



Division of Early Learning

Cari Miller
Chancellor of Early Learning

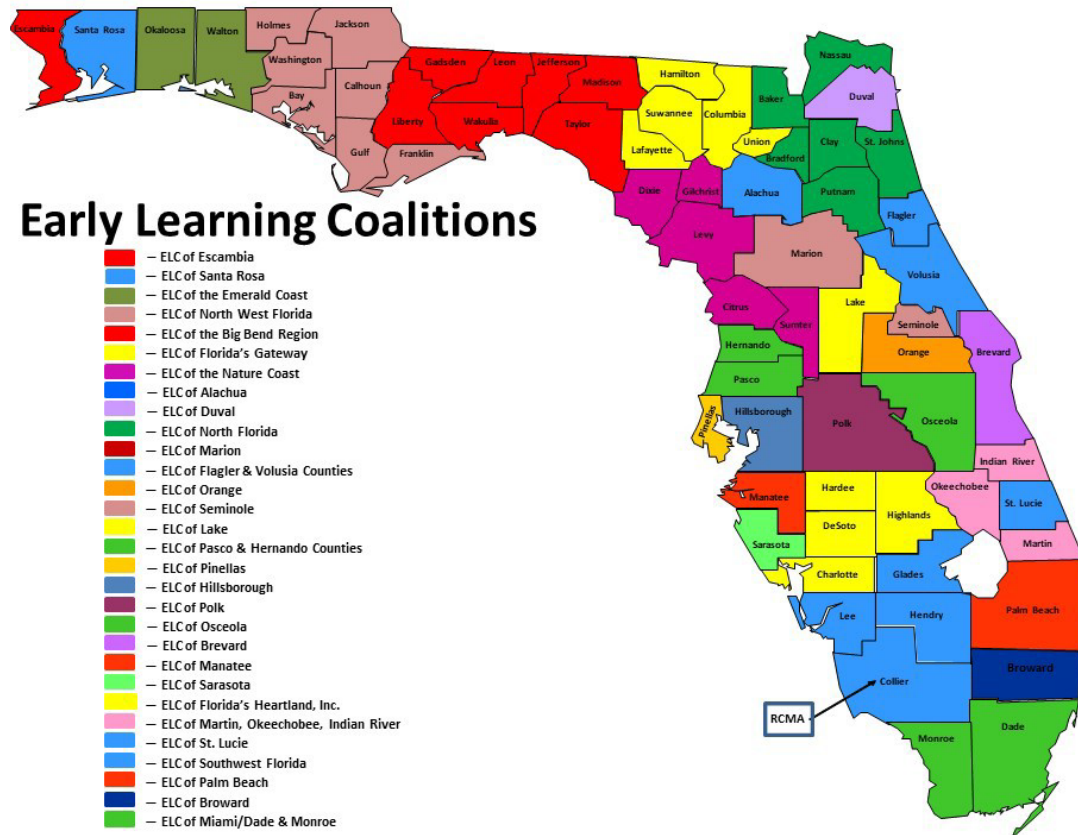
December 12, 2024



www.FLDOE.org

Early Learning Coalitions and RCMA

The Department of Education’s DEL, administers SR and VPK programs statewide, in partnership with thirty (30) early learning coalitions (ELCs) and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA).



DEL Goals:

1

Increase Kindergarten readiness, setting children on a path to learn, graduate and succeed.

2

Engage families as their child's first teacher and support them in making informed decisions on high-quality child care that best meets their family needs.

3

Support families by providing high-quality child care as they work to become financially self-sufficient.

4

Build high-quality early learning programs to meet the individual needs of all children.

5

Increase the knowledge and skills of early learning professionals to provide high-quality care and education.

Importance of Kindergarten Readiness

- For children who enter kindergarten behind, **roughly 75%** will never catch up to their classmates.
- The **strongest predictors of later achievement** are school-entry math, reading and attention skills.
- State and local **prekindergarten programs**, almost without exception, **improve academic readiness for school**.
- Participants in the prekindergarten program **scored higher on third-grade language arts tests** than did nonparticipants.
- Participation in an **early childhood experience** (child care or preschool) **increases high school graduation rates**.



Fall 2023 Kindergarten Readiness Results



51%

All Kindergarten Students – 51 percent of children entered kindergarten ready, a 2 percentage point increase from the previous year.



64%

VPK Completers – 64 percent of children entered kindergarten ready, a 2 percentage point increase from the previous year.

Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS)



Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four Years Old to Kindergarten (2017)

An Educator's Guide to Understanding
**THE FLORIDA EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL STANDARDS:
4 YEARS OLD TO KINDERGARTEN**



Program Assessment

- CLASS = **C**lassroom **A**ssessment **S**coring **S**ystem
- CLASS is a research-based method of measuring, evaluating and improving teacher-student interactions from infant care through Prekindergarten.
- CLASS measures high-quality interactions that lead to improved academic outcomes. The interactions teachers have with children are proven to impact learning development.
- Early learning coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for administration of CLASS which must be conducted by qualified individuals.
- Providers of SR/VPK must have a 4.00 composite score to contract in future years.

CLASS Assessment Results

**July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024*

School Readiness:
Almost 99% of SR providers
 scored 4.0 or higher
CLASS Average: 5.11

VPK:
Over 99% of VPK providers
 scored 4.0 or higher
CLASS Average: 5.21

Overall Score Group	Count of SR Providers:	Count of VPK Providers:	SR + VPK Providers	Providers in Both SR and VPK Counts	Distinct Providers by Scoring Group
Below 3	5	2	7	0	7
3 to 3.49	10	2	12	0	12
3.5 to 3.99	42	18	60	4	56
4 to 4.49	573	639	1,212	170	1,042
4.5 to 4.99	1,315	1,399	2,714	419	2,295
5 to 5.49	1,574	2,035	3,609	604	3,005
5.5 to 5.99	902	1,477	2,379	297	2,082
6 to 6.49	247	390	637	60	577
6.5 and above	31	50	81	10	71
Grand Total	4,699	6,012	10,711	1,564	9,147

CLASS Resources and Support

★ CLASS Trainings: <https://teachstone.com/florida/> ★

ADMINISTRATORS

CLASS Leader Overview provides the how and why of leading and planning CLASS, identifies the value CLASS brings and interprets CLASS data. 2-hour online course.

COACHES

Feedback Strategies Training helps coaches translate CLASS observation data into effective feedback, feel more positive and confident when preparing for coaching sessions and promotes teacher comprehension of the CLASS tool.

TEACHERS

CLASS Foundations for Teachers introduces teachers to the CLASS framework and encourages them to reflect on their own teaching practice. Uses real-life videos and hands-on exercises to connect learning. 21 hours - hybrid model of online and facilitated training.

MyTeachstone Focus, a myTeachstone subscription with access to over 1,000 resources in a variety of media.

OBSERVERS

CLASS Observations Support Series - virtual training increases confidence in accurately observing across multiple classroom settings, such as those with dual language learners or children with special needs.

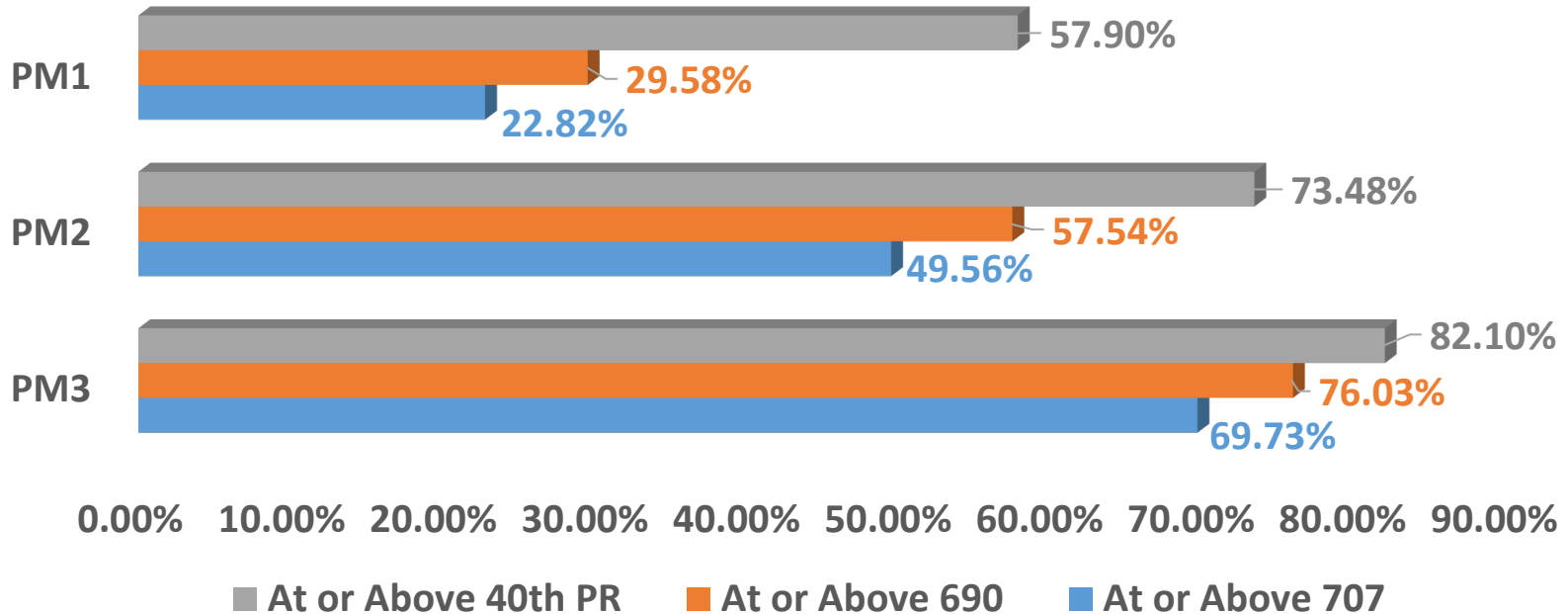
FAST Star Early Literacy for VPK

The Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program is the statewide, standardized program known as Florida Assessment of Student Thinking or FAST Star Early Literacy implemented in all VPK programs.

- **Why are we implementing Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring?**
 - To measure VPK student achievement of the performance standards in early literacy and mathematics (Sections 1002.68 and 1008.25(9), F.S., and Rule 6M-8.620, F.A.C.)
 - To inform targeted instruction based on student need
- **Who is assessed?**
 - All VPK program students enrolled with valid certificates of eligibility
- **What is assessed?**
 - 27 total items – 22 early literacy items and 5 numeracy items
 - 10-key early literacy sub-domains: Visual Discrimination, Alphabetic Principle, Concept of Word, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Structural Analysis, Vocabulary, Sentence-Level Comprehension, Paragraph-Level Comprehension, Early Numeracy
- **When are the students assessed?**
 - Three progress monitoring periods in a program year (PM1, PM2, PM3) , and two for summer program (PM1 and PM3)
- **How long does it take?**
 - 10-20 minutes average test length www.FLDOE.org

2023-24 FAST Star Early Literacy VPK Results

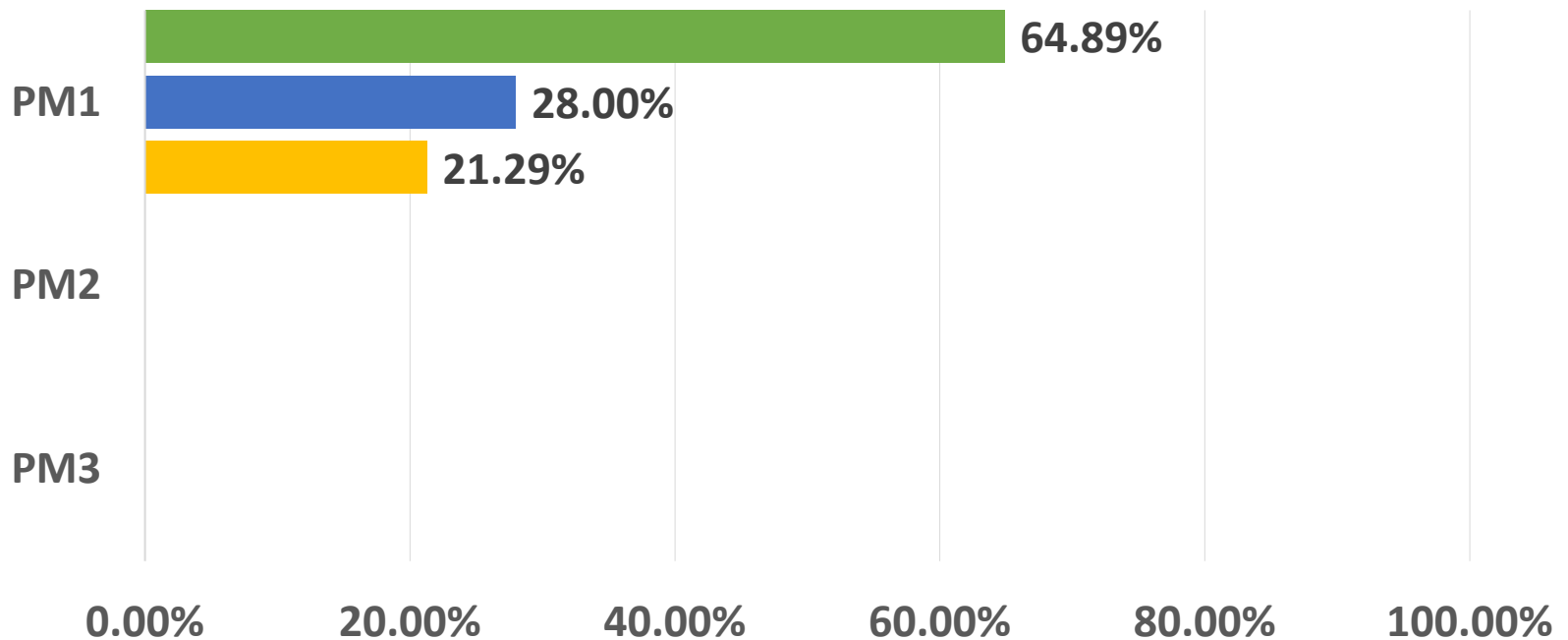
Percentage of Students
At or Above the 40th Percentile Rank and
At or Above 690 and 707 Scaled Score
Data as of 7/1/2024 reported for 23-24 VPK School-Year



2024-25 FAST Star Early Literacy VPK Results

95% of VPK Students Tested, Data as of 11/14/24

■ At or Above 40th Percentile Rank
 ■ At or Above 690
 ■ At or Above 707



FAST Star Early Literacy Resources and Support

[Bookmark the VPK FAST Star Early Literacy website today!](#)

- **[VPK Program Guide to FAST Star Early Literacy](#)** supports programs with understanding implementation requirements.
- **[FAST Star Early Literacy Renaissance-U Enrollment Guidance](#)** details the training requirements and courses for programs to have qualified test administrators.
- **[FAST Star Early Literacy Family Letter – What Families Need to Know](#)** is a resource for families prior to their child participating in FAST assessment administration.
- **[FAST Star Early Literacy Resources and Reports](#)** provide links to the Renaissance Resources and Reports that best support programs with FAST implementation.
- **[Star Early Literacy Score Definitions](#)** provide descriptions for each score that a student may receive on the various Renaissance reports.
- **[FAST-Star Early Literacy FAQs](#)** is a great go-to document for frequently asked questions to support programs with implementation questions.

If you have VPK FAST implementation or policy questions, email **VPKFAST@del.fldoe.org**. If you need assistance with the Renaissance system, contact Renaissance Support at 1-800-338-4204.

VPK Accountability

Methodology to Calculate Each Provider's Performance Metric

- The department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the following:

1	Program assessment composite score, which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent. (CLASS)
2	Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results. (FAST Star Early Literacy)
3	Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes. (FAST Star Early Literacy)

- Produce a limited number of performance metric profiles that must be used to inform designations.
- Applied at the end of the 2024-25 program year.

s. 1002.68, F.S., Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program accountability

VPK Performance Metric & Designations

50% Quality + 30% Learning Gains + 20% Achievement

CLASS Composite Score	FAST Star Early Literacy	
50% Quality	30% Learning Gains	20% Achievement

Designations	Range (0-100)
Excellent	61-100 points
Above Expectations	46-60 points
Meets Expectations	28-45 points
Below Expectations	16-27 points
Unsatisfactory	0-15 points

Quality (50%)

- Statute requires this component be weighted at “no less than 50%.”
- The Quality score will account for 50% of the total performance metric and each provider can earn a maximum of 50 points for this component.
- The Quality score is calculated based on the provider’s Composite Program Assessment Score (7-point scale).
- Providers with Composite Program Assessment Scores:
 - Below 4.00 will earn 0% or 0 of the 50 possible points.
 - 4.00-4.49 will earn 10% or 5 of the 50 possible points.
 - 4.50-4.99 will earn 20% or 10 of the 50 possible points.
 - 5.00-5.49 will earn 40% or 20 of the 50 possible points.
 - 5.50-5.99 will earn 60% or 30 of the 50 possible points.
 - 6.00-6.49 will earn 80% or 40 of the 50 possible points.
 - 6.50-7.00 will earn 100% or 50 of the 50 possible points.

Learning Gains (30%)

- Learning Gains score will account for 30% of the total performance metric and each provider can earn a maximum of 30 points for this component.
- Learning Gains are calculated by multiplying the percentage of children that meet the expected growth rate (see below), by 100 and multiplying the results by 30 percent.
- The score will be expressed as a whole number by rounding a value of .5 or greater up and rounding a value of less than .5 down.
- Learning Gains can be demonstrated by:
 - Children in the VPK school-year program with a growth rate of 12 Unified Scale Score (USS) points or more per month.
 - Children in the VPK summer program with a growth rate of 40 USS points or more per month.
 - Children maintaining a score within the highest literacy classification (USS of 852 or higher) at PM1 and PM3.

Learning Gains: Understanding Growth Rate

- Growth rate is calculated by subtracting each child's progress monitoring one (PM1) score from the child's progress monitoring three (PM3) score, then dividing by the number of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 administration dates and multiplying by 30.

USS at PM3 – USS at PM1 / # of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 test administration dates * 30

- Calculation accounts for the differences in VPK program type and program length (e.g. traditional, non-traditional, summer).
- Growth rates are based on the average learning rate of School-Year VPK children and Summer VPK children, respectively.
 - School-Year VPK children average learning rate is 12 USS points or more per month.
 - Summer VPK children average learning rate is 40 USS points or more per month.

Achievement (20%)

- The Achievement score will account for 20% of the total performance metric and each provider can earn a maximum of 20 points for this component.
- Achievement is based on progress monitoring 3 (PM3) outcomes.
- Achievement score is calculated by multiplying the percentage of eligible students who demonstrate kindergarten readiness, (707 scaled score), by 100 and multiplying the result by 20 percent.

VPK Provider Performance Metric Calculation

- Per statute, the department must calculate a VPK provider performance metric for each participating school-year and summer VPK program.
- Metrics are calculated separately by program type.
- The VPK performance metric is calculated as the sum of the Quality score, Achievement score and the Learning Gains score.
- The following criteria must be met to calculate a VPK provider performance metric:
 - ✓ A provider has data for all three components, and
 - ✓ A provider served a minimum of four children who have completed more than 50% of the total number of instructional hours of the VPK program in the same provider's program.

VPK Provider Performance Designation

- Designation labels are:
 - Excellent
 - Above Expectations
 - Meets Expectations
 - Below Expectations
 - Unsatisfactory
- Providers that do not meet criteria to calculate a VPK provider performance metric will receive the designation of incomplete.
- Per statute, providers receiving the designations of “meets expectations,” “above expectations” and “excellent” have satisfactorily delivered the program.
- Providers who do not satisfactorily deliver the program (“below expectations” and “unsatisfactory”) will be placed on probation.

Proposed Provider Performance Metric Ranges

Impact Data: Informational Only

Performance Metric Ranges - School-Year Providers

Designations	Performance Metric Range	# Providers	% Providers	Achievement	% Children At/Above 707 on PM3 Mean	Monthly Learning Rate	% Children Meeting Learning Gains Criteria	CLASS
Unsatisfactory Below Expectations Meets Expectations Above Expectations Excellent	0 - 15	107	1.9	701.2	22.4	7.6	7.0	4.3
	16 - 27	564	10.2	712.4	40.4	8.9	20.7	4.5
	28 - 45	1859	33.6	739.6	61.5	11.2	38.5	4.9
	46 - 60	1852	33.5	770.9	78.7	14.9	61.7	5.1
	61 - 100	1143	20.7	791.3	87.9	17.5	76.6	5.7

**Based on 22-23 data*

VPK Provider Accountability Resources

<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/vpk-accountability.shtml>

- [Rule 6M-8.622, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\), Voluntary Prekindergarten \(VPK\) Education Provider Performance Metric and Designation](#), provides an understandable method for measuring the performance of each VPK provider.
- [DPS Memo August 23, 2024 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Guide to Calculating Voluntary Prekindergarten \(VPK\) Education Provider Performance Metrics and Designations \(PDF\)](#) - This guide provides a description of the procedures used to determine the VPK provider performance metric and designation for VPK providers as set forth in Rule 6M-8.622, F.A.C.
- [2022-2023 VPK Provider Performance Metrics and Designations \(PDF\)](#) - This document displays the VPK school year and summer provider performance metrics if VPK program accountability was applied at the end of the 2022-2023 program year. These performance metrics and designations are **for informational purposes only**.

Early Learning Initiatives

- **My Florida Schools (Online Portal)**

- Online, forward facing early learning provider search that integrates with the online portal for K-12 schools under s. 1001.10(9), F.S. My Florida Schools enables parents to choose the early learning provider or K-12 school that best meets their child's needs.

- **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 students 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.

- **It's Okay to Play in VPK**

- Training for educators and families that focuses on the importance of play.

IT'S OKAY TO PLAY IN VPK!

Available to
educators and
families

Focuses on the
importance of
play

Two-part
training
experience

Aligns with
FELDS

Interactive
presentation
with video clips
and hands-on
activities

Contact your
VPK Regional
Facilitators for a
trainer near you

2024-25 VPK Legislative Highlights

\$12.5 million increase in VPK base student allocations

(VPK Total: \$438 million)

- FAST Star Early Literacy assessment requirements for the Summer VPK program includes administration of PM1 and PM3 only. PM2 will no longer be required.
- Expands district student progression requirements to apply to public VPK students identified with a substantial deficiency in early literacy or early math skills.
- Provides on-ramp of 45 days for VPK instructors to complete the 3 emergent literacy courses.
- Expands New Worlds Scholarship Accounts to eligible VPK students.
- \$4.1 million to establish the Summer Bridge Program for eligible VPK children (House Bill 5101).

Defining a Substantial Early Literacy and Math Deficiency

Purpose:

1. Expands district student progression requirements, including additional instructional supports, to eligible **public school** VPK children; and
2. Eligibility for **private and public** VPK children for New Worlds Scholarship Accounts (pending available funds).

Definitions:

- **Substantial Deficiency in Early Literacy Skills** – A student who scores below the tenth (10th) percentile on FAST Star Early Literacy or is unable to complete the practice items at the middle (PM2) or end of the year (PM3).
- **Substantial Deficiency in Early Math Skills** – A student who scores below the tenth (10th) percentile on FAST Star Early Literacy at the middle (PM2) or the end of the year (PM3), or is unable to complete the practice items at the middle (PM2) or the end of the year (PM3), **AND** through observation and informal assessment has demonstrated achievement of twenty-five (25) percent or less of the mathematical thinking standards adopted for use in VPK programs per s. 1002.67, F.S.

VPK Instructor Emergent Literacy Course Requirements

Section 1002.55(3)(c)2., F.S., and Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.

VPK instructor must complete:

- Three 5-hour emergent literacy training courses (total of 15 hours)
- One additional 5-hour emergent literacy training every 5 years
- **Newly hired staff have 45 calendar days to complete the emergent literacy trainings**
- *The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten*

Courses post to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) transcript upon completion. Instructors must also have completed the required **staff credential**.

Summer Bridge (Rule 6A-6.0530, F.A.C.)

- 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).
- Every VPK program will provide parents with the results of PM3, including a statement of eligibility for the Summer Bridge Program.
- 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 in an elementary school setting 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 Bridge (Rule 6A-6.0530, F.A.C.)

School districts must:

- Enroll eligible students who meet district registration requirements;
- Keep a daily record of a student's attendance in the program;
- Notify the parent that the enrolled student is eligible to participate in the New Worlds Reading Initiative, as described in s. 1003.485, F.S.;
- Notify the parent that the enrolled student is eligible for a New Worlds Scholarship Account, as described in s. 1002.411, F.S.; and
- Provide an annual report to the Department by October 1 containing the following information for enrolled students:
 - The student's name;
 - The student's FLEID;
 - The number of Summer Bridge Program instructional days the student attended; and
 - The total number of students served by the school district in the Summer Bridge Program.
- School districts will receive information on Requests for Application (RFA) and funding allocations as soon as they become available.

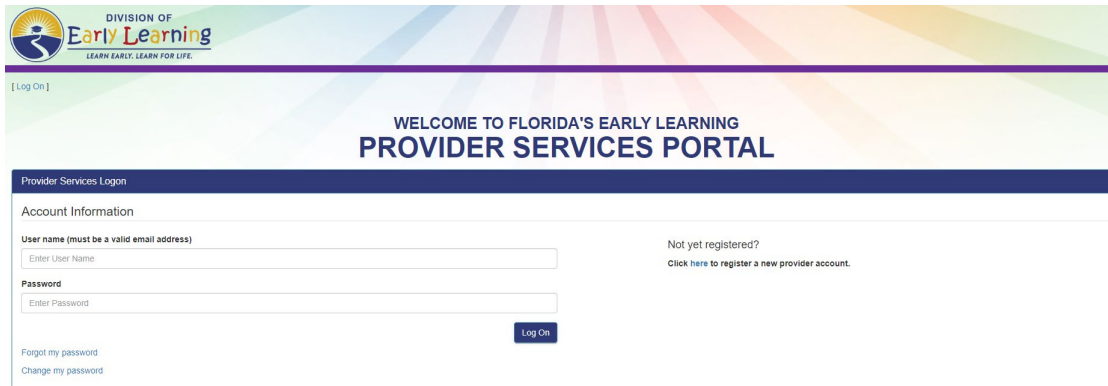
Expand VPK in Public Schools

- The DEL partnered with the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies to examine 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 logo for the Division of Early Learning 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". Below this is a "Provider Services Logon" section with a "Account Information" header. It contains two input fields: "User name (must be a valid email address)" with a sub-label "Enter User Name" and "Password" with a sub-label "Enter Password". To the right of these fields is a link for "Not yet registered? Click here to register a new provider account." Below the input fields is a "Log On" button. 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 Uniform 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.

WELCOME TO FLORIDA'S EARLY LEARNING FAMILY PORTAL

You will find information here about Florida's early learning programs. You can also apply for School Readiness (8002 care assistance) and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education services online by clicking on an Apply for button below.



Resource & Referral

Florida's Early Learning Resource and Referral Network (EREN) helps families locate quality child care and early education programs. Family members are encouraged to contact ERN for assistance in locating a child care provider. ERN can also assist with quality, licensing, and program information. For more information, visit www.floridaparent.com.

Learn More About ERN

School Readiness

Florida's School Readiness Program is an 800-hour, intensive program for eligible three-year children. The program is designed to help children develop the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in school. Services are provided to eligible children and their families. For more information, visit www.floridaparent.com.

Apply for School Readiness

VPK

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program is a 540-hour program that provides quality early childhood education for eligible three-year children. For more information, visit www.floridaparent.com.

Apply for Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

⬇️ Already have a Family Portal account? Sign in [here](#)

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