



## 2020-2022 VPK PROGRESS MONITORING PROGRAM PILOT

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### OF INTEREST TO

The Office of Early Learning (OEL, the Office), Early Learning Coalitions, and private and public providers implementing the state requirements related to the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

### SUMMARY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, none of Florida's four-year-olds/incoming VPK students will have had a typical prekindergarten experience. A need exists to track student progress from VPK through kindergarten to ensure that students continue to receive the necessary supports to ensure their future success.

Using the same progress monitoring tool in VPK that is used in kindergarten screening will meet the goal of tracking progress using consistent data from the same tool. (See [section 1002.69, F.S.](#) which requires the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) to be administered within the first 30 days of the school year in all kindergarten classrooms.) The Star Early Literacy Assessment has been used as the FLKRS tool for the last three years.

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) will implement a **voluntary**, two-year VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Program Pilot to administer the Star Early Literacy Assessment in private and public VPK providers beginning in January 2021. The pilot will provide data consistency between VPK and kindergarten for the next two years.

### AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

[Section 1002.69](#), Florida Statutes and 6M-8.620, Florida Administrative Code

### PROGRAM GUIDANCE

The voluntary VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Pilot provides the opportunity for private and public school VPK providers to implement Star Early Literacy with children in their VPK school-year programs. Extending the administration of STAR Early Literacy into Florida's VPK programs will establish consistency in assessment between VPK and Kindergarten and provide a more comprehensive overview of the learning and growth continuum during critical early learning years.

The following activities will be implemented in the VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Pilot:

- OEL will provide an application for VPK providers seeking to participate in the pilot to complete and submit electronically via the Bright Beginnings website at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-star-early-literacy-assessment-pilot>.

- OEL will provide a dedicated VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Program Pilot web page providing information and resources regarding the pilot implementation available at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-star-early-literacy-assessment-pilot>.
- OEL will distribute technology for VPK providers participating in the pilot (one device and one set of headphones per participating classroom), based upon availability.
- Renaissance, in collaboration with OEL, will provide professional development in November 2020 for coalitions, school districts and providers on how to administer the Star Early Literacy assessment. Professional development on Star Early Literacy reports, progress monitoring and implications will be provided in March 2021.
- In 2020-2021, private and public VPK providers accepted to participate in the pilot will implement Star Early Literacy during their Assessment Period 2 administration (mid-year) window based on their approved VPK calendar and at the end of year, at a minimum. Progress monitoring opportunities are available at any time during the school year to check student progress, as needed. The VPK Assessment will also be required to be administered at end of year per 6M-8.620, Florida Administrative Code.
- In 2021-2022, private and public VPK providers accepted to participate in the pilot will administer Star Early Literacy at the beginning of year, mid- and end-of-year, at a minimum. Progress monitoring opportunities are available at any time during the school year to check student progress, as needed. OEL will seek a rule waiver to waive VPK Assessment administration for the 2021-2022 school year for providers participating in the pilot, as Star Early Literacy provides beginning and end of year assessment data.
- Renaissance, in collaboration with OEL and early learning coalitions, will analyze ongoing progress monitoring at the provider level for driving instruction; at the coalition/district and state levels for planning supports/resources and professional development.
- The Florida Center for Reading Research with the Florida State University will conduct an evaluation of the two-year pilot.

## **PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY**

Providers must:

- Be in good standing with the Statewide VPK Provider Contract and have no Class 1 Violations within the last two years.
- Offer a VPK school year program spanning length of the school year (e.g., Fall through May vs. a condensed program January-May).
- Please Note: Providers on Probation (POPs) are not excluded from eligibility and may apply to participate in the VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot.

## **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Interested private and public school VPK providers will submit an application to OEL via the Bright Beginnings website administrator-level access within the prescribed timeline for review and approval.

ELCs will review the applicants to ensure providers' good standing. OEL will review the applications for completion and agreement with embedded assurances. Disapproval of a provider's VPK Progress Monitoring Assessment Pilot application is not subject to *Exhibit X. Due Process Procedures of the VPK Statewide Provider Contract*.

## **RESOURCES**

- Pilot Website  
<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-star-early-literacy-assessment-pilot>
- Star Early Literacy Technology Requirements  
<http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R004312127GJB43D.pdf>
- Help Desk and Technical Assistance
  - Renaissance Place Help Desk: 1-800-338-4204 or [PilotVPK@renaissance.com](mailto:PilotVPK@renaissance.com)
  - OEL policy technical assistance: [VPKStarPilot@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:VPKStarPilot@oel.myflorida.com)

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Memo

Attachment 2: VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Flyer

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

October 26, 2020.

## **HISTORY:**

Issued October 26, 2020.