



Instructional Hours for the VPK Program

PURPOSE

To define what constitutes instructional hours for the VPK program.

REFERENCES:

Sections [1002.55\(2\)](#), [1002.61\(2\)](#), [1002.63\(2\)](#), and [1002.67\(2\)\(b\)](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.)
[Rule 6M-8.410](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

AUTHORITY

Reference to any laws, rules and regulations in this guidance document includes revisions to those laws and regulations made after the effective date of this guidance document.

BACKGROUND:

Florida Statutes require a school-year VPK program to comprise 540 instructional hours (ss. [1002.55\(2\)](#) and [1002.63\(2\)](#), F.S.) and a summer VPK program to comprise 300 instructional hours ([s. 1002.61\(2\)](#), F.S.).

As used in the VPK program, the term “instructional hour” means:

- 1. Planned learning activities or experiences that implement curricula.**

Sixty consecutive or nonconsecutive minutes of instructional time in planned activities or experiences that implements a private provider’s or public school’s curricula for the VPK Program.

In accordance with [s. 1002.67\(2\)\(b\)](#), F.S., these planned activities or experiences must be developmentally appropriate and must:

 - a. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and provide for instruction in early math skills;
 - b. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in attaining the performance standards adopted by the Department of Education (see [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards 4 Years Old to Kindergarten \(2017\)](#));
 - c. Support student learning gains through differentiated instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125, F.S.
- 2. Instructor is present and supervising.**

A credentialed instructor or substitute instructor, as defined in s. [1002.55\(3\)\(c\)](#), F.S. and [Rule 6M-8.410 F.A.C.](#), must be present throughout the instructional time.
- 3. Instructor is engaged in activities or experiences, supervising children.**

The credentialed or substitute instructor must be actively engaged in the activities or experiences by teaching, guiding, interacting, supporting, or actively observing the activities or experiences.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Whether through monitoring or by report, if an early learning coalition finds non-compliance with private or public school VPK program requirements, results shall be included in appropriate monitoring reports. Corrective action and/or revocation of provider eligibility shall be clearly documented and issued in accordance with statute and rule. The intended action must be resolved timely.

HISTORY

Issued July 1, 2016. Reissued July 1, 2017. Reissued July 1, 2018. Reissued July 1, 2019. Reissued July 1, 2020. Reissued July 1, 2021. Reissued July 1, 2022.

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