



# Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Update

FOIL

May 2025



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

[www.FLDOE.org](http://www.FLDOE.org)

# Goals



1) Working knowledge of the new VPK Accountability System



2) Understanding of requirements for providers on probation and incomplete providers



3) Other VPK Updates

## New VPK Accountability System

An accountability system is a set of practices used to make progress towards VPK goals.

1. Provide high quality care and education that meets the individual needs of all children.
2. Increase kindergarten readiness, setting children on a path to learn, graduate and succeed.

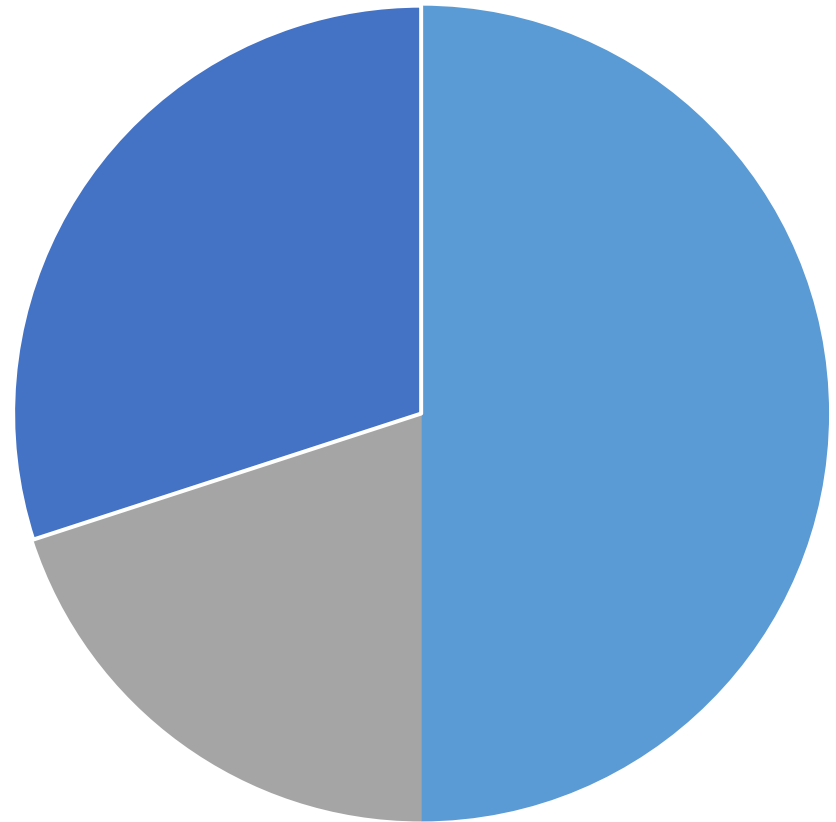
### The VPK Provider Accountability system:

- Sets clear expectations that VPK providers must provide quality care and education to increase kindergarten readiness.
- Communicates to families and the public whether VPK providers are meeting those expectations.
- Celebrates providers that are meeting or exceeding expectations.
- Directs additional resources and supports to low performing providers to help them improve.

## New VPK Accountability System

A provider's performance metric is made up of three components.

- 50% Program Quality
- 20% Student Achievement
- 30% Student Learning Gains



## Component 1: Program Quality

Program Quality is measured by the annual CLASS program assessment. VPK providers can earn up to 50 points for Program Quality.

Composite Program Assessment Score	Percentage of Possible Points Earned	Number of Points Earned
Below 4.00	0%	0
4.00 – 4.49	10%	5
4.50 – 4.99	20%	10
5.00 – 5.49	40%	20
5.50 – 5.99	60%	30
6.00 – 6.49	80%	40
6.50 – 7.00	100%	50

## Component 2: Student Achievement

Student Achievement is measured by the FAST Star Early Literacy Assessment. The metric looks at what percentage of eligible children demonstrated Kindergarten Readiness during PM3.

VPK providers can earn up to 20 points for Student Achievement. The number of points earned is based on the percentage of **eligible children** taking the assessment that demonstrated **Kindergarten Readiness** during VPK's PM3.

$$\begin{aligned} & (\# \text{ EC achieving 707} \div \# \text{ EC taking PM3}) \times 100 \times .20 \\ & = \# \text{ Achievement Points} \\ & * \text{EC} = \text{Eligible Children} \end{aligned}$$

## Component 2: Student Achievement

### Eligible Children

“Eligible children” means children who have completed more than 50% of the instructional hours at a provider’s VPK program.

A provider must have at least four eligible children with a PM3 assessment to receive points for the student achievement component.

### Kindergarten Readiness

“Kindergarten Readiness” means a student obtained a Unified Scaled Score (USS) of 707 during the PM3 window.

Kindergarten Readiness is not a new concept, but the cut score did change from 690 to 707 in September 2024.



## Component 3: Student Learning Gains

Student Learning Gains is measured by the FAST Star Early Literacy Assessment. VPK providers can earn up to 30 points for Learning Gains. The number of points earned is based on the percentage of eligible children who demonstrated **sufficient gains** between PM1 and PM3.

$$\frac{(\# \text{ EC with sufficient gains} \div \# \text{ EC taking PM1 \& PM3}) \times 100 \times .30}{\# \text{ Learning Gains Points}}$$

\*EC = Eligible Children

There are two ways a child can demonstrate sufficient gains: growth rate or literacy classification.



## Component 3: Student Learning Gains

Sufficient gains by **growth rate** means students having a **growth rate** of 12 or more USS points per month for school year or 40 or more USS points per month for summer.

**Growth Rate** is calculated by subtracting a student's PM1 score from the student's PM3 score, then dividing by the number of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 administration dates and multiplying by 30.

$$\frac{(\text{PM3 Points} - \text{PM1 Points})}{(\text{PM3 Date} - \text{PM1 Date})} \times 30 = \text{Points Per Month}$$

## Component 3: Student Learning Gains

Students can also demonstrate sufficient gains by maintaining a USS within the highest **literacy classification** (Probable Reader) at PM1 and PM3.

In Star Early Literacy, **literacy classifications** are the stages of development students go through as they become more proficient in literacy skills. Each stage is tied to a USS range, though the range varies based on grade level.

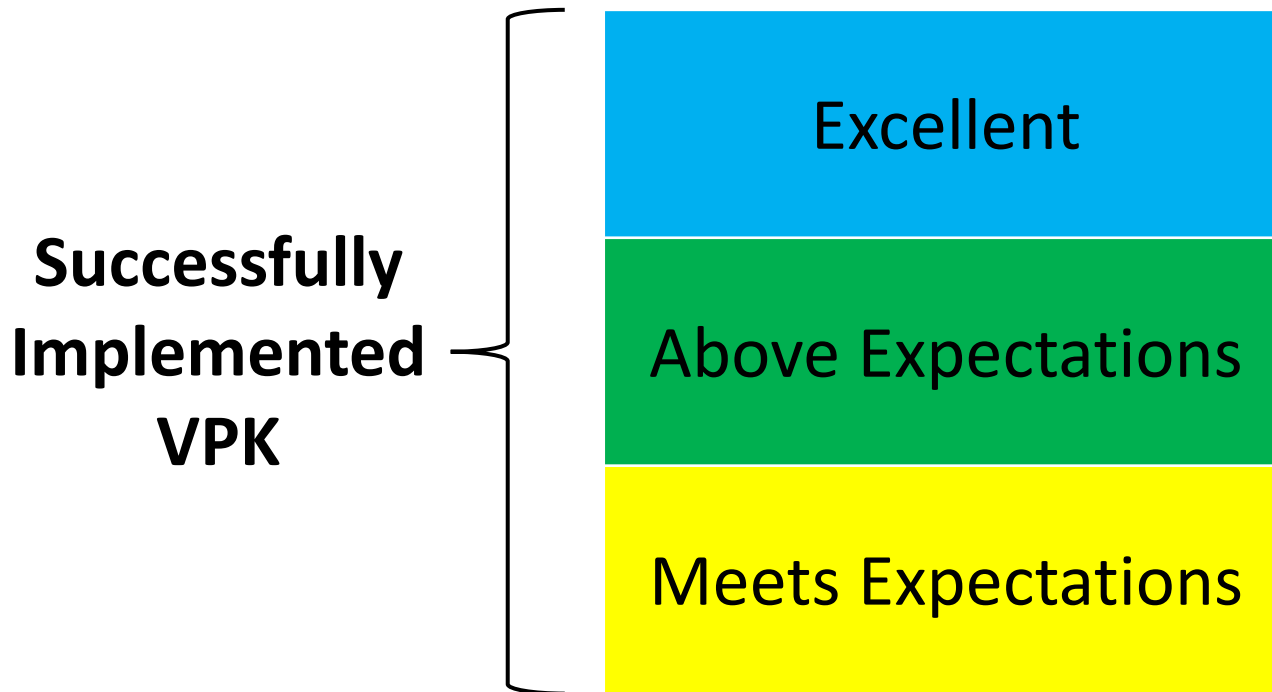
Early Emergent Reader	Unified Scaled Score 200-682
Late Emergent Reader	Unified Scaled Score 683-785
Early Transitional Reader	Unified Scaled Score 786-815
Late Transitional Reader	Unified Scaled Score 816-851
Probable Reader	Unified Scaled Score 852-1100

## Performance Metric and Designation

If a provider has at least four eligible children **and** sufficient data for all three components, DEL will calculate a performance metric and assign a performance designation within 45 days of the program ending.

<b>61 points or higher</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>46 – 60 points</b>	<b>Above Expectations</b>
<b>28 – 45 points</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>16 – 27 points</b>	<b>Below Expectations</b>
<b>15 points or fewer</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>

## Successful Implementation



# Provider Performance Metric Ranges

*Impact Data: Informational Only, based on 2023-2024 data*

Performance Metric Ranges - All Programs						
Designations	Performance Metric Range	# Providers	% Providers	Average CLASS	Average % of Children Meeting Achievement	Average % of Children Meeting Learning Gains Criteria
Unsatisfactory	0 - 15	91	1.45%	4.43	20	6
Below Expectations	16 - 27	445	7.11%	4.62	40	19
Meets Expectations	28 - 45	1,726	27.56%	4.95	59	36
Above Expectations	46 - 60	1,869	29.85%	5.26	76	57
Excellent	61 - 100	1,553	24.80%	5.70	88	77
Incomplete	N/A	578	9.23%	5.05	N/A	N/A

# Key Dates



## 2024-25 School Year VPK

- 06/30/25: School Year session ends
- 08/14/25: DEL announces 2024-25 Metrics and Designations

## 2024-25 Summer VPK

- 08/09/25: Summer session ends
- 09/23/25: DEL announces 2024-25 Metrics and Designations



## Incomplete Providers



Incomplete Provider means a VPK provider that does not have sufficient data to be assigned a performance metric designation.



An Incomplete Provider must complete a technical assistance plan to strengthen their administrative or instructional practices.

## Providers on Probation

Any VPK provider assigned a performance metric designation of Below Expectations or Unsatisfactory for a program type (school-year or summer) must be placed on probation.

A provider on probation (POP) remains on probation until it:

- Receives a designation of Meets Expectations, Above Expectations, or Exceeds Expectations
- Transfers ownership to an individual not associated with the provider
- Completes a period of removal from VPK program eligibility

## Providers on Probation

POPs must develop and complete a coalition-approved improvement plan each year they are on probation.



Approved  
Curriculum



Staff  
Development



Communication  
Plan



Improvement Plan

## Approved Curriculum

POPs must select, receive training in and implement a curriculum from the list of approved curricula for providers on probation. Approved curricula meet the following requirements:

- Aligned with performance standards
- Aligned with evidence-based research
- Develop students' background knowledge
- Address the use of materials, scheduling, arranging the environment and interaction between children and adults
- **Not** just activity suggestions and **not** just theory.

## Staff Development

Each VPK staff member at a provider on probation must complete 20 hours of approved staff development to strengthen instructional practices.

VPK staff members include the VPK director, the lead instructor for a VPK class, and the VPK aide or assistant.

Approved staff development activities to strengthen instructional practices will be posted to the DEL website.

## Communication Plan

A provider on probation must notify its VPK families of its performance metric designation and the requirement for the POP to implement an improvement plan.

Notification must be in writing.

Notification must be provided to families no later than 14 calendar days after the coalition has approved the improvement plan or the child's enrollment, whichever occurs later.



# Accountability Resources



**Metrics and Designations**  
**Calculation Guide**  
**Improvement Plan**  
**Approved Staff Development**



**Approved Curriculum**



# Questions and Discussion



# Summer Bridge

- Eligible VPK children are those who score below the 10th percentile or who had a non-participation status of “assessment inappropriate,” “failed practice,” or “non-English speaker” on progress monitoring three (PM3)
- Offered by school districts during the summer prior to kindergarten entry.
- Instructional requirements for implementation of the program, including:
  - 4 hours a day for a minimum of 100 instructional hours.
  - Instruction aligned to FELDS with emphasis on oral language development and emergent literacy skills.
  - In-person instruction with a maximum 1:12 instructor-student ratio; and
  - Instructors must meet the school year or summer prekindergarten instructor qualifications or possess a valid active Florida educator certificate in Elementary Education K-6, Pre-Kindergarten/Primary Education PK-3 or Preschool Education Birth-Age 4.
- Summer 2025 will be the first year of implementation.
- Rule approved at October State Board meeting.

# VPK Professional Learning Opportunities

- **It's Okay to Play in VPK!**
  - Implementation of the FELDS through developmentally appropriate everyday activities
- **VPK FAST Star Early Literacy for Test Administrators**
  - Supporting educators in FAST administration
- **The Language of CLASS**
  - Encouraging high-quality teacher-child interactions
- **VPK Director Credential**
  - Understanding VPK organizational leadership and management
- **Making Informed Instructional Decisions in the VPK Classroom**
  - Analyzing key VPK program data to help educators understand the use of data in their daily instructional decisions



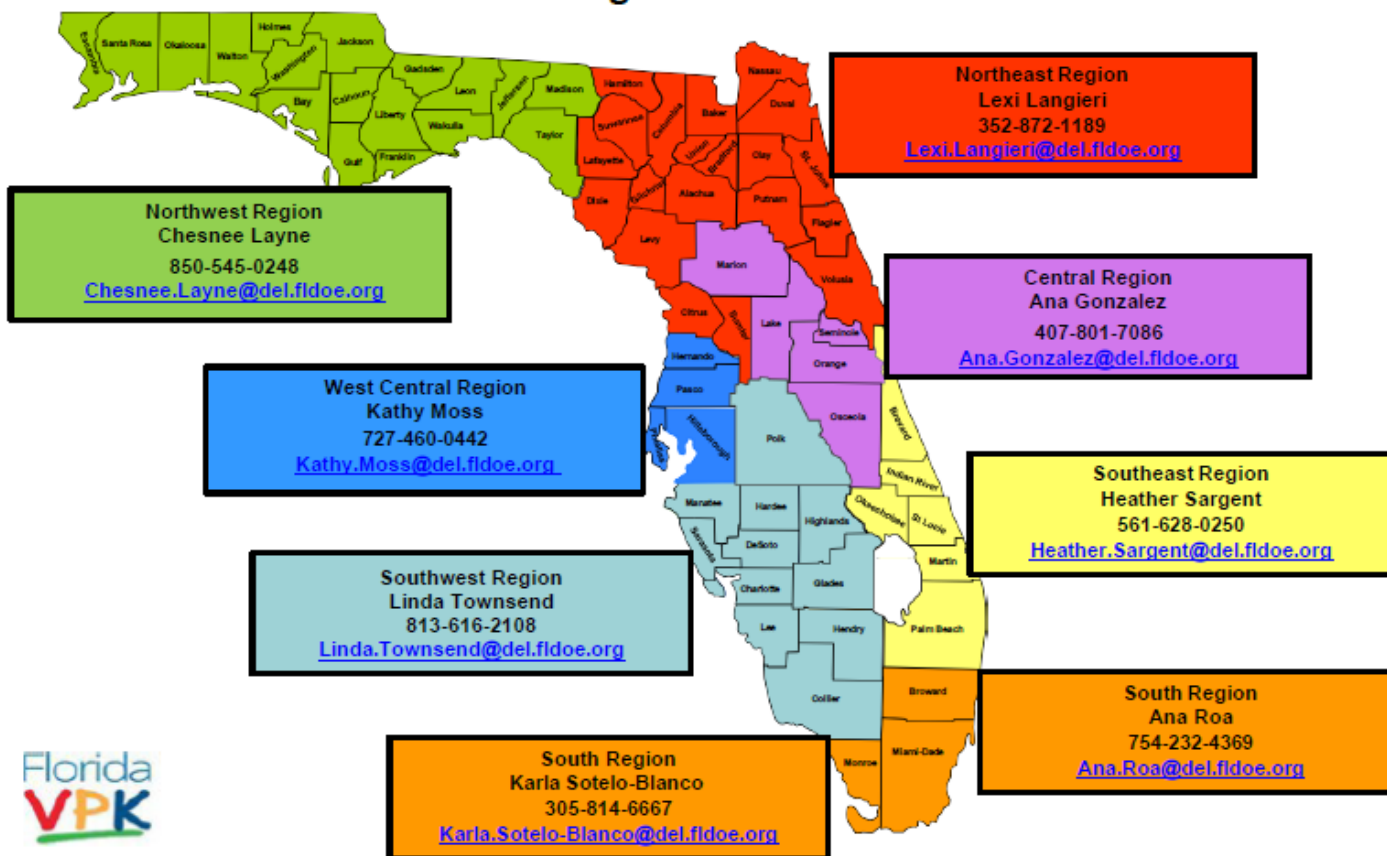
# Summer Literacy Institute

- June 16-17, 2025
- Representation from all 30 Early Learning Coalitions
- Session topics include:
  - Resiliency in Early Learning
  - It's Okay to Play in VPK!
  - Emergent Literacy
  - Growing Florida Strong
  - Taking FELDS Outside
  - Data Informed Decision Making
  - VPK Accountability





## Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program VPK Regional Facilitators



Contact the VPK Team at [vpkquestions@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:vpkquestions@oel.myflorida.com)

Effective April 28, 2025



# Emergent Literacy and Math Initiatives

- **Emergent Literacy Micro-Credential**

- 60 hour credential designed for instructional and child care personnel who work in a public or private early learning program.
- \$1,000 stipend for completion
- Meets the VPK instructor emergent literacy course requirement

- **New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI)**

- Expanded to eligible VPK students (scoring below the 40th percentile). VPK-Grade 5 students receive free books monthly until the students exit fifth grade.

- **New Worlds Scholarship Accounts (NWSA)**

- Parents of eligible VPK students (demonstrates a substantial deficiency in early literacy/math skills) have access to scholarship accounts, worth \$1,200 each, for instructional materials, curriculum, part-time tutoring, summer and after-school programs designed to improve literacy or math skills.

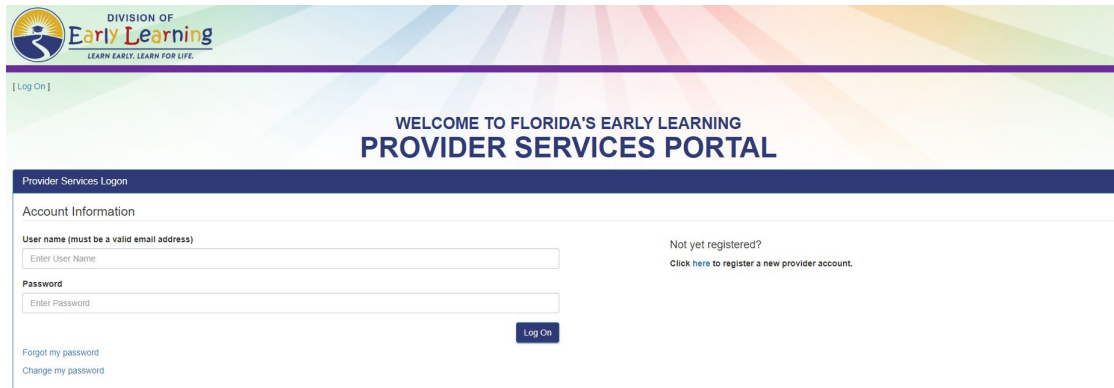
## Expand VPK

- Since 2013-2014, participation has gone from 81% to 67%.
- University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies examined families' choices related to enrollment in VPK.
- This examination described factors, as indicated by families, that influenced their enrollment decisions for the 2022-2023 VPK program year.
- One Major Finding:

Of families who did not enroll, **46%** preferred a public-school setting.

# How Do I Become a VPK Provider?

- Contact your [early learning coalition](#) to learn about requirements and supports.
- Create account and profile in [Florida's Early Learning Provider Services Portal](#) (Provider Portal).
- Complete VPK application in Provider Portal and upload required documentation.
- Upon coalition approval, complete VPK contract in Provider Portal.



The screenshot shows the login page for the Florida's Early Learning Provider Services Portal. At the top left is the 'DIVISION OF Early Learning' logo with the tagline 'LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.' Below the logo is a '[ Log On ]' link. The main heading reads 'WELCOME TO FLORIDA'S EARLY LEARNING PROVIDER SERVICES PORTAL'. Underneath is a 'Provider Services Login' section. It contains an 'Account Information' box with fields for 'User name (must be a valid email address)' and 'Password', each with a 'Log On' button. To the right of the password field is a link for 'Not yet registered? Click here to register a new provider account.' At the bottom left of the login section are links for 'Forgot my password' and 'Change my password'.

Please contact your early learning coalition for immediate assistance.  
This site is best viewed with Microsoft Edge. Download the latest version of Microsoft Edge.  
If you are using an Apple device (iPad, iPhone, Mac computer, MacBook), while we encourage Microsoft Edge, you may also download and use Google Chrome.

# How Do Families Apply?

- Families apply for VPK through the Family Services Portal website <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/>.
- Providers apply to offer VPK and contract annually with the ELC, using the Statewide VPK Provider Contract (Forms DEL-VPK 20 and DEL-VPK 20PS or DEL-VPK 20PP, as applicable) through the Provider Portal.

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**STATEWIDE VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER**  
**CONTRACT**  
**FORM DEL-VPK 20**

**I. PARTIES AND TERMS OF CONTRACT**

1. **Parties.** This Contract is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between the Early Learning Coalition of \_\_\_\_\_ (herein referred to as "COALITION"), and \_\_\_\_\_ (herein referred to as "PROVIDER"), with its principal offices located at \_\_\_\_\_.

a. **Multiple Public School Locations.** If PROVIDER is a school district executing a single Contract on behalf of multiple public school Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program providers, a list of their names and their physical addresses are included in Exhibit 1: Provider Location List. Thereafter PROVIDER shall include each entry listed in Exhibit 1.

b. **Multiple Private Provider Locations.** If PROVIDER is executing a single Contract on behalf of multiple private VPK provider sites within COALITION's service area, a list of their names and their physical addresses are included in Exhibit 1: Provider Location List. Thereafter PROVIDER shall include each entry listed in Exhibit 1.

2. **Purpose.** This Contract is designed to inform PROVIDER of the requirements of participation in the VPK Program. Payment is not conveyed to PROVIDER through this Contract. Instead, PROVIDER must agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this Contract in order to be eligible to participate in the VPK Program. PROVIDER will receive payment based on Legislative appropriations, the Office's Custom Attendance Policy for Payment (Rule 6M-8.204, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)), and a child's attendance certified by the parent and provider (Rule 6M-8.305, F.A.C.).

3. **Term.** This Contract applies to the 20\_\_\_\_ - 20\_\_\_\_ VPK program year. PROVIDER shall offer a 540-hour school-year program and/or a 300-hour summer program. This Contract begins on \_\_\_\_\_ or on the date on which the Contract is signed by the last party required to sign the Contract, whichever occurs last, and expires upon completion or termination of all PROVIDER's VPK program year programs eligible to be offered under this Contract.

4. **Payment Limitations.** PROVIDER will not receive nor be entitled to payment for VPK program services before this Contract is fully executed by both parties or after expiration of the Contract.

5. **Applicable Law.** PROVIDER and COALITION agree that the following, including any revision made after the execution of this Contract, are the provisions governing the VPK program and that PROVIDER and COALITION will be bound by the same:

- Chapter 1002, Florida Statutes (F.S.); and
- Chapter 6M-8, F.A.C.





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