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MEMORANDUM

TO: Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Executive Directors
All Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Contracted
Providers (via ELC)
School District Superintendents
School District VPK Contacts

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DPS: 2021-165

FROM: Matthew H. Mears

DATE: October 29, 2021

SUBJECT: Increased Emergent Literacy Training Requirements

Florida law now requires every prekindergarten classroom to have at least one prekindergarten instructor who has completed three five-hour emergent literacy training courses. Prior to the passage of House Bill (HB) 419 and HB 7011 in 2021, only one emergent literacy training course was required. Thus, continuing prekindergarten instructors, who have already completed one five-hour emergent literacy training course, must complete two additional courses. Any new prekindergarten instructors must take all three classes.

This legislative change became effective on July 1, 2021. Through this memorandum, the Department of Education, Division of Early Learning (DEL), is giving notice of this new requirement, and is identifying ten emergent literacy training courses that meet this requirement. Given the importance of this training, DEL is setting a deadline of July 1, 2022, for all prekindergarten providers to meet this requirement.

After completing the first three emergent literacy courses, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) instructors must complete one emergent literacy course every five years.

Instructors will receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) upon completion of each course, and the completed courses will be added on the instructor's training transcript.

VPK instructors are encouraged to begin taking the emergent literacy courses in order to complete the three five-hour emergent literacy course requirement by July 1, 2022.

MATTHEW H. MEARS

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The following online, virtual instructor-led and in-person emergent literacy courses meet the five-hour course requirement:

Division of Early Learning Literacy Courses Registration link: https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/studentsite/admin/signin	Date Available	Course Description	Cost
1. <i>Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors</i> (online VPK21) 5 hours; 0.5 CEUs	Currently available	This course will provide participants with background information on emergent literacy and demonstrate instructional practices that can be used in early learning classrooms with 4- to 5-year-olds, supporting success in kindergarten and beyond.	\$10.00
2. <i>Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom</i> (online LVPK21) 5 hours; 0.5 CEUs	Currently available	This course will provide participants with instructional strategies for increasing language and vocabulary with young children, a critical component of children's development. Activities and resources are provided to support instructors as they begin to use the language and vocabulary strategies in their own classrooms.	\$10.00
3. <i>Phonological Awareness Development for Preschoolers</i> (online VIPA21 ; in-person and virtual instructor-led PAP21) 5 hours; 0.5 CEUs	October 30, 2021	This training is appropriate for preschool educators and directors, and is open to all. Participants will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities supporting developmentally appropriate instruction in phonological awareness as well as explore the phonological awareness stages of development.	\$10.00
4. <i>Dialogic Reading: Language and Vocabulary Development for Preschoolers</i> (in-person and virtual instructor-led DRP) 5 hours; 0.5 CEUs	October 30, 2021	This virtual instructor-led course is appropriate for administrative staff, directors and teachers of 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children. Participants will learn Dialogic Reading as a strategy used with books to promote vocabulary and oral language skills. In Dialogic Reading, the book becomes a shared visual and verbal context for the instructor to teach their children new words.	Free
5. <i>Book Embedded Vocabulary Instruction: Language and Vocabulary Development for Preschoolers</i> (in-person and virtual instructor-led BEP) 5 hours; 0.5 CEUs	October 30, 2021	This virtual instructor-led course is appropriate for administrative staff, directors and teachers of 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children. Participants will learn how to implement the Book Embedded Vocabulary Instructional strategy to facilitate vocabulary teaching and learning.	Free

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Division of Early Learning Literacy Courses Registration link: https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/studentsite/admin/signin	Date Available	Course Description	Cost
6. <i>Scaffolding and Think, Show, Tell, Talk: Language and Vocabulary Development for Preschoolers</i> (in-person and virtual instructor-led STSTTP) 5 hours; 0.5 CEUs	October 30, 2021	This virtual instructor-led course is appropriate for administrative staff, directors and teachers of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children. Participants will learn about Language Scaffolding and Think, Show, Tell, Talk instructional strategies used to promote language, vocabulary and oral language skills.	Free
7. <i>Building a Strong Foundation for Emergent Literacy</i> (in-person and virtual instructor-led BSFEL) 5 hours; 0.5 CEUs	October 30, 2021	This virtual instructor-led course provides foundational content focused on emergent literacy skills and instruction. This course is most appropriate for directors, new VPK instructors and/or preschool instructors who are new to early childhood education.	Free
Early Learning Florida (University of Florida Lastinger Center) Literacy Courses Registration: Contact the local early learning coalition	Date Available	Course Description	Cost
8. <i>Preschool Language Development</i> (online) 20 hours; 2.0 CEUs Meets full 15-hour requirement	Currently available	Participants will explore language development in young children and learn evidence-based strategies for helping children develop language skills and extend their vocabulary knowledge. These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the preschool children (3-5-year-olds) in the participant's setting.	Free
9. <i>The Building Blocks of Preschool Literacy</i> (online) 20 hours; 2.0 CEUs Meets full 15-hour requirement	Currently available	This course will review the research and provide participants with ways to support children in classrooms as they continue on their journey to becoming successful readers and writers. These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with preschoolers in the participant's program.	Free
Reading Endorsement Registration: Contact the local school district	Date Available	Course Description	Cost
10. <i>Competency I: Foundations of Reading Instruction</i> (varied delivery methods) 60 hours Meets full 15-hour requirement	Currently available	Participants will develop substantive understanding of six components of reading as a process: comprehension, oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency and vocabulary.	Varies

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The attached Frequently Asked Questions document is provided as a resource. Please direct any additional questions regarding the expanded VPK instructor emergent literacy training requirements to VPKQuestions@oel.myflorida.com.

MHM/mw

Attachment: VPK Instructor Increased Emergent Literacy Course Requirements Frequently Asked Questions