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Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment and Star Early Literacy® Assessment: An Overview
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Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) assessment will be administered through Star Early Literacy within the first 30 school days of kindergarten. VPK programs will continue to use the VPK Assessment as a screener and progress-monitoring tool. The chart contains information comparing the two assessments regarding content, administration and development.

	VPK Assessment	Star Early Literacy®
Type of Assessment	On demand, teacher-administered and criterion-referenced	Computer, adaptive and norm-referenced
Purpose	The assessment measures early literacy and early mathematics skills through screening and progress monitoring.	The assessment measures early literacy and early mathematics skills through screening within the first 30 school days of kindergarten.
Age Range	The assessment is designed for children participating in the VPK program.	The assessment is designed for children ages 3 to 9.
Related Statutes	Section 1002.67, F.S., requires each private prekindergarten provider and public school in the VPK Education Program to implement an evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved by rule of the State Board of Education.	Section 1002.69, F.S., requires the Florida Department of Education to adopt a statewide kindergarten screening instrument that assesses the readiness of each student for kindergarten based on the performance standards adopted by the department under section 1002.67(1), F.S., for VPK. Section 1002.69, F.S., requires the Office of Early Learning to adopt procedures to annually calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public school's kindergarten readiness rate, which must be expressed as the percentage of the provider's or school's students who are assessed as ready for kindergarten.

	VPK Assessment	**Star Early Literacy**®

Assessment Measures	Print Knowledge
	Phonological Awareness
	Oral Language/Vocabulary
	Early Numeracy
		Print Knowledge
		   – Alphabetic Principle
		   – Concepts of Word
		   – Visual Discrimination
		   – Phonics (letters and sounds)
		 Phonological Awareness
		   – Phonemic Awareness
		Oral Language/Vocabulary
		   – Vocabulary
		Early Numeracy
		   – Number Sense
		Independent Reader Skills*
		   – Structural Analysis
		   – Sentence-Level Comprehension
		   – Paragraph-Level Comprehension
		
		*Items are available to children, if appropriate, based upon responses to earlier skill items.

Number of Items	66-67	27
Administration Method	Teachers administer the assessment individually providing visual prompts while children respond verbally or point to responses.	Children take the assessment on a computer in an audio-visual format with adult monitoring. Star Early Literacy is an adaptive test, asking easier or more difficult questions based on the child's last response. This type of test aims to ask the least number of questions to get at the child's skill level(s), thus reducing testing time. Children may respond by using a mouse, keyboard or touchscreen. Star Early Literacy practice questions and a computer mouse tutorial are available so children can become used to the format before taking the assessment.
Administration Time	15-20 minutes	15-20 minutes
Reports	Individual-, classroom-, parent- and center-level reports are available.	Individual-, classroom-, parent-, school- and district-level reports are available.
Use of Data	The assessment provides teachers with information to plan lessons to meet individual child needs.	The assessment provides teachers with information to plan lessons to meet individual child needs.

	VPK Assessment	**Star Early Literacy**[®]
Score Types	**Criterion reference scores** reflect a description of the specific knowledge and skills each child can demonstrate. Scores are reported by domain, ranging from 0-23.	**Scaled scores reflect** 100 times the age range of 3 to 9 years, for which Star Early Literacy was designed. Scaled scores are reported in a range of 300-900.
		Percentile rank scores compare a student's performance to that of same-grade peers on a national level. Percentile rank scores are reported in a range of 1-99.
		Proficiency scores reflect statistical estimates of the percent of items the student would be expected to answer correctly if all of the Star Early Literacy items were administered. Proficiency scores are reported in a range of 0-100 percent.
Reliability	Test developers used an Item-Response Theory (IRT) approach to select items and calibrate item difficulty.	Test developers used an IRT approach to select items and calibrate item difficulty.
Validity	Each of the VPK Assessment measures is highly correlated with measures of the same constructs from nationally normed, standardized tests. Research shows that the VPK Assessment measures are predictive of kindergarten readiness measures.	Star Early Literacy scores are moderately to highly correlated with scores on a wide range of measures of early literacy skills. Research shows Star Early Literacy to be a predictor of children's later reading development, as measured by scores on reading tests administered two years later.
Item Weighting	There is no weighting of the content for VPK Assessment scoring.	There is no weighting of the content for Star Early Literacy scoring. Because the assessment is computer adaptive, Star Early Literacy adjusts the questions based on the student's answer using IRT.