


April 9, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors and Finance Directors, Early Learning Coalitions

FROM: Shan Goff, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: **DOE Executive Order 2021-EO-02: School Readiness Expenditure Caps, Hours Required for Summer VPK Program and Payment for VPK Closures – 2021-009 - REVISED**

On April 9, 2021, Commissioner Richard Corcoran executed DOE ORDER NO. 2021-EO-02, available [here](#), which includes the following two provisions related to early learning, located in section V. School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Programs, pages 6-7,

A. School Readiness. In an effort to ensure that funds support providers and therefore support the families they serve, if there are funds that go unutilized, the requirements that School Readiness Programs use no more than 5 percent for administrative costs and a total of 22 percent for a combination of administrative, quality and non-direct services in s. 1002.89(6), Fla. Stat., are suspended as long as the funds are used for the purposes of emergency recovery and direct support to providers through June 30, 2021.

As previously discussed, OEL is reviewing the projected balances of all coalitions and will provide additional guidance about the use of these funds in light of the above.

B. Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Due to the fact that many districts and programs are operating their Spring 2021 education programs into the middle and latter days of June and, therefore, meeting current law would be a physical impossibility, the provisions of s. 1002.61(2)(a), Fla. Stat., requiring a minimum of 300 hours of instruction is suspended for the 2021 Summer VPK program for public schools and private prekindergarten providers. The 2021 Summer VPK program shall constitute a minimum of 200 hours of instruction and the funding shall be prorated accordingly.

The following information is provided as a reminder of the reenrollment options for VPK children based on their substantial completion status for the 2020-2021 VPK school year program. There are approximately 30,000 children eligible to reenroll in the 2020-2021 Summer VPK program.

- [Rule 6M-8.210, F.A.C.](#), provides guidance that a child who has attended a portion of the VPK school year program, but has not substantially completed the VPK program, may reenroll due to extreme hardship from a school year to a summer VPK provider and be reported as a new full-time equivalency (FTE), the funding for VPK.
- “Substantial completion” means a child has been enrolled in a VPK provider’s program for more than 70 percent of the instructional hours for the program type. “Extreme hardship” includes illness of the child or the child’s parent or closure of the child’s VPK provider as a result of a state of emergency as declared by a federal, state, or local government official (i.e., COVID-19).

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To assist coalitions in identifying children who may be eligible to reenroll into a 2020-2021 Summer VPK program, a Tableau report is available with data based on total hours paid thus far for 2020-2021 VPK School Year program children. It contains only those with a total of fewer than 378 hours (70% of 540 hours).

Please note that coalitions can use these data to identify the pool of possible applicants for reenrollment but should use the most current data in EFS MOD to determine if the child is eligible. It is also a tool to help promote enrollment in the Summer VPK programs available in your area. Just a reminder that since this is personally identifiable information, it cannot be shared with school districts or VPK providers.

Attached is the forward-facing Summer VPK flyer in English and Spanish.

Reimbursement for VPK Closures due to COVID-19

Under separate action, OEL was approved to reimburse 2020-2021 VPK School Year providers (January – June 2021) and 2021 VPK Summer Providers (May-June) for closures due to COVID that exceed the allowable 5-days. More information about processing those payments will be forthcoming.

Please feel free to contact us at VPKQuestions@oel.myflorida.com if you have any questions.

Attachments

mw/sgg