



Florida Department of Education
Office of Early Learning

What's happening in VPK?

March 2010



NEWS: Important VPK Provider Readiness Rate Update

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate measures how well a VPK provider prepares four-year-olds to be ready for kindergarten based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS).

The maximum 2008-09 readiness rate is **200**. *This is a change from the previous 300 point scale.* Readiness rates are calculated for all VPK providers that served at least four children, who attended at least 70-percent of either the School-Year VPK program or Summer VPK program, **and** participated in the FLKRS.

On March 5th, final readiness rates were made available to providers, early learning coalitions, and school districts through the readiness rate website. Final readiness rates were made available to the public on March 10th through the readiness rate website, www.vpk.fldoe.org.

Based on preliminary data, the minimum 2008-09 readiness rate is projected to be **138**. The State Board of Education will meet on March 26th to set the final minimum readiness rate.

During 2008-09, there were 6,051 VPK providers statewide, with over 90% of these providers receiving a readiness rate score. The average readiness rate score across all VPK programs who received a rate is 163.

DOE Certificate of Completion Update

The Department of Education's VPK Regional Facilitators are currently accepting the submission of Certificates of Completion for DOE-approved trainings completed during the period of **October 15, 2005 through March 24, 2009**.

Please visit our website at www.fldoe.org/earlylearning for a list of our VPK Regional Facilitators and their contact information.

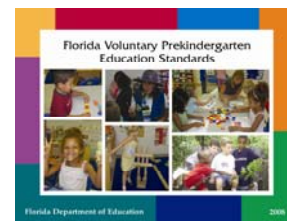
Only certificates for DOE-approved Instructor-Led courses listed on the DCF Child Care Training Transcript can be updated.

Certificates of Completion must be updated on the DCF Child Care Training Transcript by **June 30, 2010**, or the training must be retaken.

VPK Standards Training Update

Effective **May 1, 2010**, there will be a **\$10 registration fee** for participants who register for the following DOE-approved Instructor-Led courses:

- VPK Education Standards Training
- What's New: Florida VPK Education Standards 2008



Registration fees will be used to offset the cost associated with producing and shipping the VPK Education Standards manual.

Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment: The Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) in collaboration with the Department of Education has developed the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to provide teachers with valid and reliable feedback regarding children's progress in attaining the skills in the VPK Education Standards. Teachers may use this information to inform instructional decisions in the VPK classroom.

The VPK Assessment includes progress monitoring measures in the areas of Print Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Oral Language/Vocabulary and Mathematics. The assessment measures are being field tested throughout the state during 2009-10. Information gathered from teachers involved in the field test will be considered in the development of the final assessment measures.

The VPK Assessment Measures are:

- Aligned to the [VPK Education Standards](#) and the kindergarten screening (Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener)
- Planned for statewide availability in 2010-11.

NOW AVAILABLE! Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom Course: This online course is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors and provides instructional strategies for increasing language and vocabulary with young children. There are videos of VPK teachers implementing the strategies with children, in addition to activities, and resources to support teachers as they begin to use the language and vocabulary strategies in their own classrooms. You may now register for this DOE-approved online course by visiting Department of Children and Families' Web site at <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/dcf/cct/inf0001.html>. For successful completion of the course, 0.5 CEUs will be awarded.

NOW AVAILABLE! VPK Teacher Toolkit: Mathematical Thinking Folder: This online resource is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors. This folder will provide resources, instructional strategies, and activities for each of the six areas of Mathematical Thinking outlined in the 2008 VPK Education Standards.

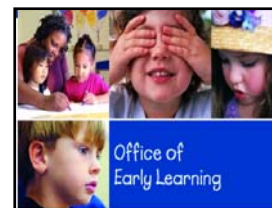
REMINDER: Given the significant budget cuts that occurred as a result of the last legislative session, the Department of Education, Office of Early Learning is limited in the amount of print material that can be produced and disseminated. We strongly encourage you to visit the **Publications and Papers** page at <http://www.fldoe.org/publications/> and sign up for the Department's paperless communication system. By doing so, you will be included (electronically) in any correspondence sent from the Department of Education that relates to the areas of interest *you select* (e.g., early childhood, VPK).

Once on the **Publications and Papers** page use the left navigation bar to click on [Paperless Communications](#). On the **Paperless Communications** page, click on [Sign up for E-Mail Notices](#), enter your email address and click "continue." Under the heading, "**Which one of the following best describes you?**" choose K-12 Educator or General Public, and select your county of residence or employment. Under **Choose an Interest Area**, select K-12 to access program areas, then select the topic(s) that you wish to receive information on (e.g., Early Childhood, VPK) and click "Subscribe."



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