individual's understanding of mathematical concepts and skills appropriate for preschool-aged children.~~

~~(f) An online course, approved by OEL, designed to deepen an individual's understanding of the use of language and vocabulary in VPK classrooms.~~

(3) The following OEL approved courses and credential will satisfy the minimum standards for the VPK Director Credential as established in subsection (2), of this rule:

(a) Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten (instructor-led and online)~~DOE—Standards for Four Year Olds or Florida Standards for Four Year Olds—Online;~~

(b) Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors (online);

(c) Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners (online);

(d) Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom (online);

(e)~~(e)~~ VPK Director Credential course (online); and

(f)~~(d)~~ A Director Credential issued in accordance with standards set forth in section 4.7 and subsection 4.8.3 as adopted in the Florida Department of Children and Families Child Care Facility Handbook, October 2017, incorporated by reference in rule 65C-22.001, F.A.C. with paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C.;

~~(e) Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners (online); and,~~

~~(f) Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom (online).~~

(4)(a) A VPK Director Credential will be issued to an individual that has successfully completed all of the courses and requirements established subsection (3) of this rule.

(b) For purposes of this rule “successfully completed” is defined as follows:

1. For the online courses, an eighty (80) percent passing rate on the course test.

2. For the Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten

~~DOE—Standards for Four Year Olds~~ instructor-led course, attendance and participation in full course, as verified by the OEL approved instructor of the course.

3. For the Director’s Credential, a current credential issued in accordance with in section 4.7 and subsection 4.8.3 as adopted in the Florida Department of Children and Families Child Care Facility Handbook, October 2017, incorporated by reference in rule 65C-22.001, F.A.C. paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C..

*Rulemaking Authority 1002.79 FS. Law Implemented 1002.55(3)(g), 1002.57 FS. History—New 12-31-06, Amended 5-19-08, Formerly 6A-6.040, Amended 1-11-16, 10-15-17, \_\_\_\_\_*

**6M-8.615 VPK Training Requirements.**

(1) In accordance with Section 1002.59(1), F.S., the Office of Early Learning (Office) adopts the following minimum standards for training courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors:

(a) The training course(s) must contain instruction in emergent reading with the goal that the participant will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of motivation and emergent reading;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of phonological awareness;
3. Identify alphabet knowledge and skills; and,
4. Understand the importance of retelling stories to develop comprehension.

(b) The training course(s) must contain instruction in language and communication with the goal that the participant will be able to:

1. Learn how to increase the language skills of prekindergarten children;
2. Learn how to increase the complexity of the spoken language of prekindergarten children;
3. Develop skills to help prekindergarten children initiate conversations, ask questions, and respond to others;
4. Know how to improve the speaking, listening, and conversational skills of prekindergarten children; and,
5. Know how to expand the vocabulary of prekindergarten children.

(c) The training course(s) must contain instruction in emergent writing with the goal that the participant will be able to:

1. Demonstrate how writing with children will influence the way they learn to communicate through writing;
2. Learn how to provide meaningful and purposeful writing opportunities to motivate and encourage children to explore print; and,
3. Examine the skills and strategies needed to know how to coach children in writing throughout the year keeping in mind developmental needs of each child.

(2) In accordance with Section 1002.59(2), F.S., the Office adopts the following minimum standards for training course(s) in performance standards:

(a) The training course(s) must contain instruction in Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten (October 2017) ~~Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Standards for Four Year Olds~~ as adopted by reference in Rule 6M-8.602, F.A.C., that does the following:

1. Discusses the purpose, history, and development of the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten (October 2017) ~~Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four Year Olds;~~

2. Leads participants to identify the domains, components, standards, and benchmarks in the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten (October 2017) ~~Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four Year Olds;~~ and,

3. Demonstrates how developmentally appropriate daily practices relate to the standards found in the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten (October 2017) ~~Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four Year Olds.~~

(3) As required by Section 1002.55(3)(c)2, F.S., the Office adopts the courses relating to emergent literacy and performance standards listed in Training Requirements: VPK Instructors (with CDA or equivalent), Form OEL-VPK 25 (October 2018) ~~February 2015~~, which is hereby incorporated by reference any may be obtained as described in Rule 6M-8.900, F.A.C., or found at <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-09853> ~~<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05453>~~.

(a) The course listed in OEL-VPK 25 relating to emergent literacy meets the relative minimum standards for emergent literacy in Section 1002.59(1), F.S.

(b) The courses listed in OEL-VPK 25 relating to performance standards for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) instructors meet the minimum standards for performance standards in Section 1002.59(2), F.S.

*Rulemaking Authority 1001.213(2), 1002.79 FS. Law Implemented 1002.55(3)(5)(c)2., 1002.59 FS. History-New 7-1-15, Amended \_\_\_\_\_.*

