



## Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

### Overview

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or VPK is a free educational program that prepares 4-year-olds for success in kindergarten and beyond. Children must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current year to be eligible.

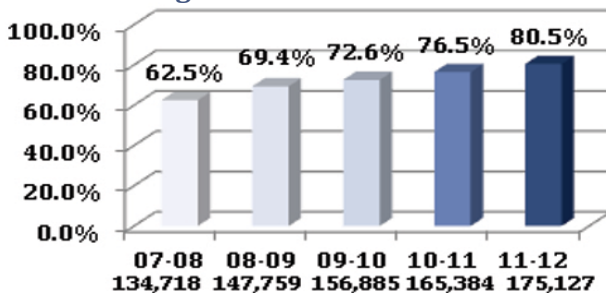
The program helps children build a strong foundation using educational materials that fit their developmental needs.

### Choices

Private childcare centers, public schools and specialized instructional service providers may offer VPK. Parents can choose from one of the following programs:

- School-year program—540 instructional hours. Class sizes of 20 or fewer students. Instructors must hold a Birth through Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential.
- Summer program—300 instructional hours. Class sizes of 12 or fewer students. Instructors must hold a bachelor's degree.
- Specialized Instructional Services program—Hours vary by instructional services provided. For children with disabilities who have current individual educational plans developed by local school districts.

Percentage of 4-Year-Olds in VPK



### Providers

VPK providers who offer school-year or summer programs must meet the program's quality standards.

- Employ qualified instructors.
- Use age-appropriate curricula, emphasizing early literacy skills.
- Maintain required class sizes.
- Private VPK providers who offer school-year or summer programs must also
- Have a director with a Florida Department of Children and Families Director Credential with a VPK Director Endorsement.
- Hold a valid childcare license or be recognized by an approved childcare accrediting agency.

### Provider Readiness Rate

All school-year and summer VPK providers get [Kindergarten Readiness Rates](#) that show how well their programs have prepared students for kindergarten using results of the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS).

- FLKRS is based on the *2011 Florida Early Learning and VPK Standards for Four-Year-Olds* that describe what four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of the VPK program.
- Early learning coalitions provide parents with local VPK Provider Profiles that show provider readiness rates and licensing reports.
- Parents may use this information to choose a VPK provider that best suits their family.

### Parent Resources

- [Early Learning Coalitions Map](#)
- [More about VPK Specialized Instructional Services](#)