

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
October 20, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-8.610, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Credential for Private Providers

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1001.02(1), Florida Statutes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Education, Division of Early Learning administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide which include the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

The rule sets forth the credential and training requirements for VPK Directors for private providers. These requirements help ensure that directors of private VPK programs are of high quality and have specialized training in the most current performance standards adopted for use in VPK programs as well as training in the areas of early literacy, mathematical thinking, language and vocabulary and VPK Director competencies.

The rule was amended based on recent legislative changes to sections 1002.55(3)(g) and 1002.57, F.S., following the passage of [House Bill 419](#) (Sections 35 and 36). The rule text was amended as follows:

- Added provision for administrators of private prekindergarten programs who hold a valid certificate issued by the department in educational leadership satisfy the VPK Director credential requirement.
- Removed the provision that previously exempted directors who received their Director Credential prior to December 31, 2006 from having to meet VPK Director Credential requirements.
- Removed references to the Office of Early Learning (OEL) and replaced with the department.
- Replaced broken web links for materials referenced in rule.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed rule 6M-8.610, F.A.C.

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Matt Mears, Chancellor, Division of Early Learning