



2018-2019 Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates and Providers on Probation

Frequently Asked Questions

VPK Readiness Rates

1. What is the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)?

FLKRS stands for Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener. State law requires screening for all public school kindergarten students within the first 30 days of the school year. Private schools may administer the FLKRS as well. Kindergarten teachers use the results to help understand each child's readiness for school and plan lessons to meet individual needs. The Office of Early Learning also uses the results to calculate kindergarten readiness rates for VPK providers. Currently, FLKRS is the Star Early Literacy assessment.

2. What are the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates?

The readiness rates reflect how well each VPK provider prepares children for kindergarten based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) and the learning gains children made while attending the VPK provider's VPK program. In order to receive a readiness rate, a provider must serve at least four children who met substantial completion (completed 70 percent or more of the instructional hours of the VPK program) AND have a score on the FLKRS. Providers receive a separate rate for school year and summer VPK programs.

3. How are readiness rates calculated for VPK providers?

The VPK Provider Kindergarten readiness rates are calculated in accordance with Rule 6M-8.601, F.A.C. Kindergarten student scores on the FLKRS administered during the first thirty (30) days of the school year must demonstrate a score of at least 500 on the Star Early Literacy assessment to be considered "ready for kindergarten."

Learning Gains are calculated based on the results of the Florida VPK Assessment administered during the VPK program year. At the individual child level, learning gains are demonstrated by having attained a higher scoring category (below expectations, meeting expectations, and exceeding expectations) from the pre-assessment to the post-assessment in all of the four (4) domains contained in the assessment (Print Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Mathematics and Oral Language/Vocabulary). A child who scores "exceeding expectations" for the pre-assessment and maintains that score for the post-assessment will be considered to have made "learning gains" in that domain.

The VPK Provider Kindergarten readiness rate is calculated as the percentage of children ready for kindergarten combined with the percentage of children making learning gains multiplied by .1.

$$\text{Percent Ready} + (\text{Percent making gains} \times .1) = \text{Provider readiness rate}$$

In order for a provider to have successfully administered the VPK program, the provider must achieve a final readiness rate of 60 (sixty) with the maximum rate possible of 100. A provider failing to meet this standard will be placed on probation.

4. Does a student need to participate in Assessment Period 1 (AP1), Assessment Period 2 (AP2) and Assessment Period 3 (AP3) in order for learning gains to be calculated on the VPK Assessment?

No. Learning gains on the VPK Assessment are calculated from both AP1 and AP3 student scores from the same VPK provider. If a child attends one VPK program for AP1 and another VPK program for AP3, learning gains are not calculated to attribute to one provider, and therefore not included in the readiness rate calculation.

5. Where are VPK readiness rates published for previous years?

Readiness rates are published at <https://vpkrates.floridaearlylearning.com>. Please note, readiness rates were not assigned or published for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 VPK program years.

Providers on Probation and Improvement Plan

6. When is a VPK provider first placed on probation?

Beginning with the 2018-2019 program year, a VPK provider will be placed on probation if the provider’s readiness rate falls below the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE.) In order for a provider to have successfully administered the VPK program, the provider must achieve a final readiness rate of at least 60 (sixty) with the maximum rate possible of 100.

7. What requirements are in place for a VPK provider placed on probation?

Rules [6M-8.700](#), [6M-8.701](#) and [6M-8.702, F.A.C.](#) specify requirements for coalitions or school districts to approve an improvement plan for a VPK provider on probation.

Providers on probation are required to:

Year 1 Probation	Submit an improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school district and implement the plan. The provider must select two target areas for improvement. The first target area is mandatory; providers must purchase and implement a DOE-approved curriculum or complete the DOE-Approved Staff Development Plan for Providers on Probation .
Year 2 Probation	Remain on probation and submit a VPK Education Program Annual Probation Progress Report.
Year 3 Probation	Apply for and be granted a good cause exemption or be removed from the VPK program for five years.

8. What are the steps if a provider on probation chooses the curriculum option?

VPK providers that choose this option must select and implement an approved curriculum from the list of [DOE-approved VPK curricula](#) for providers on probation.

- Purchase an approved VPK curriculum and provide a receipt or proof of donation.
- Schedule instructor training developed by the curriculum or publisher on use of the curriculum.

9. What are the steps if a provider on probation chooses the Staff Development Plan?

VPK providers that choose this option must implement the staff development plan approved by the Office of Early Learning.

- Provide copy of Department of Children and Families (DCF) transcripts with evidence of successful training completion.
- Acknowledgement of implementation of a staff development plan. The local early learning coalitions monitor providers' implementation of a staff development plan.

10. How can instructors or administrators find training opportunities?

The Florida Department of Education/Office of Early Learning, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), offers a variety of both online and instructor-led training opportunities. Examples of available trainings include Emergent Literacy, Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness, Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten and Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners.

For a comprehensive listing and registration information for current instructor-led and online training opportunities for directors, teachers, assistants and parents, please visit <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training>. For the direct registration link, please visit the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Training System at <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/studentsite/admin/login.jsf>.

11. What if a provider is on probation and does not receive a readiness rate the next time they offer the VPK program?

The provider remains on probation.

12. How does a provider get off probation?

A provider must earn a readiness rate that meets or exceeds the minimum readiness rate adopted by SBOE for the program type (school year or summer) for which they are on probation.

Providers on Probation and Good Cause Exemption

13. What is a good cause exemption?

Florida law, section [1002.69, F.S.](#) A private prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on probation for two (2) consecutive years and subsequently fails on the third year to meet the minimum rate adopted by the SBOE may apply for an exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state funds for the program. This exemption is valid for one (1) year and, upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

14. How does a provider apply for a good cause exemption?

A provider seeking a good cause exemption must complete the VPK Good Cause Exemption Application Form OEL-VPK 30, January 2016 found at: <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-06525>. The sole method of submitting this form is through the OEL website at <https://vpkrates.floridaearlylearning.com/home>.