

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
August 21, 2019

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6M-8.601, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. OEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

Current situation: The VPK program is offered at both public and private schools as a school-year or summer program. All children who enroll in a public school district kindergarten (or participating private kindergarten) are assessed within the first 30 school days using a screening tool (currently the Star Early Literacy tool) that assesses a child's readiness for kindergarten based on adopted performance standards. The results of the kindergarten screening are used to determine the readiness rate for each VPK provider, which is calculated as the percentage of children who are assessed as "ready for kindergarten." A student must demonstrate a score of at least 500 on the Star Early Literacy Assessment to be considered "ready for kindergarten" and a provider should have at least 60 percent of its children in that category.

During the course of the VPK program, providers are also required to assess children with a pre- and post-instrument known as the VPK Assessment which measures learning gains. The research-based assessment includes progress monitoring measures in the areas of print knowledge, phonological awareness, mathematics, and oral language/vocabulary that are aligned with standards for four year-olds.

Effect of proposed revision: The minimum score on the Star Literacy Assessment will continue to be 500 and the percentage of children who meet or exceed that score will be included provider's readiness rate. However, for the first time, the results of the pre- and post-assessment administered during the VPK program will also be included in the calculation as learning gains. The percentage of children who made learning gains in all four domains will be multiplied by .1 and added to the percentage of children who scored 500 or more on the kindergarten screening test. A provider must earn a minimum score of 60 on a zero to 100 scale in order to have successfully administered the VPK program.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-8.601, F.A.C.

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