

# Florida's Office of Early Learning Voluntary Prekindergarten Program Data 2011



## Program Highlights

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free education program designed to prepare four-year-olds for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. Children who live in Florida and are four years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible for the VPK program. All VPK providers must meet the program's quality standards by:

- Employing qualified instructors
- Teaching age appropriate curricula with a strong emphasis on early literacy skills
- Maintaining manageable class sizes

## Program Options

Parents may enroll their child in a VPK classroom located in a private child care or school-based setting. Parents also have the choice between the school year program or the summer program. VPK providers must meet specific requirements for either program:

- School year program
  - 540 instructional hours
  - Class sizes of 18 or fewer students
  - Instructors must hold a minimum of a *Birth to Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential*
- Summer program
  - 300 instructional hours
  - Class sizes of 12 or fewer students
  - Instructors must hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree

## VPK Providers

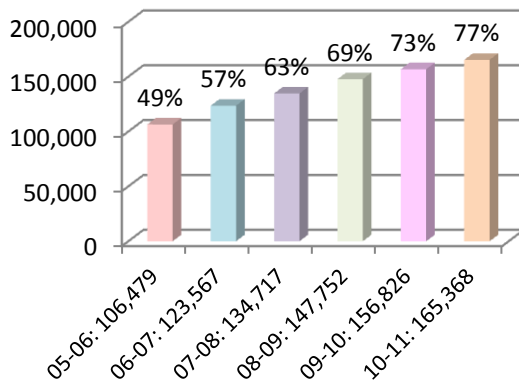
VPK providers must meet the minimum requirements outlined in Florida law. Private VPK providers must hold the *Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Director Credential* with the *VPK Director Endorsement*. Private providers must also hold a valid child care license or be exempt from licensure and be recognized by an approved child care accrediting agency.

## VPK Provider Readiness Rates

A VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate is calculated for VPK providers and measures how prepared four-year-olds are for kindergarten based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). The FLKRS is based on *One Set of Standards for Florida's Four-year-olds*, which describe what four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of VPK. The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate is a tool parents may use to select a VPK program best suited for their family. Early learning coalitions can provide parents with Provider Profiles for local VPK providers and access to licensing reports.

[http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/EarlyLearning/OEL\\_Coalitions\\_CoalitionsDirectory.html](http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/EarlyLearning/OEL_Coalitions_CoalitionsDirectory.html)

## Percentage of Four-Year-Olds in VPK



## Historical VPK Provider Data

