Early Learning Update

Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders (FOIL)

Shan Goff and Melinda Webster
Office of Early Learning

Tallahassee, Florida
November 4, 2020
Agenda

– Florida’s Early Learning Population
– Overview of Office of Early Learning
– Impact of COVID-19 and FDOE/OEL’s Response
  – Funding
  – Successful Transition to K Projects
– 2020-21 VPK Enrollment
– Review of 2019 Kindergarten Screening Results & 2020 Predictions
– Opportunities for Training
Early Learning Population

1.3 million children younger than 6\(^1\)
42% percent of those are from low-income families\(^1\)
  — Of the 42%, 27% participated in the SR Program\(^2\)
  — 221,715 children are enrolled in Fiscal Year 2019-20\(^3\)

71% of Florida’s 4-year-olds participated in the VPK Program\(^4\)
  — 166,726 children enrolled in Program Year 2019-20

Sources:
\(^2\)EFS Modernization payment data as of October 8, 2020.
\(^3\)Ibid.
State-Level Duties & Responsibilities

– Designated as lead to administer state and federal child care funds (Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)/Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)) – Florida’s SR Program

– Responsible for implementing state’s VPK program

– Partner with 30 early learning coalitions, Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) and others to deliver comprehensive, statewide early learning services

– Accountable to the Commissioner of Education
FDOE/OEL’s Response

School Readiness Days Paid:

Statewide Day Type Totals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absence Due To Disaster</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>442,575</td>
<td>773,817</td>
<td>938,951</td>
<td>1,097,631</td>
<td>1,132,841</td>
<td>953,231</td>
<td>628,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Absence</td>
<td>9,198</td>
<td>20,958</td>
<td>4,837</td>
<td>8,593</td>
<td>14,187</td>
<td>15,759</td>
<td>16,325</td>
<td>16,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled/Present</td>
<td>2,345,610</td>
<td>1,785,228</td>
<td>662,137</td>
<td>1,156,942</td>
<td>1,913,577</td>
<td>1,912,971</td>
<td>2,008,733</td>
<td>2,093,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excused Absence</td>
<td>125,897</td>
<td>111,708</td>
<td>25,098</td>
<td>38,813</td>
<td>66,129</td>
<td>70,099</td>
<td>71,269</td>
<td>64,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursable Holiday</td>
<td>56,911</td>
<td>5,335</td>
<td>34,229</td>
<td>112,880</td>
<td>1,332</td>
<td>115,128</td>
<td>11,816</td>
<td>131,333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide Day Type %:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absence Due To Disaster</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Absence</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled/Present</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excused Absence</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursable Holiday</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FDOE/OEL’s Response

VPK Hours Scheduled:

Statewide Hour Type Totals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed Reimbursable</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>2,018,737</td>
<td>6,801,977</td>
<td>4,460,602</td>
<td>154,840</td>
<td>3,722</td>
<td>3,908</td>
<td>66,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Absent</td>
<td>723,889</td>
<td>1,397,921</td>
<td>2,244,117</td>
<td>2,457,843</td>
<td>159,437</td>
<td>35,664</td>
<td>108,089</td>
<td>426,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Attended</td>
<td>8,310,980</td>
<td>4,493,551</td>
<td>659,804</td>
<td>970,794</td>
<td>188,424</td>
<td>150,906</td>
<td>1,842,334</td>
<td>5,288,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>9,035,027</td>
<td>7,910,209</td>
<td>9,705,898</td>
<td>7,889,239</td>
<td>502,700</td>
<td>189,292</td>
<td>1,954,331</td>
<td>5,781,594</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide Hour Type %:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed Reimbursable</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Absent</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Attended</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FDOE/OEL’s Response

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), through the Office of Early Learning (OEL), has allocated more than $363 million in funding to support Florida’s youngest learners. These funds, from Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF), General Revenue (GR), Preschool Development Grant (PDG), and Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), may be used to provide the resources and support needed to help providers remain open or re-open as soon as they can safely do so. A description of Florida’s responses to provide resources and supports to both families and child care providers is below. Each of the supports provided are consistent with the following principles:

$363 MILLION
in funding to support Florida’s youngest learners.

I. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS (CCDF) - $119.5M (MARCH – OCTOBER)
- Spring 2020: Distributed to providers $4.2 million in mini-grants to meet infrastructure, cleaning and supply needs and teacher training stipends.
- March-August 15, 2020: Suspended terminations of SR child care services, and extended timelines for submission of paperwork by parents to maintain eligibility for families.
- May-October 2020: Provided flexibility for eligibility for SR child care by adding “job search” as a purpose for care for families.
- April-September 2020: Waived required SR copayments for parents, and reimbursed SR (birth – age 5 and school-age programs) ($9.6M per month) based on enrollment as opposed to attendance ($7.9M per month).

GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS (GR) - $84.4 MILLION
- April-September 2020: Reimbursed VPK providers based on enrollment as opposed to attendance. Totaling $84.4M from April – September 2020.

PRESCCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS (PDG) - $4 MILLION
- The PDG funds, designed to strengthen Florida’s overall early childhood system to improve quality early learning experiences for children, were redirected to provide mini-grants to support the provision of mental health services to child care staff and the families they serve, as well as provided support for the use of high-quality curriculum by SR providers ($2M for each two sets of mini-grants to early learning coalitions).
II. CARES ACT RESPONSE

A. CHILD CARE FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS - $52.9M

- In April 2020, OEL in coordination with local early learning coalitions, prioritized and increased access to child care services for health care and first responder professionals by creating a referral process and financial incentives for programs to swiftly provide expedited access and expedited referrals for 26,000 children of first responders and health care professionals (as of 9/8/2020). 87% of these children are now enrollments in the program. Over 4,000 eligible early learning/child care providers, with SR contracts, received a monthly bonus/incentive of $500 per child (with a maximum limit of $12,000 per provider location).

- [Insert some numbers here]

B. THREE GRANT PHASES TO NEARLY 12,000 EARLY LEARNING/CHILD CARE PROVIDERS - $88.8 MILLION

1. Emergency Child Care Relief Grants for Early Learning/Child Care Providers - $52.8M
   - 6,500 SR and VPK providers and non-contracted providers that were open for business as of April 30, 2020 received grants to continue their services. These providers may have had intermittent closures, and providers that have closed permanently after April 30, 2020 were not eligible for these funds.

2. High-Quality Reopening Support Grants for Early Learning/Child Care Providers - $19.1M
   - 2,300 SR and VPK providers and non-contracted providers that were closed on April 30, 2020 and reopened by August 31, 2020 received grants. These providers were required to have a Gold Seal designation or a program assessment (CLASS score) of 3.5 or higher.

3. Contracted SR/VPK Providers - $16.9M
   - 3,100 SR and VPK providers, including contracted public/charter school providers and program assessment (CLASS) exempt providers that were closed on April 30, 2020 and reopened by August 31, 2020 received grants to assist in reopening during the COVID-19 crisis.

C. OTHER PROGRAMS - 13.6 MILLION

- Successful Transition to Kindergarten - $10.7M
  - Incoming kindergarten students had their preschool experience significantly disrupted by COVID-19. Funding has been provided to 36 school districts via their early learning coalition to implement summer programs for rising kindergarten students identified with limited language and emergent literacy skills as determined by the VPK assessments and teacher recommendations. To date, the investment has been $10.7M, and the remaining funds will be support continuing this program throughout this year.

- Progress Monitoring for VPK and K - $2.9M
  - A pilot program for VPK providers to use the same screening tool that is currently required for kindergarten screening (STAR Early Literacy) will begin in January and includes an evaluation component.
School Readiness

• October – December – “dimmer switch” approach by reducing extra number of days absent paid
  • October - +6 days
  • November +4 days
  • December +2 days

VPK

• October – Returned to “current policy” for payments
FDOE/OEL’s Response

Successful Transition to Kindergarten: Rising K Program

• Funded through CCDF/CARES ($10.9M) via coalitions
• 37 school districts participating
• **Provide an emphasis on closing/remediating achievement gaps.**
• Minimize potential learning loss due to program closures this spring.
• Set students up for success.
• Help students acclimate to kindergarten.
• Provide a jump start to the kindergarten concepts and skills.
• Provide instruction to fill any early literacy achievement gaps for children in need.
Successful Transition to Kindergarten: VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Program

Goals

- Provide opportunity for VPK providers to implement Star Early Literacy in their VPK programs in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.
- Extend the administration of Star Early Literacy to Florida’s VPK programs to establish consistency in assessments between VPK and Kindergarten.
- Provide a more comprehensive overview of the learning and growth continuum during critical early learning years.
FDOE/OEL’s Response

VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Program

• Funded through Child Care Development Fund/CARES ($2.9M).
• Voluntary participation available on an application basis with funding for up to 1,919 providers (3,644 classrooms and 50,243 VPK students).
• Access to a variety of progress reports for students and resources as well as reports to share with parents.
• Available during Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3 as well as throughout the school year for ongoing progress monitoring, as needed.
• Pilot study results evaluated by The Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University.
FDOE/OEL’s Response

VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Program

The VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot will provide the opportunity for VPK providers to implement STAR Early Literacy in their VPK programs in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Extending the administration of STAR Early Literacy to Florida’s VPK programs will establish consistency in assessments between VPK and Kindergarten and provide a more comprehensive overview of the learning and growth continuum during critical early learning years.

Participating providers will have access to a variety of progress reports for their students and resources as well as reports to share with parents. STAR Early Literacy will be available during Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3 as well as throughout the school year for ongoing progress monitoring, as needed. Pilot study results will be evaluated by the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University.

Who can apply? VPK school-year program providers (private and public.)

Where to apply? Applications are available through the Bright Beginnings website. VPK Administrators will find a link to the application from their Administrator Home Page after logging in.


For more information, please visit the dedicated web page at: http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-star-early-literacy-assessment-pilot
### VPK Enrollment

#### Readiness of Incoming Kindergarten Students Statewide – Fall 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Children</th>
<th>Percent “Ready”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Public School Kindergartners</td>
<td>190,805</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPK Completers</td>
<td>126,238</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPK Non-Completers</td>
<td>26,487</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-VPK Participants</td>
<td>55,184</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR Only Kindergartners</td>
<td>3,723</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2018-19 VPK Readiness Rate match files and 2019 FLKRS final data files.
Percentage of Fall 2019 Public Kindergarten Students “Ready”

Statewide Percentage “Ready” = 53%

% “Ready”
- 60% and above - 9 districts
- 59% and below - 58 districts
Kindergarten Readiness by County

Percentage of 2017-2018 VPK Completers “Ready”

Statewide Percentage “Ready” - 62%

% “Ready”
- 70%-72% - 3 districts
- 60%-69% - 32 districts
- 40%-59% - 22 districts
VPK Program Participation

VPK Program Participation Rate 2006-2007 to 2025-2026*

VPK Enrollment

Efforts to Increase Enrollments

• Authorized VPK Flexibility Option Programs
• Targeted focus by coalitions on School Readiness children not enrolled in VPK
• Daily review of data on VPK enrollment
• Consideration for full-day VPK in January – June 2021
### Approved VPK FLEX Providers/Classrooms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Name</th>
<th>Providers</th>
<th>Classrooms</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brevard</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>2,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>2,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>11,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>2,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasco</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>666</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,230</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,106</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All active classrooms set up for the 2020-21 VPK School Year as of the 'created date' are counted, regardless if there are any enrollments.

Child counts are based on the capacity of the active classrooms, not on enrollment counts.

From EFS Modernization as of October 27, 2020.
VPK Enrollment

VPK-Age School Readiness Children Not Enrolled in VPK
VPK Enrollment

Compared to Last Year as of 11/2/2020, There are:

- 42,907 Fewer VPK Children Enrolled
- 27.79% Fewer Enrolled VPK Children, So Far

- 340 More VPK Classrooms Active
- 2.63% More VPK Classrooms Active

*Does not yet include Miami-Dade Public School enrollments
## Kindergarten Screening Results

### 2019 Kindergarten and 2017-18 VPK Completers - Proficiency by Domain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>2019 All Kindergartens</th>
<th>2017-18 VPK Completers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Discrimination</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
<td>72.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept of Words</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alphabetic Principle</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonemic Awareness</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonics</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Numeracy</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Professional Development

**Goal:** Provide more guidance and support for science of reading professional development for PreK-Grade 3 teachers, aligned to the Reading Endorsement.

**VPK Available Resources**

- Free or low-cost training available from the Department of Education/Office of Early Learning at http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training
  - Emergent Literacy
  - Integrating Phonological Awareness
  - Language and Vocabulary Development
Early Learning Standards website with resources for teachers and families
http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com
  o Activity Plans
  o Preschool Booklist
  o Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards Crosswalks Preschool through Grade 3

Bright Beginnings website with resources and tools that teachers may use to meet the individual needs of children in the VPK classroom
https://brightbeginningsfl.org
Professional Development Continued....

PreK-Grade 3 Resources

• Literacy Matrix (Lastinger Center)
  https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/literacy/literacy-matrix/
    o Full Reading Endorsement for elementary teachers

• BEESS www.fl-pda.org
  o Competency 4: Differentiated Reading Instruction

• Teaching Foundational Reading Skills MOOC-Ed (FREE)
  o Course for teachers to effectively prepare students in grades K–3 with the skills they need to become successful readers.
PreK-Grade 3 Resources Continued

• Targeted and statewide PreK/K Language and Vocabulary Development Modules (REL-SE partnership)
  o Targeted: for select providers on probation and lowest performing elementary schools’ coaches and teachers
  o Statewide: ELC/district leaders and coaches (teacher self-study/PLC model)

• Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding K-3
  o Practice Guide
  o Professional Learning Community Facilitator’s Guide
  o Tips for Supporting Reading Skills at Home
  o New REL Tool: A Kindergarten Teacher’s Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills
Questions?

Shan Goff and Melinda Webster
Office of Early Learning
250 Marriott Drive | Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-717-8550 | Toll Free 866-357-3239

www.floridaearlylearning.com