



Florida VPK

FAQ- School Year VPK Instructor Requirements

1. What are the options for serving as a VPK Instructor during the school year?

In addition to what is found in statute, the department has approved several other educational credentials in [Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C.](#) All options can be found on the School Year VPK Instructor Credential Options Table and are the same for both private providers and public schools. An individual employer's requirements may exceed those required by the state.

2. What are the VPK instructor training requirements for school-year instructors outlined in [Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.](#)?

VPK instructors with a CDA or equivalent [s.1002.55\(3\)\(c\)2](#) are required to complete training on emergent literacy and performance standards. The current versions of the approved training are

- Emergent Literacy training: *Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors* (online, title remains the same, but a new version is available Fall 2018)
- Performance Standards training: *Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten* (online or instructor-led, both new for Summer 2018)

It is strongly recommended that VPK Instructors who became qualified under earlier versions of the approved emergent literacy or performance standards training take the new versions of the training.

Please note that individual employer requirements may exceed the training requirements for VPK instructors outlined in [Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.](#)

3. Are VPK instructors with an Associate's degree or higher required to take the trainings outlined above? No. **However, it is strongly recommended that all VPK instructors complete the most current training on emergent literacy and performance standards.** Please note that individual employer requirements may exceed the training requirements for VPK instructors outlined in [Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.](#)

4. Where can I register for these training courses?

Register for the courses on the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Training System: <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/studentsite/admin/login.jsf>

Online training courses cost \$10.00 and the instructor-led training is offered by approved trainers at no cost.

5. Where can I find information about the performance standards for which these trainings are based?

Both of the trainings outlined above are based on the performance standards adopted in 2017, Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Kindergarten and the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten. The standards website, <http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/>, contains the standards, examples of the standards, instructional strategies, videos of the standards in action and resources for families. Plan to visit this site often as new content is added.

6. Are the requirements to teach VPK the same during the school year and the summer?

No. The instructional time allotted to cover the VPK Education Performance Standards is 540 hours during the school-year program compared to 300 hours during the summer program. This time difference requires a more intensive and concentrated instructional program during the summer. As a result, Florida Statutes provide different requirements for instructor credentials differ for the school year ([s.1002.55](#)) and summer ([s.1002.61](#)) VPK programs.

Most notably, instructors in a summer VPK program must be certified teachers or must hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree with a specified major or certification, while instructors in a school-year program may hold a CDA, CDAE, or an associate's or higher degree in a specified area or other equivalency with specific course credits.

Because of these differences in credentialing requirements, it is imperative that prospective VPK instructors and their employers review the information relating to the program for which they plan to teach.

7. Is an applicant who has a degree which is not listed as an equivalent degree, but who has taken electives in child development or early childhood education, eligible as a VPK instructor?

Perhaps. If an applicant has an associate's degree or higher in an unrelated field, at least 6 credits in early childhood education or child development, and 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing child care services for children any age from birth through 8 years of age, that individual is qualified as an instructor for a school year VPK program.

8. Must a prospective VPK instructor have a DCF Staff Credential?

No, it is not required but it is permissible.

9. Where do I obtain a valid Temporary or Professional Florida Educator Certificate?

From Florida's [Bureau of Educator Certification](#). Their phone number is 1-800-445-6739.

10. What type of documents must a potential VPK instructor provide to meet the requirement of 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing childcare services for children any age birth through 8 years of age?

A letter from your employer on letterhead will suffice, but is not the only type of permissible documentation.

11. Can an individual have more than one educational credential?

Yes.

12. If an individual was approved as a VPK instructor in one early learning coalition and moved to another coalition, is it necessary to reestablish eligibility with the new coalition?

Yes.