


April 9, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents, Public Schools  
Program Contacts, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program

**CC:** Executive Directors, Early Learning Coalitions

**FROM:** Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning 

**SUBJECT: 2021 Summer VPK Guidance and Reimbursement for Closures due to COVID-19 - 2021-010**

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Commissioner Richard Corcoran's executed DOE ORDER NO. 2021-EO-02, available [here](#), authorizes the 2021 Summer VPK program to constitute a minimum of 200 hours.

**B. Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.** Due to the fact that many districts and programs are operating their Spring 2021 education programs into the middle and latter days of June and, therefore, meeting current law would be a physical impossibility, the provisions of s. 1002.61(2)(a), Florida Statutes, requiring a minimum of 300 hours of instruction is suspended for the 2021 Summer VPK program for public schools and private prekindergarten providers. The 2021 Summer VPK program shall constitute a minimum of 200 hours of instruction and the funding shall be prorated accordingly.

Listed below are OEL's Highlights.

**2021 Summer Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program Waiver – Highlights**

2021 VPK Program Delivery

- The requirement for school districts to offer a Summer VPK program has not been waived. The goal is to provide more opportunities for children to attend a high quality VPK program in the summer.
- If charter schools offer Summer VPK, this may meet the requirement for the district to offer summer VPK programs, providing that the VPK program is specifically named in the charter agreement between the district and the school.
- Virtual learning will not be approved as a substitute for VPK instructional hours.

2020 Summer VPK Program Hours

- Summer VPK programs are authorized for a minimum of 200-hours of instruction. Enhanced Field System Modernization (EFS Mod) will allow the district to create a calendar of less than 300-hours at this time. Both public and private providers may still offer a 300-hour VPK Summer program.

**SHAN GOFF**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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#### 2021 Summer VPK Funding

- Funding for providers will be based on student attendance and shall be prorated accordingly for the 2021 Summer Program for a minimum of 200-hours of instruction up to 300 hours of instruction.
- The 80/20 rule applies to the VPK Summer program. There is no change in how the 80/20 is calculated for summer.

#### Health and Safety

- VPK providers offering Summer VPK should follow guidance issued in their local areas, and, where feasible, follow CDC guidelines.

#### Adult-Child Ratio

- The ratio for the VPK Summer program is 1:12. However, providers should follow guidance issued in their local areas, and, where feasible, follow CDC guidelines.

#### VPK Assessment

- There is no waiver of the VPK pre- and post- assessment requirements outlined in [Rule 6M-8.620 F.A.C.](#) All VPK providers are responsible for administering the VPK Assessment and reporting results by the specified deadlines during the Summer VPK program, regardless of the total number of program hours (200-300 hours).

#### VPK Instructor and Director Credentials

- Please note that there is no waiver of the Summer VPK instructor or director credential requirements provided in [s. 1002.61, F.S.](#)

#### **Reimbursement for VPK Closures due to COVID-19**

Under separate action, OEL was approved to reimburse 2020-2021 VPK School Year providers (January – June 2021) and 2021 VPK Summer Providers (May-June) for closures due to COVID that exceed the allowable 5-days. More information about processing those payments will be forthcoming.

Please feel free to contact me at [Shan.Goff@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:Shan.Goff@oel.myflorida.com), or Melinda Webster at [Melinda.Webster@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:Melinda.Webster@oel.myflorida.com), if you have any questions.

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