



Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment: An Overview May 2016

History of VPK Assessment

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program began in fall 2005, offering free high-quality prekindergarten to all 4-year-olds statewide. From its inception, the VPK program emphasized high standards and accountability tied to outcomes. While there are performance standards in all developmental domains, VPK has consistently focused on pre-academic skills that are supported by research.

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) commissioned Florida State University's Florida Center for Reading Research to develop the Florida VPK Assessment to provide VPK teachers with periodic checks of each child's understanding of various skills. The assessment includes four measures chosen because they are predictors of later reading and mathematics success: print knowledge, phonological awareness, oral language/vocabulary and number sense. The researchers also designed the assessment to align to tools used in the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener at that time.

The assessment measures skills aligned to the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds (2011) adopted for use in VPK. There are three assessment periods (AP), corresponding to the beginning (AP1), middle (AP2) and end of the program (AP3).

Development and Use

In the 2009-10 program year, the VPK Assessment was field tested using select providers across the state to determine the viability of materials, collect data to establish a statewide sample and provide information that could be incorporated into a final product. During this time, OEL developed the Bright Beginnings VPK Assessment Online Reporting System for providers to enter assessment data and generate reports (individual, class, center, by measure, across time) and parent letters.

During the 2010-11 and 2011-12 program years, VPK providers around the state were able to purchase the assessment and record scores in the online reporting system yielding data for some programs as early as 2010.

Training is available to help providers implement the assessment, including a training DVD with each VPK Assessment kit and instructor-led training titled *How to Implement the VPK Assessment*. Additional instructor-led training, titled *VPK Assessment – Instructional Implications*, can help a VPK provider understand what the results of assessments mean to teachers and how to use the data.

Statewide Implementation

The 2012 General Appropriations Act required all VPK providers to use the Florida VPK Assessment as a pre- and post-assessment (i.e., AP1 and AP3). The first year of mandatory statewide implementation was 2012-13. There are now three years of data for AP1 and AP3 (2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15). Statewide, approximately two-thirds of providers also complete AP2.

Compliance and Rule Development

VPK providers are required to implement the pre- and post-assessments approved by rule of the State Board of Education. Additionally, a VPK provider who does not comply or who engages in misconduct is no longer eligible to offer the VPK Education Program for a period of five years ([Sections 1002.67\(3\) and \(4\), Florida Statutes](#)).

Results from the VPK Assessment

The data below represent **statewide mean scores for each measure** included in the Florida VPK Assessment. In the 2014-15 program year, 131,906 children were administered the VPK Assessment in both AP1 and AP3. The results of that administration at the state level are slightly higher than for the two prior years.

Statewide Average Scores for VPK Assessment 2012-13 through 2014-15

Year	Number of Students with AP1 and AP3 Scores	AP1	AP3	AP1	AP3	AP1	AP3	AP1	AP3
		Print Knowledge AP1	Print Knowledge AP3	Phonological Awareness AP1	Phonological Awareness AP3	Oral Language/Vocabulary AP1	Oral Language/Vocabulary AP3	Mathematics AP1	Mathematics AP3
2012-13	131,109	7.2	10.7	7.1	11.4	16.0	20.2	9.7	14.8
2013-14	134,414	7.3	10.7	7.3	11.6	16.3	20.3	10.0	14.9
2014-15	131,906	7.4	10.8	7.5	11.8	16.5	20.5	10.1	15.2
		State Average: Below Expectations	State average: Exceeding Expectations	State average: Below Expectations	State average: Meeting Expectations	State average: Meeting Expectations	State average: Exceeding Expectations	State average: Below Expectations	State average: Exceeding Expectations

Averages are only for children with scores in AP1 and AP3.

Exceeding Expectations - It is highly likely the child will be ready for kindergarten.

Meeting Expectations - It is likely the child will be ready for kindergarten.

Below Expectations - It is likely the child will NOT be ready for kindergarten.

The chart below shows the **number and percentage of children by year and scoring category** for AP3 within each measure. Results for the three years shown are relatively consistent.

Children by Category and Measure				
2012-13 VPK Program Year				
Scoring Category	Print Knowledge AP3	Phonological Awareness AP3	Oral Language/Vocabulary AP3	Mathematics AP3
Number Exceeding Expectations	106,306	84,356	92,548	86,353
Percent Exceeding Expectations	81%	64%	71%	66%
Number Meeting Expectations	14,080	31,712	28,103	32,455
Percent Meeting Expectations	11%	24%	21%	25%
Number Below Expectations	10,723	15,039	10,456	12,300
Percent Below Expectations	8%	11%	8%	9%
2013-14 VPK Program Year				
Scoring Category	Print Knowledge AP3	Phonological Awareness AP3	Oral Language/Vocabulary AP3	Mathematics AP3
Number Exceeding Expectations	109,938	89,919	96,427	90,011
Percent Exceeding Expectations	82%	67%	72%	67%
Number Meeting Expectations	14,020	30,978	28,279	32,674
Percent Meeting Expectations	10%	23%	21%	24%
Number Below Expectations	10,456	13,517	9,708	11,729
Percent Below Expectations	8%	10%	7%	9%
2014-15 VPK Program Year				
Scoring Category	Print Knowledge AP3	Phonological Awareness AP3	Oral Language/Vocabulary AP3	Mathematics AP3
Number Exceeding Expectations	109,134	90,502	97,734	91,769
Percent Exceeding Expectations	83%	69%	74%	70%
Number Meeting Expectations	13,429	30,062	26,632	30,710
Percent Meeting Expectations	10%	23%	20%	23%
Number Below Expectations	9,343	11,342	7,540	9,427
Percent Below Expectations	7%	9%	6%	7%

Only includes children with AP1 and AP3 scores

The color-coded chart that follows shows the **mean scores for each measure by coalition** for the 2014-15 VPK Assessment administration. The data show a similar trend to previous years where the average for most measures is “below expectations” at AP1 and an overwhelming majority of measures is “exceeding expectations” at AP3.

Coalition Average Score by Measure for AP1 2014-15					Coalition Average Score by Measure for AP3 2014-15			
Coalition	Print Knowledge AP1	Phonological Awareness AP1	Oral Language/ Vocabulary AP1	Mathematics AP1	Print Knowledge AP3	Phonological Awareness AP3	Oral Language/ Vocabulary AP3	Mathematics AP3
ELC of Alachua	8	8	17	11	11	12	21	15
ELC of Big Bend	8	8	17	11	11	12	20	15
ELC of Brevard	7	8	17	10	11	12	21	15
ELC of Broward	8	8	17	11	11	12	21	16
ELC of Duval	8	7	17	10	11	12	21	15
ELC of Escambia	7	7	16	9	10	11	20	15
ELC of Flagler/Volusia	7	8	17	10	11	12	21	15
ELC of Florida's Gateway	6	7	17	9	11	12	21	15
ELC of Florida's Heartland	6	8	17	9	10	12	20	14
ELC of Hillsborough	7	8	17	10	11	12	20	15
ELC of IRMO	7	8	17	10	10	12	20	15
ELC of Lake	7	8	17	10	11	12	21	15
ELC of Manatee	7	8	17	10	11	12	21	15
ELC of Marion	7	7	16	9	11	12	20	15
ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe	7	7	15	10	11	12	21	16
ELC of Nature Coast	6	7	17	9	11	12	21	15
ELC of North Florida	7	8	18	10	11	12	21	15
ELC of Northwest Florida	6	7	17	9	10	12	21	15
ELC of Okaloosa/Walton	7	8	17	10	11	12	20	15
ELC of Orange	8	7	16	10	11	12	20	15
ELC of Osceola	7	7	16	9	11	12	20	15
ELC of Palm Beach	8	7	16	11	11	12	21	15
ELC of Pasco/Hernando	7	8	17	10	11	12	20	15
ELC of Pinellas	7	8	17	10	10	12	20	15
ELC of Polk	7	7	16	9	11	12	20	15
ELC of Santa Rosa	7	8	18	10	10	12	21	15
ELC of Sarasota	7	9	18	10	10	12	21	15
ELC of Seminole	8	8	18	11	11	12	21	15
ELC of Southwest Florida	7	7	16	9	11	11	20	14
ELC of St. Lucie	7	7	16	9	11	12	20	15

Source: VPK Assessment Data, April. \\oel-dc2\unitdata\VPK_Data\VPK Assessment data files April 2016

Exceeding Expectations - It is highly likely the child will be ready for kindergarten.

Meeting Expectations - It is likely the child will be ready for kindergarten.

Below Expectations - It is likely the child will NOT be ready for kindergarten.

Summary

1. Since 2012-13, VPK providers have been required to administer the VPK Assessment, which includes four measures of pre-academic skills identified in the VPK standards.
2. The 2014-15 administration of the VPK Assessment was the third year of statewide implementation of the assessment and provides the state with three full years of data.
3. The Office of Early Learning is determining methods to quantify learning gains shown on the VPK Assessment.