

Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)



Program Highlights

The VPK program is FREE for all four-year-olds born on or before September 1 who reside in Florida and has high quality standards that include:

- Qualified instructors
- Age appropriate curricula with a strong emphasis on early literacy skills
- Manageable class sizes

Program Options

Parental choice is a priority; therefore, both private and public providers may participate. VPK providers have flexibility in structuring the hours per day and days per week to meet the required instructional hours:

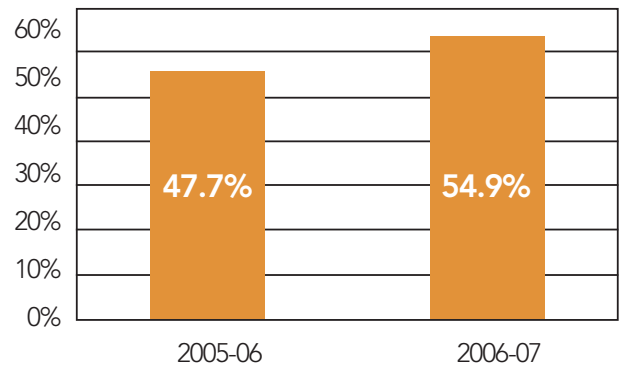
- School Year Program—540 instructional hours. Class sizes not to exceed 18 students; instructors must have a minimum of a Child Development Associate for the school year program (now referred to as the Birth to Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential)
- Summer Program—300 instructional hours. Class sizes not to exceed 10 students; instructors must have a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree.

Providers

The private provider must hold the Florida Director Credential, be licensed (child care, family child care home, or large family child care home) or exempt from licensure (private school or faith-based provider) and meet one of the following:

- Be recognized by an approved child care accrediting association
or
- Be licensed and demonstrate that the provider meets additional program requirements

Percentage of Four-Year-Olds in VPK



124,393 children participated in 2006-07

VPK Provider Readiness Rates

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate measures how well a VPK provider prepares four-year olds to be ready for kindergarten based upon Florida’s VPK Education Standards. The VPK Standards describe what four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of the VPK experience.

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate serves as an additional piece of information that families may use to determine if a VPK program is best suited for their family. It should not be the sole factor in making this important decision for their child’s early education program.

VPK Provider Profiles are available through early learning coalitions or online at www.myflorida.com/childcare. Each profile offers information such as program start date, program options offered and curricula.



For more information about the *Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)* program please call the **Agency for Workforce Innovation** at 1-866-357-3239 or visit www.flready.com.