



Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders

Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Updates
May 27, 2026



Overview of General Sessions

Day 1

- Educator Recognition
- Legislative Updates
- Recent and Upcoming State Board of Education Rulemaking
- Strategic Improvement Updates
- Literacy Achievement Updates
- Educator Quality Updates
- Early Learning Updates
- Upcoming FDOE Professional Learning Events

Day 2

- Assessment Updates
- Accountability Updates

Breakout Sessions – Day 1

- Bridging Policy and Practice: Social Studies Updates with a Spotlight on Structured Academic Controversy
- Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future: 9/11's Place in America250
- Coaching for Mathematical Thinking: Moving Beyond Telling to Transforming Instruction
- Supporting Student-Centered Learning
- Productive Struggle
- We Are All Math People: Mathematics Coaching for School-Based Leadership
- Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Disabilities
- Differentiated Monitoring System for IDEA
- Hope Florida: The Power of School Liaisons
- Leveraging Funds for Impact: Maximizing Resources in Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools

Breakout Sessions – Day 1, continued

- School Safety Update
- Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model: Updates and Compliance Issues
- Division of Early Learning – What’s New and What’s Next in VPK?
- From Plan to Practice: District Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan
- Morphology Matters: Strengthening the Bridge from Foundational Skills to Comprehension
- Supporting Reading & Math in the Classroom and Beyond with New Worlds Reading & Florida Tutoring Advantage
- Unlocking Insights with the Florida VAM Visualization Tool: SSO Roles, Reports and Real-World Applications

Breakout Sessions – Day 2

- Office of Professional Practices Services: Updates and Reminders
- From Classroom to Career: The Power of Apprenticeship in Teacher Preparation
- Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future: 9/11's Place in America250
- Strengthening the Tier 1 Core
- Supports for English Language Learners to Maximize Outcomes
- Aligning Resources for School Improvement Efforts
- Florida's Secondary CTE Program Quality Audit
- Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT): From Pilot Year to Statewide Implementation

All presentations will be posted at
<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/foil.html>.

Educator Recognition

LEADERSHIP AND GREAT TEACHING MATTERS





Congratulations

2027 FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR *FINALISTS*

Nicole Leon

Florida Charter School Alliance

Laurel Blackburn

Lee County

Sarah Twardy

Nassau County

Kyndall Brown

Osceola County

Bree O'Donnell

Walton County



Congratulations

2026 FLORIDA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**MARTIN
AFTUCK**

Middleburg High School
Clay County



**FELICE
BAGLEY**

Dodgertown Elementary School
Indian River County



**BROOKE
LOYED**

Patronis Elementary School
Bay County

Congratulations



**BROOKE
LOYED**

Patronis Elementary School | Bay County

**2026 FLORIDA
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations

2026 FLORIDA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**RESHONDA
SCOTT**

East Ridge High School
Lake County



**MELISSA
MILLER**

Frederick Douglass Elementary School
Miami-Dade County



**RYAN
GARRETT**

Tuskawilla Middle School
Seminole County

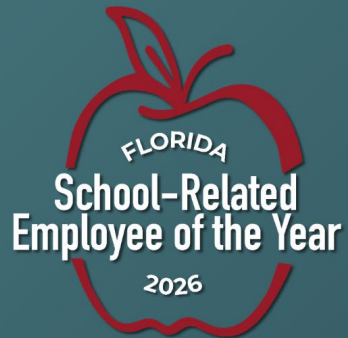
Congratulations



**RESHONDA
SCOTT**

East Ridge High School | Lake County

**2026 FLORIDA ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**



Finalists

CHRIS HATTAWAY

Rockledge High School | Brevard County

VALERIE RIVERA

A.D. Henderson and FAU High School | Florida Atlantic University

JULIE VIVIAN

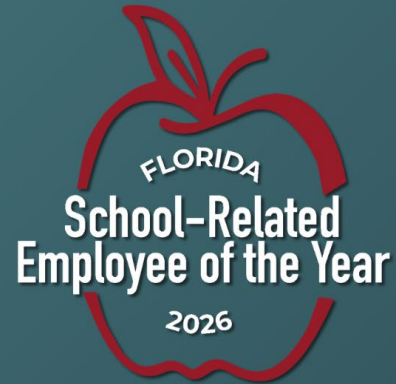
TERRA Environmental Research Institute | Miami-Dade County

KARI VENNARD

Hilliard Elementary School | Nassau County

DESTINY SUAREZ

Everglades Elementary School | Okeechobee County



Congratulations

**CHRIS
HATTAWAY**

Rockledge High School
Brevard County

2026 Legislative Updates

2026 Education Legislation

Disclaimers:

- The 2026-2027 budget has not passed yet.
- Not all bills that passed have been signed by the Governor yet.
- Bills may have different effective dates.
 - Most are effective July 1, 2026, if signed, but there can be other important dates within the bill that start or stop a provision.
- This overview will not include all provisions of each education bill.

2026 Legislative Session Overview

- January 13 – March 13, 2026
 - Special Session April 28 – May 1, 2026
 - Special Session May 12-29, 2026 (Budget)
- 1,896 bills filed (last year 1,982).
- 237 bills passed both chambers (last year 254).
- 18 K-12 education-related bills passed both chambers (last year 30).
- 15 education-related bills have been signed by the Governor, as of May 26, 2026.

Senate Bill 124 – Florida Virtual School (FLVS) **signed**

- Provides that FLVS will serve all students meeting the profile for educational success in virtual instruction.
- Requires a school district to provide a test administrator when a student from FLVS is participating in required statewide assessments, the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system, industry certification examinations and national assessments at the assigned school, if an alternative testing site is not mutually agreed to by FLVS and the school district.
- Revises FLVS operational and funding provisions.

Senate Bill 178 – Athletics in Public Schools **signed**

- Requires the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) to adopt bylaws authorizing head coaches of athletics teams to support the welfare of the students they coach using personal funds.
- The bylaws must require a parent to provide written consent before a head coach can provide anything.
- One head coach per athletic team may, in good faith, provide assistance in the form of food, transportation and recovery services.
- A coach may not annually expend more than \$15,000 per athletic team.
- There will be reporting requirements.

Senate Bill 182 – School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program **signed**

Teacher Mentoring

- Establishes the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program, authorizing school districts and charter schools to place retired or current classroom teachers in “D” or “F” schools to serve as teacher mentors supporting new or struggling classroom teachers.
 - Teacher mentors must have at least three years of teaching experience in PK-12 and have earned a highly effective rating on their most recent performance evaluation.
 - Authorizes a stipend of up to \$3,000 for teacher mentors and requires each mentor-mentee relationship to last one grading period. The bill authorizes the use of Educational Enrichment Allocation funds under the FEFP, if available, to support the program.

Charter School Academic Dismissal Restrictions

- Revises charter school enrollment to prohibit a charter school implementing a school improvement plan or a corrective action plan from dismissing a student based on academic performance.

Senate Bill 182 – School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program, continued **signed**

Patriotic Displays at Public Schools

- Requires, subject to appropriation, that portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln be displayed in a conspicuous place in each public school in the district. FDOE must select and provide the portraits to districts.

Instruction in Cursive

- Requires public schools to provide cursive writing instruction for students in grades 3 through 5, with students demonstrating proficiency in cursive writing by the end of grade 5.
- “Proficiency” in cursive writing is defined as the ability to write upper and lowercase letters in cursive, write words and sentences legibly with proper spacing and alignment, and read and apply cursive writing to support literacy development, including writing essays and other assignments in cursive.
- Method is locally determined.

House Bill 453 – Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma **signed**

- Allows a student with a disability to substitute one school year of participation in the Special Olympics for the physical education requirement for a standard high school diploma, as determined appropriate by the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team.
- Specifies that completion of two years of marching band satisfies both the one credit requirement in physical education and the one credit requirement in performing arts.

House Bill 461 – Volunteering at Polling Locations

- Allows high school students, who are registered or preregistered to vote, to volunteer at polling places for community service hours that count toward meeting high school graduation or scholarship program requirements.

Senate Bill 538 – Extracurricular Activities **signed**

Interscholastic and Intrасcholastic Extracurricular Activities

- Aligns eligibility for all students, regardless of the educational setting. An eligible student may participate in an activity at a school other than the school in which the student is enrolled if:
 - The school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the same activity or the student is in a home education program; and
 - The school at which the student will participate in the activity is located in the school district in which the student resides.
- If a public or charter school in the district in which the student resides does not offer the activity, and an agreement cannot be reached with a private school in the district in which the student resides, the student may participate at a public, charter or private school in a school district adjacent to the school district in which the student resides.
- The student may also petition the executive director of the governing organization to explore additional options.
- The parent must provide for the student's transportation to the school of participation.

Senate Bill 538 – Extracurricular Activities, continued **signed**

Extracurricular Activity Fees

- Authorizes public schools to assess a fee to enrolled students. They may also assess a fee to a student who is not enrolled but is participating in an activity, provided that such fee does not exceed the greater of the following:
 - The fee students enrolled at the school pay to participate in the activity; or
 - A reasonable fee based on the costs to the school not to exceed \$400 per activity.
- Specifies that the activity fee charged to home education student must be the same as charged to enrolled students.
- Annually by July 1, activity fees different from the fees charged to enrolled students must be approved by the district school board or charter school governing board.
- Requires each public school to post on its website a complete list of fees charged to participating students, by activity, prior to the beginning of the school year and submit to FDOE.

Senate Bill 538 – Extracurricular Activities, continued **signed**

Other

- Prohibits students from participating in sports at two different schools during the same school year, unless the student:
 - Is a dependent child of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;
 - Has been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone;
 - Has moved due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent; or
 - Has been granted approval by the applicable governing organization's executive director.
- Requires that any insurance provided by district school boards for participants in extracurricular activities must cover any eligible student.
- Requires the athletic director or other appropriate administrator of each school to maintain the records necessary for eligibility, compliance and participation for all eligible students.

Senate Bill 538 – Extracurricular Activities, continued **signed**

Athletic Coach and Activity Sponsor Compensation

- Authorizes a district school board to adopt a policy regarding the use of voluntary donations and revenues generated by authorized booster clubs or associations to provide funds to athletic coaches or activity sponsors.
- Defines an extracurricular activity administrator as any athletic director, coach, or any activity director or sponsor specified by the district school superintendent.
- District school superintendents may negotiate individual compensation for such personnel, which may not exceed the compensation of the highest paid administrator in the district.

Governing Organizations

- Requires athletic governing organizations to adopt, maintain, and enforce sport-specific manuals or handbooks that govern interscholastic competition.
- The manuals or handbooks may include, but are not limited to, timing, scoring, equipment, officiating, and athlete safety.

House Bill 561 – Educator Preparation and Certification **signed**

- Authorizes educator preparation institutes (EPIs) to enroll participants while they complete the needed subject area certification.
- Requires FDOE to issue a temporary certificate to an educator whose previously issued professional certificate has expired, provided the educator meets the basic eligibility requirements for certification.
- Removes the requirement to pass a subject area exam for reinstatement.
- Requires the State Board to adopt rules allowing educators to reinstate their certificate with each subject area coverage and endorsement held at the time of expiration.
- Requires the David C. Anchin Center for the Advancement of Teaching at the University of South Florida to submit a professional learning system to FDOE. The Center must provide no-cost training and support to educators pursuing certification renewal or reinstatement and submit any inservice points earned through the professional learning system to the FDOE on the educator's behalf.

House Bill 753 – School Counselors **signed**

- Specifies that individuals seeking an educator certificate as a school counselor are exempt from the demonstration of mastery of general knowledge and mastery of professional preparation and education competence.
 - Such exemption does not limit a school district from requiring demonstration of mastery as a condition of employment as a certified school counselor.
- Requires that performance evaluation criteria for certified school counselors be based on indicators from the Florida School Counseling Standards.

House Bill 757 – School Safety **signed**

- Expands several existing safety measures to public postsecondary educational institutions, including Florida College System (FCS) institutions and state universities.

Student Records

- When a student enrolls in an FCS institution or state university, the student's education records must be transferred to the institution or university if his or her records contain:
 - Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns;
 - Any threat assessment report;
 - Information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument; or
 - Psychological evaluations, treatment plans or progress notes.

House Bill 757 – School Safety, continued

signed

Training

- Requires that training for classroom teachers and other instructional staff must explain the purpose, importance, and proper execution of school safety protocols and emergency procedures.

Discharging a Firearm

- Creates a second-degree felony if a person discharges any weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity, unless discharged for lawful defense of himself or herself or another or for a lawful purpose.

Senate Bill 824 – School District Unimproved Real Property

- Requires school districts to submit an annual inventory of unimproved real property to the FDOE for a statewide report.
- “Unimproved real property” is defined as any parcel of land owned in whole or in part by a district that does not contain any vertical improvements, including, but not limited to, buildings, permanent structures or constructed facilities.
- The inventory is due on a date determined by FDOE and must be a complete inventory of all unimproved real property owned by the district as of June 30 of that year.
- FDOE must then compile the data into a statewide report that includes both aggregate and district-by-district breakdowns.

House Bill 851 – Professional Learning for Instructional and School Administrative Personnel **signed**

- Requires each school district's professional learning system to provide at least one autism-specific professional learning opportunity each year, for instructional personnel and school-based administrators developed in consultation with the district's assigned Center for Autism and Related Disabilities.
- Requires the professional learning to include evidence-based practices for supporting students with autism spectrum disorder across all levels of need, including academic instruction, behavioral supports, communication strategies and best practices.

House Bill 1073 – School Districts **signed**

- Creates the “District School Board Members’ Bill of Rights” to clarify that district school board members have the right:
 - Upon request, to be given free and timely access to all school district documents necessary to fulfill the required constitutional and statutory duties and responsibilities.
 - To consult with the school district’s CFO on general matters related to the budget, sources and uses of school district funds, and have reasonable access to district budget and financial transaction information.
 - To request any document or information, except for documents or information that the member would be prohibited by law from accessing, from school district staff with the permission of the superintendent or other members of the administration.
 - To comment publicly during or outside of district school board meetings on any matter of district school board business, except for student and employee disciplinary hearings.

House Bill 1073 – School Districts, continued

signed

- Requires that other documents, including attachments for agenda items such as vendor contracts or budget documents, must be kept as a public record with the minutes of each meeting.
- Provides that a school district employee may not be required or otherwise incentivized to sign a nondisclosure agreement or confidentiality agreement. A school district may not impose conditions on employment to circumvent this paragraph.
- Allows a district school board to reject for good cause a superintendent's nominee to fill a position. "Good cause" is now defined to mean that a district school board has determined that the nominee did any of the following:
 - fabricated or materially exaggerated his or her credentials or background;
 - does not meet the minimum requirements for the position; or
 - has had his or her educator certificate revoked by another state.

House Bill 1201 – Student Health and Safety signed

- Clarifies that each school district employee and charter school employee must complete training for the care of a student with epilepsy and seizure disorders, if the employee's duties include regular contact with such student.
- This includes any employee who teaches or transports the student to and from school or school activities.
- Provides that the completion of such training is valid for five years.
- Requires each public school to display a poster identified by FDOE that describes the basic steps of responding to an individual having a seizure.

House Bill 1279 – Education **signed**

Virtual Instruction

- Requires districts to include all public and private virtual instruction options in their adopted procedures to inform the general public of available educational programs.

Career and Technical Education

- Requires FDOE to make specified CAPE Digital Tool certificates available to middle grades students and limits such students to two certificates per school year.

House Bill 1279 – Education, continued **signed**

Student Health

- Authorizes public and private schools to purchase, maintain, and administer Food and Drug Administration-approved epinephrine delivery devices, rather than limiting references to epinephrine auto-injectors.

School Safety

- Clarifies that, notwithstanding local ordinances or development orders, a school district or charter school may use any combination of safe-school officer options authorized by law.

House Bill 1279 – Education, continued **signed**

Student Progression

- Directs FDOE to develop applied algebra courses aligned with the identified mathematics pathways and career and technical education career clusters by January 1, 2027, for district implementation in the 2029-2030 school year.
- Each applied algebra course must prepare students for the statewide, standardized Algebra I end-of-course assessment, satisfy applicable mathematics credit requirements for high school graduation and middle grades promotion, and be accepted as a mathematics credit for state university admissions.
- Authorizes a qualifying one-credit dance techniques course to satisfy a physical education or performing arts credit required to earn a standard high school diploma.

House Bill 1279 – Education, continued **signed**

Student Supports

- Requires a school district to notify a parent within 10 school days when a related service identified in a student's IEP is not provided as scheduled, explain the reason the service was not provided and discuss a plan for make-up services. A school district must also inform parents at each IEP meeting of the right to access all service provider logs or progress notes within 15 school days after the service is provided.
- Requires, for a student with a substantial reading deficiency, that their individualized progress monitoring plan include information about eligibility for the New Worlds Reading Initiative.
- Expands Summer Bridge program eligibility for VPK students who score below the 25th percentile (from the 10th percentile) on the final administration of the statewide assessment in English Language Arts.

House Bill 1279 – Education, continued **signed**

School Improvement

- Expands the definition of an educational emergency to include persistently low-performing schools, thereby allowing a district school board to exercise authority over personnel contracts in the selection, placement and compensation of instructional personnel to improve student performance.

STEM

- Authorizes a school district to reserve up to one percent of Title I funds for specified STEM-related educational services, technologies and instructional supports.

Students who are Homeless

- Specifies that for students who are homeless to qualify for postsecondary tuition and fee exemptions, a student must have previously been determined to be homeless by a Florida public school, and a distance learning homeless student residing out of state is ineligible for the exemption.

House Bill 1279 – Education, continued **signed**

Acceleration and Advanced Coursework

- Requires the State Board of Education to establish a statewide uniform weighted grading system for honors courses and articulated acceleration mechanisms, which must be used by district school boards when calculating high school grade point averages.
- Authorizes bonus funds for school districts and teachers for students' successful completion of Florida Advanced Courses and Tests, which are aligned with bonuses offered for other advanced and career examinations.
- Specifies that the postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in the dual enrollment program are Florida public postsecondary institutions and eligible not-for-profit independent colleges and universities.

Senate Bill 1296 – Public Employees Relations Commission **signed**

- Requires at least 50% participation in union certification or recertification elections.
- Establishes a fast-track process to ensure teachers receive pay increases without delay.

House Bill 1343 – Insurance Customer Representative Licensing Qualifications

- Allows an individual who has earned a high school diploma in Florida who completes a course in insurance and personal finance in high school to satisfy the education requirement for an insurance customer representative's license.
- Directs FDOE to develop a 0.5 credit course in insurance and personal finance in consultation with the Department of Financial Services that will be available to districts with the 2027-2028 school year.

House Bill 1471 – System of Law and Terrorist Organizations **signed**

- Protects the state from ideologies inconsistent with American principles.
- Prohibits a public school from expending state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities that promote a terrorist organization or that promote a person or entity providing support to a terrorist organization.

Senate Bill 7022 – Public Records/ Examination and Assessment Instruments **signed**

- Expands existing public records exemptions for examination and assessment instruments, requires rulemaking for retention and disposal of such records, and revises provisions related to access of such records.
- Assessment and examination instrument public records exemptions will apply to the following entities: public schools, district school boards, a board of trustees, the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.



Recent State Board of Education Rulemaking

January 21, 2026

- Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., Student Performance Standards
- Rule 6A-1.09414, F.A.C., Exceptional Student Education Courses
- Rule 6A-4.0311, F.A.C., Specialization Requirements for Certification in School Psychology (Grades PK-12) – Specialty Class
- New Rule 6A-4.0013, F.A.C., Mental Health Assessment Program Functional Assessment Instruments
- Rule 6A-6.0252, F.A.C., Use of Prescribed Pancreatic Enzyme Supplements
- Rule 6M-8.301, F.A.C., Statewide Provider Contract for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program

February 20, 2026

- Rule 6A-1.0998271, F.A.C., Schools of Hope
- New Rule 6A-1.09455, F.A.C., Middle School and High School Start Times
 - **Report due June 1, 2026**
- Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., Student Performance Standards
- Rule 6A-4.0292, F.A.C., Specialization Requirements for the Reading Endorsement
- Approval of Sunshine State Kids as a new Scholarship Funding Organization
- Approval of Virtual Instruction Program Providers

April 15, 2026

- Rule 6A-1.0.019, F.A.C., Threat Management
- Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C., Course Code Directory
- Rule 6A-5.0411, F.A.C., Calculations of Student Learning Growth for Use in School Personnel Evaluations
- Approval of 2026-27 Dual Enrollment Course-High School Subject Area Equivalency List

May 14, 2026

- Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C., School Safety Compliance and Monitoring
- Rule 6A-1.09514, F.A.C., Excused Absences for Religious Instruction or Holiday
- Rule 6A-1.09420, F.A.C., Youth Mental Health Awareness Training and Reporting
- Approval of AltaVia as a new Scholarship Funding Organization



Upcoming State Board of Education Rulemaking

<https://web02.fldoe.org/Rules/>

Rules Open for Development

- Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C., Student Performance Standards
- Rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C., Application Information
- Rule 6A-4.004, F.A.C., Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages
- Rule 6A-5.067, F.A.C., Teacher Apprenticeship Program
- New Rule 6A-4.0165, F.A.C., Specialization Requirements for the Resiliency Educator Endorsement
- New Rule 6A-4.0166, F.A.C., Specialization Requirements for the Mathematics Endorsement (K-12)
- New Rule 6A-4.0167, F.A.C., Florida Mathematics Endorsement (K-12) Competencies
- Rule 6A-5.065, F.A.C., The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices
- New Rule 6A-5.0661, F.A.C., Teacher Preparation Uniform Core Curricula and Courses
- Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C., Approval of Teacher Preparation Programs

Rules Open for Development, continued

- Rule 6A-10.084, F.A.C., Disqualification List
- Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C., Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring System and Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements
- Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C., School and District Accountability
- Rule 6A-6.0530, F.A.C., Summer Bridge Program
- Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C., Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Development of Individual Educational Plans for Students with Disabilities
- Rule 6A-6.0521, F.A.C., Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors and Anaphylaxis Policy
- New Rule 6A-1.09953, F.A.C., Statewide Uniform Weighted Grading System in Honors and Articulated Accelerated Courses
- Rule 6A-6.0786, F.A.C., Forms for Charter Schools and Sponsors
- Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C., Education Records
- Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C., Required Instruction Planning and Reporting

2026 State Board of Education Meetings

- June 30, TBD
- July 22, Orlando
- September 16, TBD
- October 14, TBD

<https://www.fldoe.org/policy/state-board-of-edu/meetings/>



Strategic Improvement Updates

Dr. Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org

Peggy Aune, Ed.D.

Vice Chancellor for Strategic Improvement

Bureau of School Improvement (BSI)

Dustin Sims, State Executive Director

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES)

Patricia Bodiford, Chief

Bureau of Student Achievement Through Language Acquisition (SALA)

Raydel Hernandez, Ph.D., Chief

Bureau of Federal Educational Programs (BFEP)

Jennifer Kruis, Chief

Bureau for Family and Community Outreach (BFCO)

Andria Cole, Ed.D., Chief

Office of Equal Educational Opportunity (OEEO)

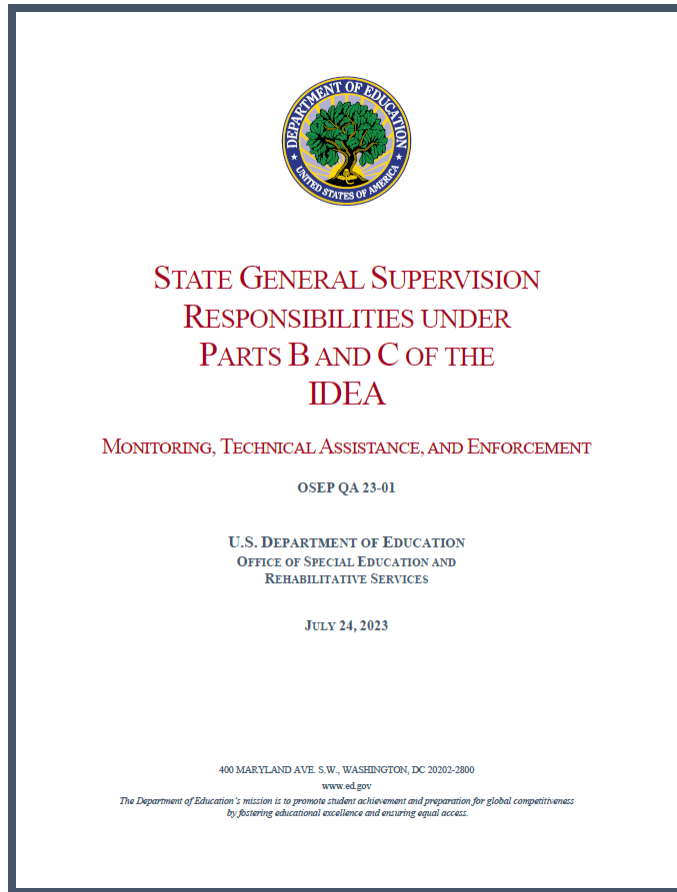
Courtney Walker, Director



General Supervision Requirements – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

QA 23-01: Issued July 24, 2023



The United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), updated their guidance on the general supervision requirements of every state under IDEA.

OSERS clarified what is considered a reasonably designed general supervision system.

Source: [OSEP QA 23-01](#).

Authority for Monitoring

- The Florida Department of Education is responsible for ensuring that the requirements of IDEA and the educational requirements of the state are implemented ([Title 34, section \[§\] 300.149, Code of Federal Regulations \[C.F.R.\]](#)).
- Monitoring requirements include both programmatic and fiscal for 18 indicators across all local educational agencies (LEAs).
- Targeted monitoring is done for specific issues or areas of concern. 15 LEAs are currently in targeted monitoring for activities related to Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities.

Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities

- Child Find Processes
- Timely and Meaningful Consultation
- Proportionate Share Funds (Conditional Release in 2026-27)
- Services
- [FDOE Technical Assistance Paper \(TAP\) for Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities](#) (July 2023)

Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities

FDOE Clarification for Local Educational Agencies
Child Find for Parentally-Placed Private School
Students with Disabilities (March 2026)

Excerpt – FDOE Clarification for LEAs Child Find for Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities (March 2026)

Local educational agencies (LEAs) that require private schools to adopt or implement intervention systems (such as Response to Intervention (RTI) or Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)) before evaluating a parentally-placed private school student for a disability are out of compliance with both federal and state laws related to students with disabilities.

Excerpt – FDOE Clarification for LEAs Child Find for Parentally-Placed Private School Students with Disabilities (March 2026)

- Private schools are not subject to the same IDEA obligations as public schools. Accordingly, under IDEA, private schools are not required to adopt or implement intervention systems such as RTI or MTSS.
- While intervention data may be helpful in informing the evaluation process, LEAs may not use the absence of such data to delay, deny or limit their obligation to timely conduct or begin the evaluation process.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Rule Development Update

- Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., General Education Intervention Procedures, Evaluation, Determination of Eligibility, Reevaluation and the Provision of Exceptional Student Education Services
- Rule 6A-6.03018, F.A.C., Exceptional Education Eligibility for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities
- Rule 6A-6.030121, F.A.C., ESE Eligibility for Students with Language Impairments and Qualifications and Responsibilities for the Speech-Language Pathologists Providing Language Services
- Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C., Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Development of Individual Educational Plans for Students with Disabilities

Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)

- SDI means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible student under this part, the content, methodology or delivery of instruction for students with disabilities. ([34 C.F.R. § 300.39](#))
- Benefits of SDI:
 - Improves academic performance and skill development.
 - Increases student participation and motivation.
 - Provides supports for the unique needs of learners.

Workforce Credential Badges – Career Experiences Course

- A student may earn multiple credits in Career Experiences: 9-12 course ([#7980120](#)) for students with disabilities.
- Workforce credential badges:
 - Employability Skills and Resiliency in the Workplace
 - Workplace Safety
 - Job Attainment Skills
 - Self-Advocacy and Career Planning
- The school-level contact:
 - submits badge verification information to the district-level contact.
- The district-level contact:
 - aggregates all badges and enters them into the data spreadsheet.
 - submits the final spreadsheet to the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services by July 1.



Supports for English Language Learners to Maximize Outcomes

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teacher Standards (2025)

- Created by Florida educators for Florida students
 - Communication and Understanding for English Language Learners (ELLs) (CU)
 - Applied Linguistics (AL)
 - Methods of Teaching ESOL (MT)
 - ESOL Curriculum and Materials Development (CM)
 - Testing and Evaluation of ESOL (TE)



Aligning Resources for School Improvement

Aligning Resources for School Improvement

- Understand why strategically planning for and streamlining resources is necessary for effective school improvement planning.
- Ensure alignment and coherence of resources to school improvement goals.

Hope Florida Update

Hope Florida School Liaisons Over 1,000 Across Florida!

13 Districts

Baker, Bay, Hendry, Holmes, Lake, Lee, Orange, Pasco, Polk, Sarasota, Sumter, Suwannee, Wakulla

2 Charter Networks

IDEA Florida Schools, Jacksonville Classical Academy

1 Private School

Pine Castle Christian Academy



Resiliency Florida Update

buildresiliency.org



Resiliency Coach Training for Volunteers

- Over 1,400 individuals have completed the online training.
- Over 600 individuals have completed the online training, 4-hour volunteer practicum, final survey, and were eligible for the \$150 stipend.
- We have over 350 courses currently in progress!

Resiliency Coaches in These Districts!			
Alachua	Hernando	Manatee	Pinellas
Bay	Hillsborough	Monroe	Polk
Broward	Indian River	Nassau	Santa Rosa
Clay	Lake	Okeechobee	Sarasota
Collier	Lee	Orange	Seminole
Duval	Leon	Palm Beach	Sumter
FSU Lab (Broward)	Levy	Pasco	Wakulla

Resiliency Endorsement

- Effective August 2026 (pending State Board of Education Rule Adoption).
- Participant must hold a valid Florida Educator Certificate/License.
- 30-hour training over 60-day period.
- Endorsement is added to the educator's certificate.
- For more information, contact ResiliencyEndorsement@fldoe.org.



Literacy Achievement Updates

Lindsey Brown, Vice Chancellor



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org

New Worlds Reading Initiative

- Eligible VPK–Grade 5 students receive free books and family resources on a monthly basis until the student is promoted to Grade 6 or the parent opts out of the program.
- A VPK–Grade 5 student is eligible if the student is not yet reading on grade level, has a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills or reading, or scored below Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized ELA assessment.
- Distribution of books begins no later than October and continues through at least June.
- Over 14 million books have been distributed to over 542,000 students!



New Worlds Reading Teacher Professional Learning

- Connect New Worlds Reading book delivery to classroom instruction.
- Gain knowledge on the science of reading.
- Learn how to use children's literature to teach standards.

Osceola

- June 3
- June 4

Broward

- June 16
- June 17

Alachua

- June 24
- June 25

Literacy Micro-Credentials

Emergent (Birth–VPK)

- Next Term: August 31–December 8
- Application Window: July 27–August 14

Elementary (VPK–Grade 5)

- Next Term: August 24–November 10
- Application Window: July 20–August 7

Secondary (Grades 6–12)

- Next Term: August 24–November 10
- Application Window: July 20–August 7

Literacy Micro-Credentials



Reading Endorsement



Ongoing Literacy Professional Learning



Literacy Coach Endorsement



Literacy and Leadership

Ongoing Literacy Supports

- B.E.S.T. ELA Standards & Science of Reading
- Literacy Leadership Teams & Literacy Coaches
- District Reading Contact Meetings
- Third Grade Progression & Secondary Power Hours
- Webinars
- Book Studies
- Newsletters
- Technical Assistance

Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan (CERP)

Date	Action
June 15, 2026	Districts will submit a CERP Reflection Tool via email to JustRead@fldoe.org . The CERP Reflection Tool must be based on a root-cause analysis.
June 15–July 15, 2026	Districts develop their CERP. The Just Read, Florida! Office will be available via office hours for support and technical assistance.
June 15–July 31, 2026	Districts will receive board approval for their 2026-2027 school year CERP.
August 1, 2026	Districts will submit a completed and school-board approved CERP for review and approval via email to JustRead@fldoe.org .

2026-2027 RAISE Universal Schools

- Regardless of its school grade, a district school serving students in K–5 must be identified for supports if:
 - 50% of its students who take the statewide, standardized ELA assessment score below Level 3 for any grade level*; or
 - Progress monitoring data collected from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system shows that 50% or more of the students are not on track to pass the statewide, standardized grade 3 ELA assessment for any grade level* K–3.

*At least ten (10) students are present for both the second and third full-time equivalent (FTE) survey periods.

2026 Summer Literacy Institutes – Orlando

- Elementary
 - VPK–Grade 5
 - June 9-10, 2026
- Secondary
 - Grades 6–12
 - June 11-12, 2026



2026 Virtual Literacy Institute

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm ET

Schedule:

- Concurrent Session 1: 9:00-10:15 am ET
- Concurrent Session 2: 10:30-11:45 am ET
- Concurrent Session 3: 12:45-2:00 pm ET



FOIL Literacy Breakout Sessions

- Morphology Matters: Strengthening the Bridge from Foundational Skills to Comprehension
 - Wednesday, May 27th
1:30-2:30 pm
- From Plan to Practice: District Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan
 - Wednesday, May 27th
4:00-5:00 pm





Educator Quality Updates

Dr. Josey McDaniel, Deputy Chancellor



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org

Dr. Josey McDaniel

Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality

Bureau for Educator Certification (BEC)

Chris Cowart, Chief

Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS)

Randy Kosec, Chief

Education Practices Commission (EPC)

Lisa Forbess, Executive Director

Bureau for Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS)

PJ Duncan, Chief

Bureau for Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention (BERDR)

Dr. Sarah Hall, Chief

Educator Quality Professional Learning Opportunities

- **Regional Civics Summer Professional Learning**
 - June 11, 2026; Carlisle Inn; Sarasota, Florida
 - June 18, 2026; Aloft Hotel; Jacksonville, Florida
 - July 9, 2026; Celeste Hotel; Orlando, Florida
- **Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support Professional Learning Events**
 - June 16-18, 2026; Bay County
 - July 14-16, 2026; Hillsborough County
 - July 21-23, 2026; Lee County
- **Teacher of the Year Roundtable and Gala**
 - July 20-23, 2026; Rosen Shingle Creek; Orlando, Florida
- **2026-27 Chancellor's Leadership Academy**
 - Location: Central Florida
 - Proposed Cohort Kick-Off: October 2026

House Bill 875 (2025) Educator Preparation

Rules in Development

Rule Number	Title	Proposed Timeline
6A-5.065, F.A.C.	Florida Educator Accomplished Practices	July 2026
6A-5.066, F.A.C.	Approval of Teacher Preparation Programs	July 2026
6A-5.0661, F.A.C.	Teacher Preparation Core Curricula and Courses Rule	July 2026
6A-5.067, F.A.C.	Teacher Apprenticeship Program	July 2026
6A-5.068, F.A.C.	Coaching for Educator Readiness and Teaching (CERT) Certification Program	Fall 2026
6A-5.040, F.A.C.	Clinical Education and School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program	Fall 2026
6A-5.080, F.A.C.	Florida Educational Leadership Standards	Spring 2027
6A-5.030, F.A.C.	District Instructional Personnel and School Administrator Evaluation Systems	Fall 2026/Summer 2027

Educator Quality FOIL Sessions

BUREAU	SESSION TITLE
Office of Professional Practices	Office of Professional Practices Services: Updates and Reminders
Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention	From Classroom to Career: The Power of Apprenticeship in Teacher Preparation
Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support	Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future: 9/11's Place in America's 250
	Bridging Policy and Practice: Social Studies Updates with a Spotlight on Structured Academic Controversy
	Coaching for Mathematical Thinking: Moving Beyond Telling to Transform Instruction
	Supporting Student-Centered Learning
	Productive Struggle
	We Are All Math People: Mathematics Coaching for School-Based Leadership
	Strengthening the Tier 1 Core



Division of Early Learning

Cari Miller
Chancellor of Early Learning
Cari.Miller@del.fldoe.org



www.FLDOE.org

2024-2025 VPK Data Packet

Voluntary Prekindergarten
(VPK) Data Packet
2024-2025 Program Year

January 30, 2026

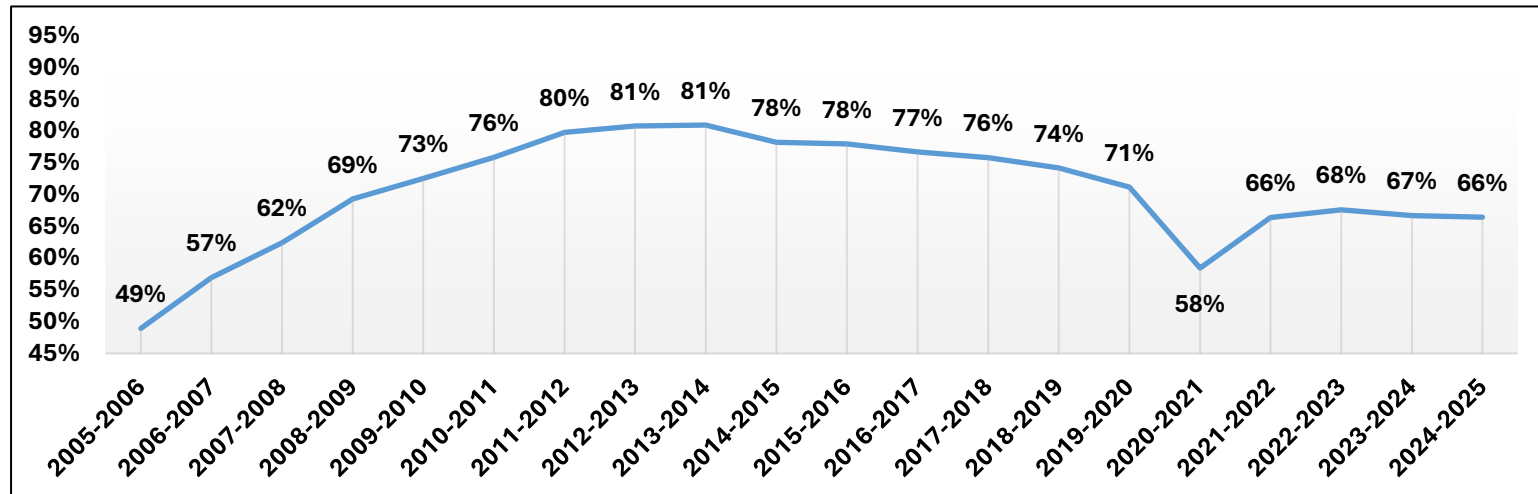


2024-2025 VPK Data Packet Highlights

2024-2025 Program Year Participation

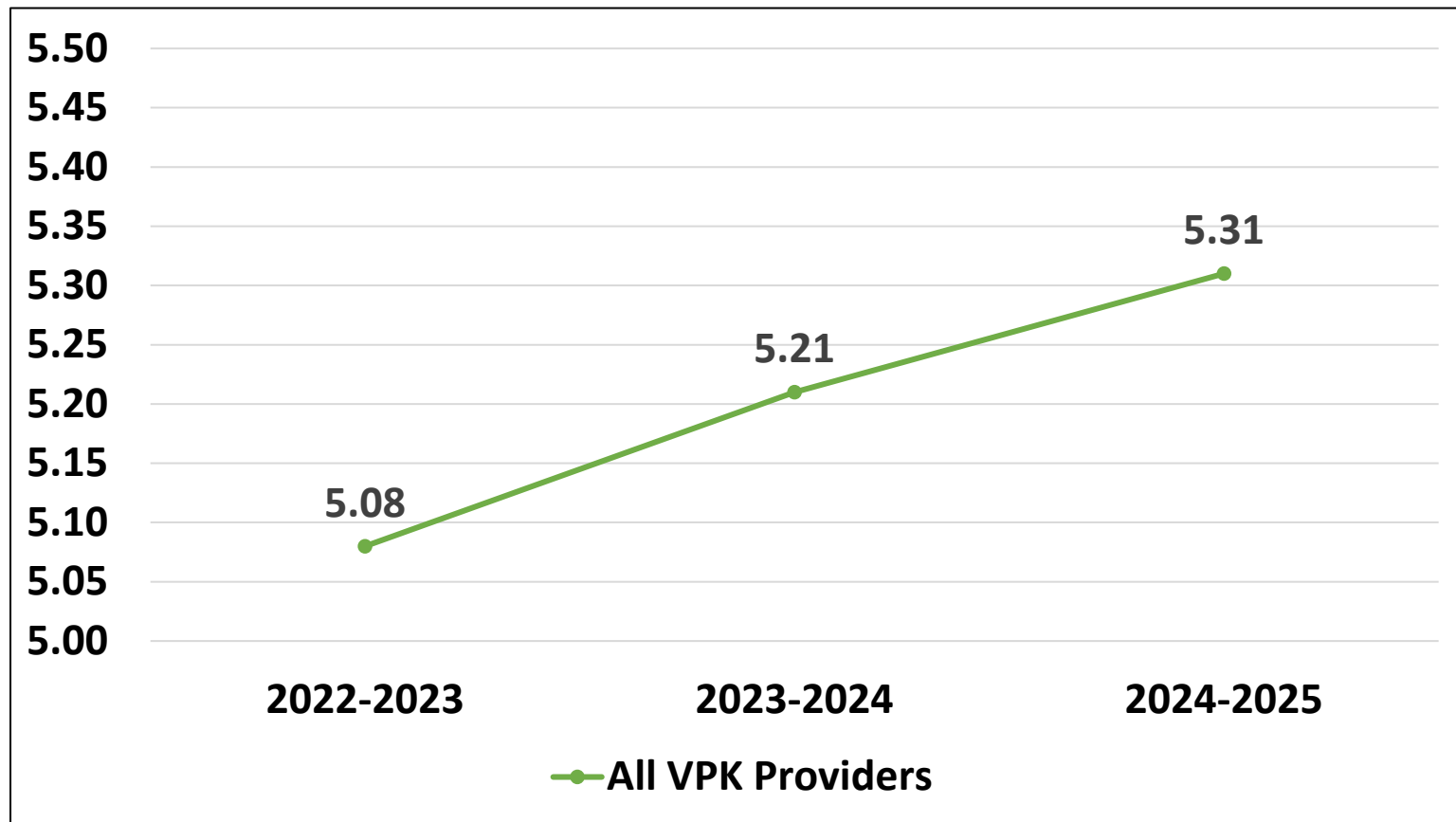
Program Year	4-Year-Old Population Estimate	Program Year Enrollment	Participation Rate
2024-2025	227,028	150,195	66.47%

Historical VPK Participation



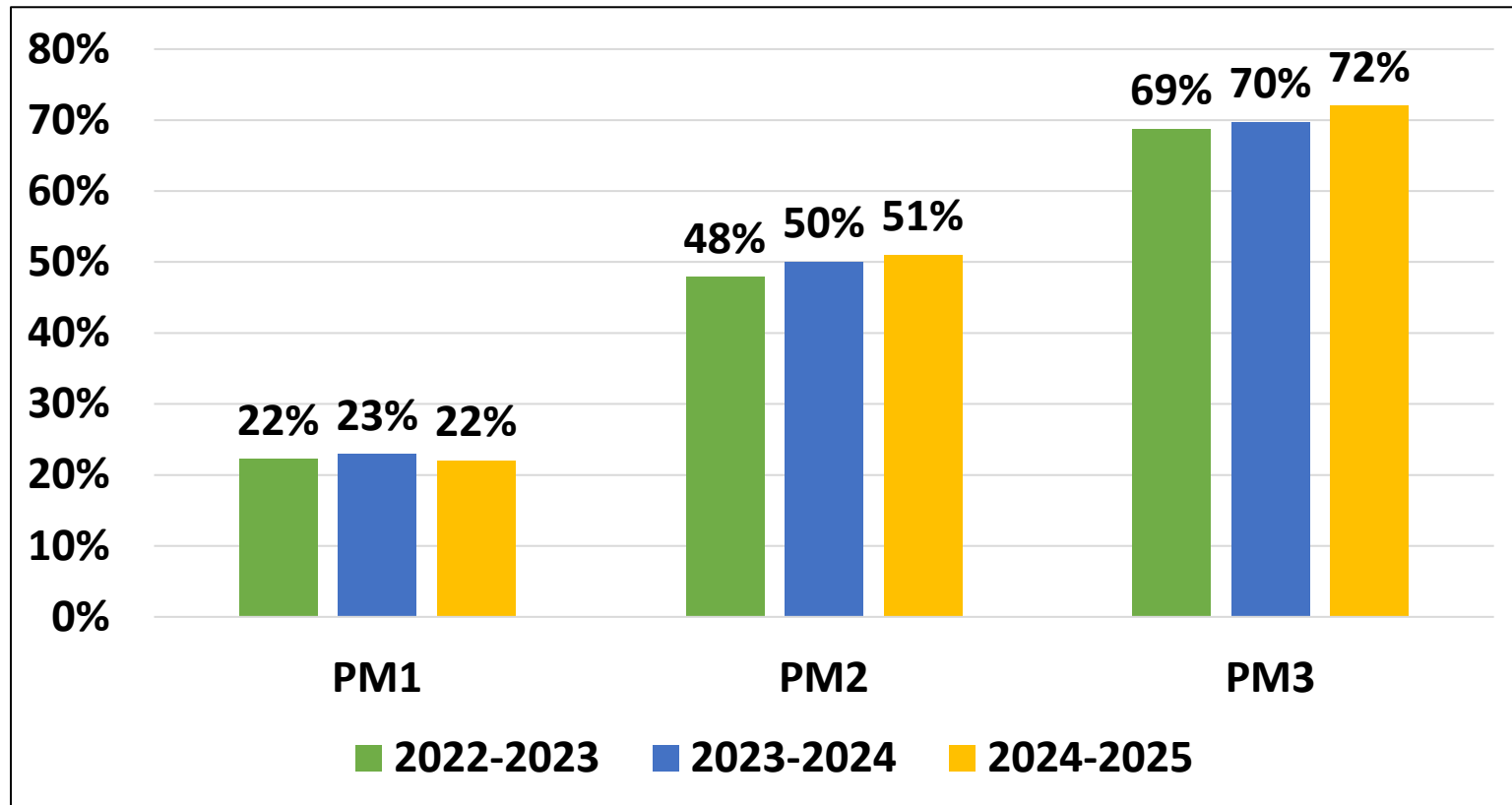
2024-2025 VPK Data Packet Highlights

Average VPK CLASS Scores



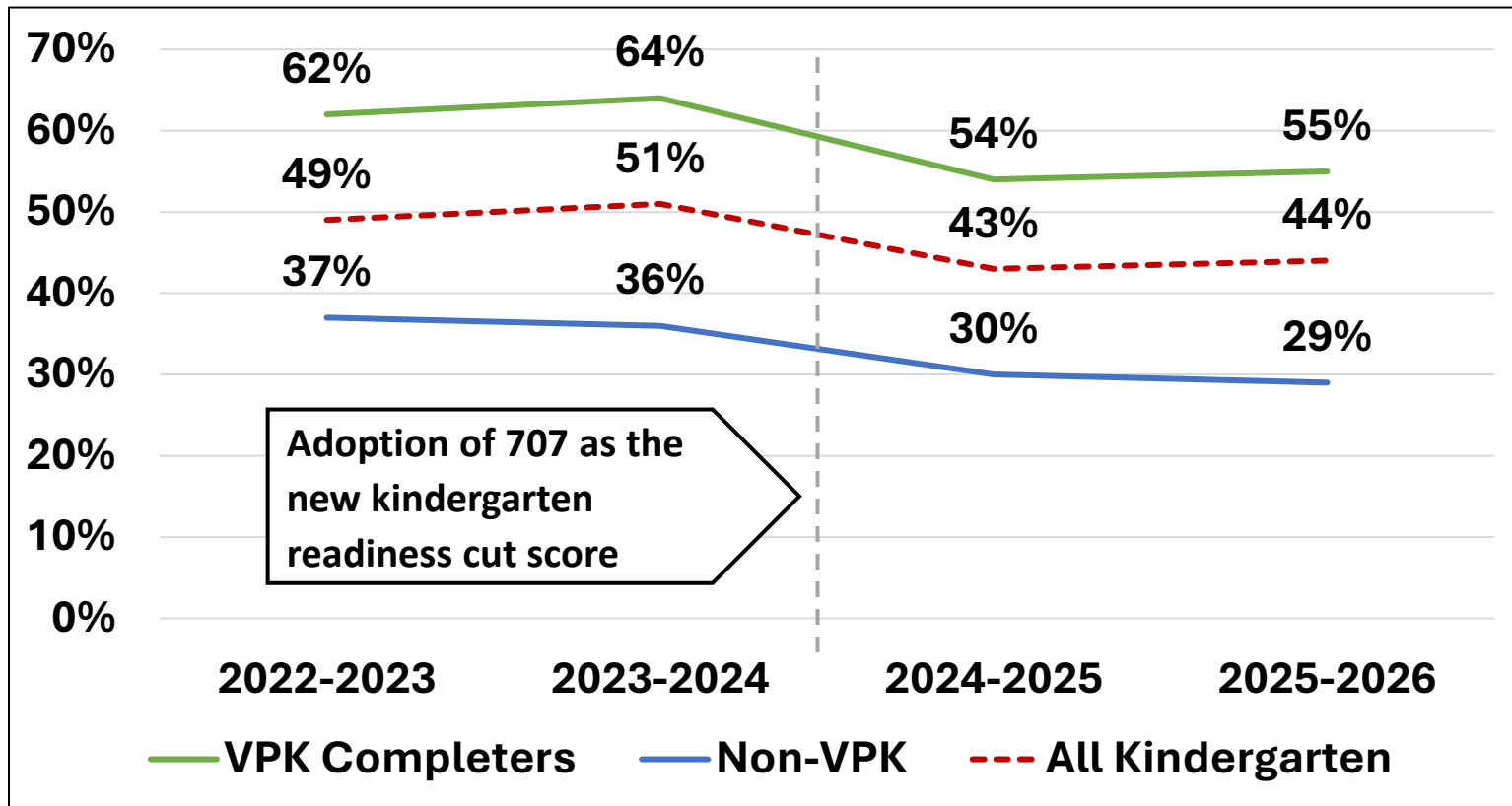
2024-2025 VPK Data Packet Highlights

Percentage of Tested VPK Completers Scoring “Kindergarten Ready” and Above



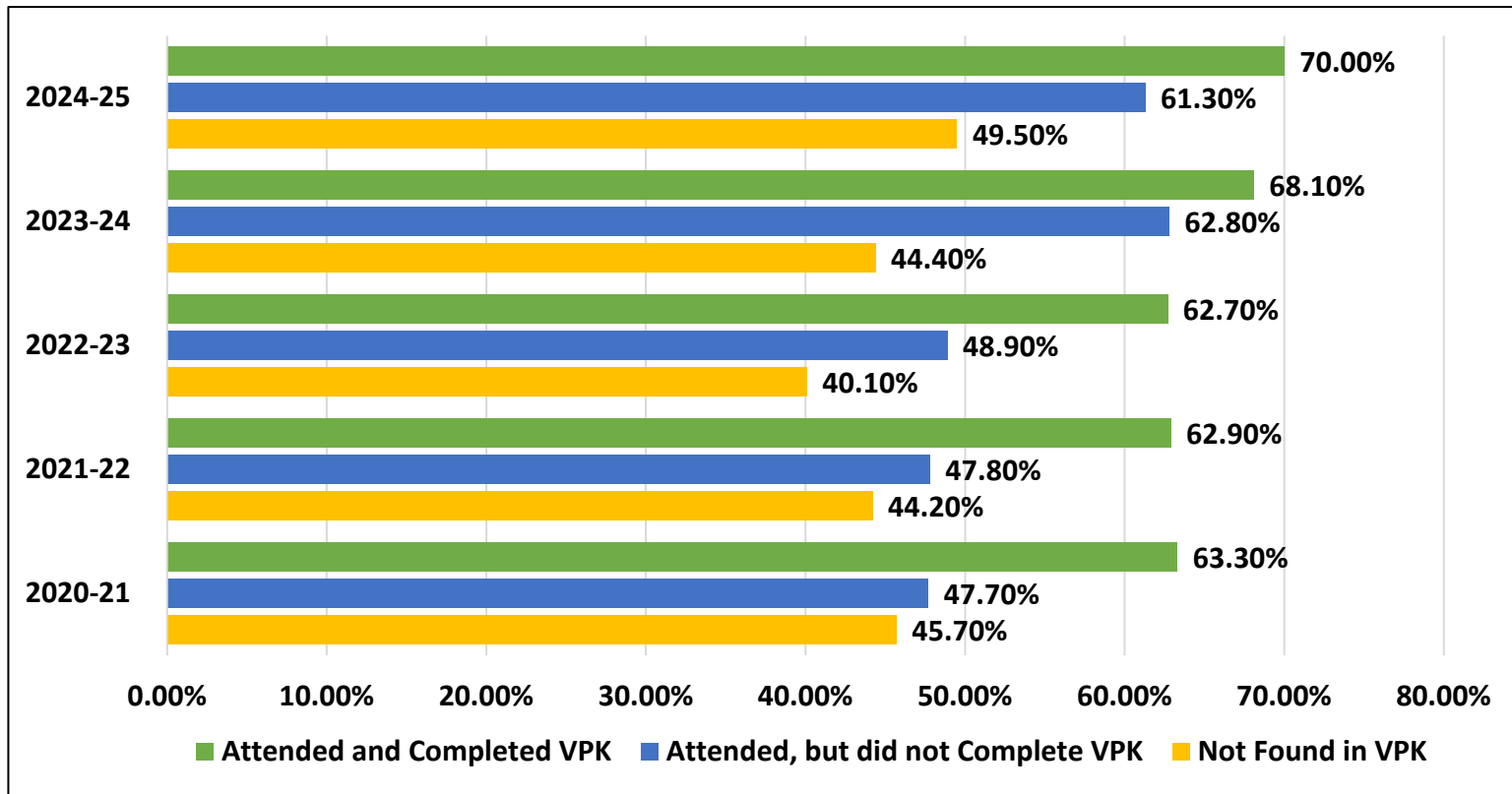
2024-2025 VPK Data Packet Highlights

Kindergarten Readiness Results 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 School Years



2024-2025 VPK Data Packet Highlights

Percentage Scoring Level 3 and Above on the Grade 3 ELA Assessments

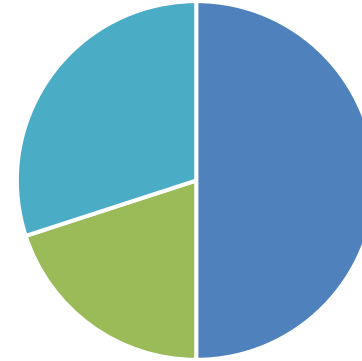


Note: The 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 results were impacted by the [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1](#).

2024-2025 VPK Provider Designations Results

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

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



6,240 providers earned a designation and/or incomplete status

- **88%** of providers met or exceeded expectations.
- **7%** of providers did not meet expectations and are placed on probation.
- **5%** of providers received an incomplete status.

Designation	Percent of Providers	Provider Count
Excellent	33%	2,066
Above Expectations	31%	1,941
Meets Expectations	24%	1,493
Below Expectations	6%	373
Unsatisfactory	1%	43
Incomplete	5%	324

Summer Bridge

Summer Bridge is a FREE summer program offered by school districts to help eligible VPK students get ready for kindergarten.

Eligible VPK children are those who:

- Scored below the 10th percentile on progress monitoring three (PM3)
- Could not complete the practice items on PM3 or could not complete PM3 because it was inappropriate for their needs (e.g., child's IEP, a non-English speaking child)

The district's Summer Bridge program includes:

- A minimum of 100 instructional hours and small class sizes (maximum 1:12 instructor-student ratio).
- Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS) aligned instruction with emphasis on oral language development and emergent literacy

House Bill 1279 expanded eligibility to children who score below the 25th percentile on VPK PM3, starting in summer 2026.



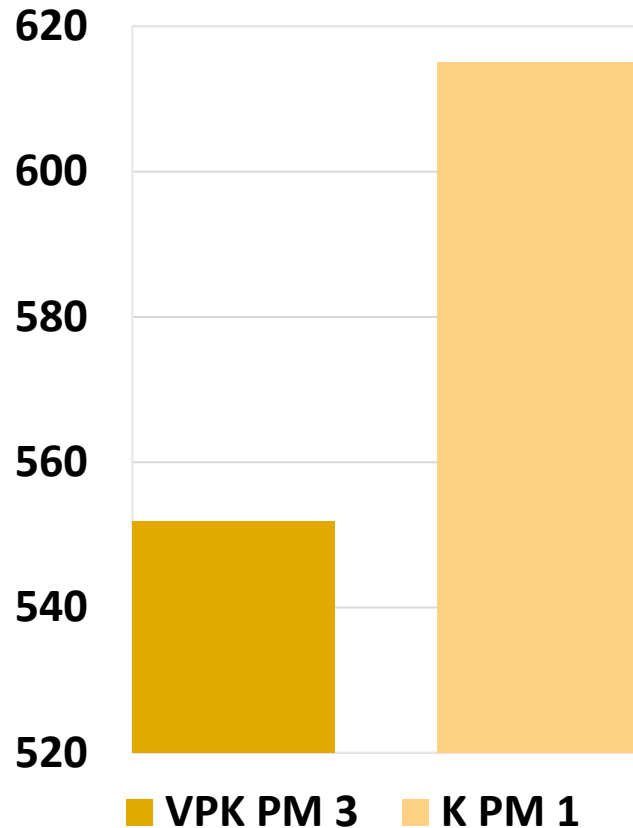
Summer Bridge Participation

Eligible Population	Participation	Participating Eligible VPK Children
2,482	841	183

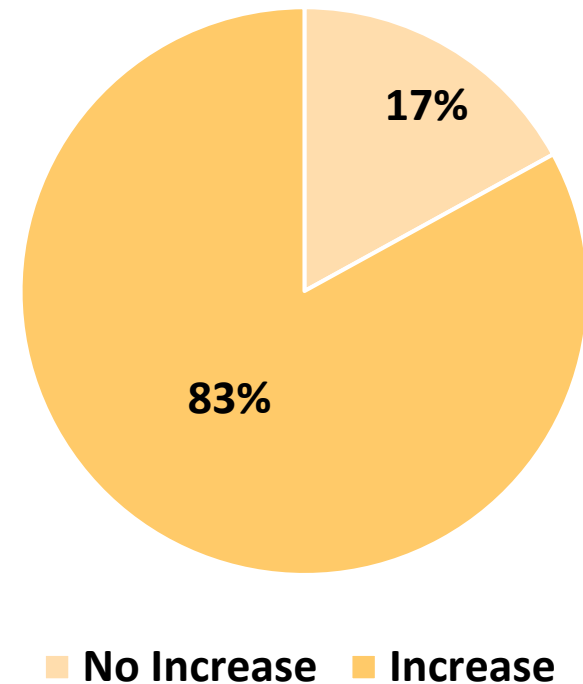
There were 5 districts with no eligible children, therefore no Summer Bridge program: Dixie, Gilchrist, Glades, Madison and Wakulla.

Summer Bridge Program Results

Average Scaled Score Growth



**VPK PM3 - K PM1 Student
Percentile Improvement**



68% of students moved out of Urgent Intervention, and therefore no longer classified as having a significant deficiency in early literacy/reading.



Florida VPK and Florida Prepaid Unite

BIG SAVINGS FOR BRIGHT FUTURES!

Start Early. Save More.

✓ Applying to participate in Florida's VPK program is a great beginning to investing in your child's future!

Not only is VPK proven to help your child enter Kindergarten confident and ready to learn, but it also opens the door to valuable financial education opportunities that can support your family's future.

- Apply for VPK and receive a \$100 bonus to start saving for future education costs.
- Apply for VPK and be entered for a chance to win a \$1,000 college scholarship.

✓ Families who opt in to either opportunity are provided additional information about the options available through Florida Prepaid.



Go to the website for more information
on [Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans](https://myfloridaprepaid.com).
(myfloridaprepaid.com)



Anastasios Kamoutsas ✓

@StasiKamoutsas

...

Florida is one of the first states in the nation to create a seamless process for families to apply for Voluntary Prekindergarten and begin saving for higher education through [@FloridaPrepaid](#) at the same time.

More than 13,000 families have already taken advantage of this opportunity—receiving \$100 to jumpstart their savings and gaining entry into a monthly raffle for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Thanks to [@GovRonDeSantis](#) Florida continues to prioritize students and provide innovative options to expand educational opportunities.



11:46 AM · Apr 23, 2026 · 2,799 Views

[VPK/Florida Prepaid Flyer](#)



Upcoming FDOE Professional Learning Events

Upcoming Events

- High Impact Teacher Corps
 - May 29 – Lake Mary
- Chancellor's Leadership Academy
 - June 2-3 – Lake Mary
- 2026 Florida School Safety and Security Conference
 - June 8-11 – Orlando

Upcoming Events

- Elementary Summer Literacy Institute (VPK–Grade 5)
 - June 9-10 – Orlando
- Secondary Summer Literacy Institute (Grades 6–12)
 - June 11-12 – Orlando
- Virtual Literacy Institute (K-5)
 - June 17

Upcoming Events

- African American History Task Force Virtual Summer Institute
 - June 16
- Regional Civics Summer Professional Learning
 - June 11 – Sarasota
 - June 18 – Jacksonville
 - July 9 – Orlando
- Bureau of School Improvement Summer Academy
 - June 22-24 – Orlando

Upcoming Events

- Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support Professional Learning Events
 - June 16-18 – Bay County
 - July 14-16 – Hillsborough County
 - July 21-23 – Lee County
- Florida Teacher of the Year Roundtable and Gala
 - July 20-23 – Orlando



Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders

Florida Department of Education Updates

May 27, 2026



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org