



Voluntary Prekindergarten Update

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May 16, 2024



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org

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**.



2023 FAST PM 1 Kindergarten Results

Percent Kindergarten Ready Students Statewide – Fall 2023

	Number of Test Takers	Number of Students "Ready"	Percent of Students "Ready"
All Kindergarten Students	186,417	95,494	51%
VPK Completers	101,348	64,394	64%
Non-VPK Completers	11,175	4,472	40%
Non-VPK Participants/ Unmatched	65,520	23,780	36%

**Ready for K: Scoring 690+ on FAST Star Early Literacy PM1*

2024-25 VPK Legislative Budget/Policy Highlights

Budget

- **An additional \$12 million** to increase VPK base student allocations for school year (\$88 per child) and summer (\$75 per child). (VPK Total: \$438 million)
- **\$4.1 million** to establish the Summer Bridge Program for eligible VPK children (HB 5101).

Policy

- Increases coalition VPK administration from 4% to 5%.
- Establishment of a Summer Bridge Program for eligible VPK children.
- Allows school districts to contract with a private provider to deliver the Summer VPK program.
- Expands district student progression requirements to apply to public VPK provider students.
- FAST Star Early Literacy assessment requirements for the Summer VPK program includes administration of PM1 and PM3 only. PM2 will no longer be required.
- Provides on-ramp of 45 days for VPK instructors to complete the 3 emergent literacy courses.
- Expands New Worlds Scholarship Accounts to VPK students.

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**



VPK Professional Learning Opportunities

Online



**In-Person
Instructor-led**



**Virtual
Instructor-led**



Online Courses

- Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS)
- Emergent Literacy/Phonological Awareness
- Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners
- Language and Vocabulary
- English Language Learners (ELL)



\$10 cost
0.3 – 0.5 CEUs

Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry
Your Child Care Training System



Sign In

username/email

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password

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Sign In

[Don't have an account?](#)

Sign Up

[Need help?](#)
Call the Child Care Training Information Center
at 1-888-352-2842

In-Person Instructor-led Training

- Delivered by VPK Regional Facilitators or approved DEL trainers
- Aligned to the **FELDS**
- It's Okay to Play in VPK (Part II)
- 10 additional course options
- FELDS, Emergent Literacy, Math
- Register in the DCF Training System
- 0.3 – 0.5 CEUs
- **FREE**



Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry
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Visit the **Florida Early Childhood Professional Catalog** to find training courses near you!

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Virtual Instructor-led Training

- Delivered by VPK Regional Facilitators or approved DEL trainers
- Aligned to the **FELDS**
- 7 available course options
 - Book Embedded Vocabulary Instruction: Language and Vocabulary Development
 - Dialogic Reading: Language and Vocabulary Development
 - Scaffolding and Think, Show, Tell, Talk: Language and Vocabulary Development
 - Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten
 - Phonological Awareness Development for Preschoolers 2021
 - Building a Strong Foundation for Emergent Literacy
 - It's Okay to Play in VPK (Part I)
- Register in the DCF Training System



FREE
0.3 – 0.5 CEUs

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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 (RF)
for a trainer
near you

Educator Training

- Understand how play impacts children's development and learning at various stages.
- Define elements of intentional teaching and quality learning environments.
- Learn strategies to plan and implement developmentally appropriate play activities with intention.
- DEL-approved *It's Okay to Play in VPK!* (IOTP) trainers are qualified to train educators in your area. Only DEL-approved IOTP trainers can train educators.



Family Workshop

- Understand how play impacts children's development and learning.
- Know the different stages and types of play.
- Learn how to add purpose to play with children.
- DEL-approved IOTP trainers are qualified to train families **AND** train others to train families. Teachers can complete the family training and host parent workshops at school.



Program Assessment: CLASS

- 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-12th grade.
- CLASS measures high quality interactions that lead to improved academic outcomes. The interactions teachers have with children are proven to impact learning development.
- Providers receive the results within 14 days.
- Early learning coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for administration of CLASS which must be conducted by qualified individuals.

CLASS Resources and Support

★ Free CLASS Training: <https://teachstone.com/florida/> ★

ADMINISTRATORS

- **A CLASS Primer for Leaders** provides the how and why of CLASS, identifies the value CLASS brings and interprets CLASS data. 2-hour online course.

COACHES

- **FEEDBACK TRAINING** helps coaches feel more positive and confident when going into their next coaching and professional learning session.

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.

VPK Student Assessment - FAST Star Early Literacy

The Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program is the statewide, standardized progress monitoring system known as FAST Star Early Literacy.

- **Why implement FAST Star Early Literacy?**

- To assess and monitor VPK student achievement and learning gains of the performance standards in early literacy and mathematics (*ss. 1002.68 and 1008.25(9), F.S.*)
- Use results to inform instruction to meet the needs of each child

- **Who is assessed?**

- All VPK students enrolled with valid certificates of eligibility

- **When are students assessed?**

- 3 progress monitoring periods in a program year (PM1, PM2, PM3)
- 2 for summer program (PM1 and PM3; PM2 is optional)

- **How long does it take?**

- 10-20 minutes average test length

- **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

FAST Star Early Literacy Resources and Support

Bookmark the VPK FAST Star Early Literacy website today!

<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/providers/fast-star-earlit.stml>

- [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.

Emergent/Elementary Literacy Micro-Credential

- **Emergent – Designed for instructional and child care personnel who work in a public or private early learning program.**
 - 60 hours/3 components (20 hours each)
 - Child care and instructional personnel who work in a public or private early learning program may receive a completion stipend
 - Meets the VPK instructor emergent literacy course requirement
- **Elementary – Designed for PreK-Grade 5 instructional personnel who work in public schools.**
 - 60 hours/3 components (20 hours each)
 - Child care and instructional personnel who work in a public or private early learning program may receive a completion stipend
 - K-5 instructional personnel may receive a completion stipend
 - Satisfies Competency 1 of the Reading Endorsement
 - Satisfies the 40-hour reading requirement for teacher certification renewal
 - Allows instructional personnel to teach intensive reading intervention if supervised by a certified or reading endorsed teacher



New Worlds Reading Initiative

New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI) is expanded to include eligible VPK students.

What is NWRI?

- Eligible VPK-Grade 5 students receive free books monthly until the students exit fifth grade.
- Eligible students include VPK-Grade 2 students scoring below 40%ile on FAST Star in early literacy/reading or grades 3-5 students scoring below Level 3 on FAST (PM1, PM2 or PM3).
- Distribution of books begins no later than October and continues through at least June.
- Parent resources are included.
- Teacher resources around books being distributed.



New Worlds Scholarship Accounts

<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/scholarships/newworlds/>

- Parents of eligible students have access to scholarship accounts, worth **\$500** each, for instructional materials, curriculum, part-time tutoring, summer and after-school programs designed to improve literacy or mathematics skills.
- Effective July 1, 2023, the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts Program expanded eligibility to include public school students enrolled in VPK through grade 5 who:
 - have a substantial deficiency in either early literacy/reading or early math/mathematics;
 - exhibit characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia; or
 - scored below Level 3 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) or Mathematics assessment in the prior school year.

NWRI Teacher Professional Learning

Purpose:

- Connect New Worlds Reading book delivery to classroom instruction
- Gain knowledge in the Science of Reading
- Learn how to use children's literature to teach Florida's grade-level standards
- Improve student literacy outcomes
- Receive a \$450 stipend

Who is Eligible?

- VPK lead teachers and aides who work at a VPK contracted provider
- K-5 classroom teachers in Florida's public and charter schools

Where and Duration?

- Scheduled regionally across the state (Leon, Orange, Alachua, St. Johns, Lee, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach) between June 4-July 17
- 1.5-day, in-person institute

2024 Summer Literacy Institute

- June 12-14
- Omni Orlando Resort
- Audience:
 - RAISE Literacy Leadership Teams (LLT)
 - **If RAISE school has VPK program, the LLT is to include VPK educator**
 - District K-5 literacy representatives
 - **District VPK representatives**
 - Early Learning Coalition representatives



VPK Provider 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: Unsatisfactory, Emerging Proficiency, Proficient, Highly Proficient, Excellent or comparable terminology determined by the department which may not include letter grades.
- Applied at the end of the 2024-25 program year.

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

How to 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.



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

**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 in order to be eligible to participate in the VPK Program. PROVIDER will receive payment based on Legislative Appropriation Code (F.A.C.) _____, or on the basis on which the Contract is executed, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) _____, and a child's attendance certified by the parent and provider (Rule 68A-4.005, 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 370 hour summer program. This Contract begins on _____, 20____, and shall terminate on _____, 20____, unless extended or renewed by both parties or after expiration of the Contract. Payment for 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 not 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 revisions 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 68A, F.A.C.



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Questions?

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