



Manny Diaz, Jr.
Commissioner of Education
Matthew H. Mears
Chancellor of Early Learning

VPK Providers,

On August 5, 2022, a memorandum was issued from Chancellor Mears, Division of Early Learning, outlining the 2022-23 \$15 Hourly Wage for VPK Personnel Incentive. Certified VPK providers can choose to opt in or opt out of participating in providing additional compensation to VPK personnel via the Provider Portal.

Providers choosing to opt in to the \$15 Hourly Wage for VPK Personnel Incentive must complete an application in the Provider Portal on or before the last instructional day of their VPK program. Within the application, each VPK provider will attest via affidavit, that every VPK program employee's hourly rate is at least \$15 per hour for all time worked on the VPK program within 30 days of receiving the funds. Step by step directions in the \$15 Hourly Wage Incentive Guide can be found attached.

The starting date for paying the minimum of \$15 per hour rate must be within 30 days of the VPK provider's rate increase funded with this incentive. The provider's rate increase will begin on the first day of VPK classes, or on the date the affidavit affirming agreement is submitted to the ELC in the Provider Portal, whichever is later. Details of the 2022-23 Differential Payment Rate Schedule can be found attached.

VPK program employees include all employees who work on the VPK program, including the VPK Lead, Assistant and Substitute Instructors, and VPK Directors and Principals.

Beginning January 1, 2023, an employee of a VPK provider under contract with the Division of Early Learning that has elected to receive additional base student allocation funds and who is not receiving a wage of at least \$15.00 per hour for VPK duties may petition the Division for relief. If the Division finds that the VPK provider has failed to comply with this provision, the Division may terminate the provider's VPK contract.

The \$15 Hourly Wage for VPK Personnel Incentive is for the 2022-23 program year only.

Send questions about the \$15 Hourly Wage for VPK Personnel Incentive to VPKQUESTIONS@oel.myflorida.com.

The Division of Early Learning