



Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program 2021-2022

This informational guide includes a list of Seminole County Providers who are approved, as of August 1, 2021, to deliver School Year 2021-2022 VPK Programs. Providers are listed by municipality and offer VPK services August 10, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The list will be updated as new providers are added; to obtain an updated list, visit www.SeminoleEarlyLearning.org (click downloads; parents; VPK providers) or call 407-960-2460.

Things to consider when selecting a provider:

- **VPK Class Schedule** – VPK classes are offered during a variety of days and times, providers may have classes three, four, five or six hours a day over a three, four or five-day period. When researching a provider for your child’s VPK experience, be sure to ask about days and times that fit your schedule.
- **Availability of Extended Care** – If child care is needed beyond the scheduled VPK class hours, ask the VPK provider if extended care hours are available. Parents are responsible for payment for all hours of care beyond the scheduled VPK class time. A “Y” noted in the column titled “other services column” means the VPK Provider offers additional care options. Consult with the provider directly for specific hours and fees.

How to enroll:

- **Certificate of Eligibility** – Enrolling in VPK: In order for parents to receive a VPK certificate of eligibility they must visit our website at www.seminoleearlylearning.org and select Apply Online to be forwarded to the Family Services Portal and upload the required documents. Required Documents: Legible copies of the following are needed to verify residency and child’s age. Copies are required as they will remain on file with the Coalition: parent driver’s license with current address OR recent utility bill OR lease/deed. Proof of child’s age require birth certificate OR current immunization form 680 OR military ID OR current passport. VPK Providers will also request an immunization record and a Florida physical form signed by a medical professional. Questions? Contact the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole 407-960-2460.
- **VPK Certificate** – Once the information has been uploaded, the Early Learning Coalition will review it and email the parent their child’s VPK Certificate. This process can take 5 to 7 business days.
- **About VPK**
Voluntary Prekindergarten began as a constitutional amendment passed by Florida voters in November 2002 and signed into law January 2, 2005. It is designed to prepare every four-year-old in Florida for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. The

VPK program gives each child an opportunity to perform better in school and throughout life with quality programs that include high literacy standards, accountability, appropriate curricula, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes, and qualified instructors. All eligible four-year-olds are entitled to participate in one of the VPK program options.

Highlights of the VPK Program:

Recent Changes in VPK Eligibility Background:

A new law extends VPK eligibility for 4-year-olds with birthdays from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 in a calendar year. Parents can enroll their child in the state’s free, voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) education program that year or wait until the following year when their child is 5. This allows parents of younger 4-year-olds to postpone the year their child begins VPK, enabling the child to begin kindergarten and start first grade as a slightly older, more mature student. Children in Florida are not required to attend either the state’s prekindergarten or kindergarten programs but are required to attend school the year they turn 6 by Feb. 1. The new law takes effect July 1, 2016. Four-year-old children with birthdays from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 will be eligible to enroll in VPK that year or postpone it to the next. The law does not affect 4-year-olds with birthdays from Sept. 2 through Feb. 1.

- **Qualified instructors**
- **Age appropriate curricula with a strong emphasis on early literacy skills**
- **Manageable class sizes**

VPK Program Options:

Code	Description	Definition
PP	Private Pre-Kindergarten Provider	A provider other than a public school which is eligible to deliver the school-year pre-kindergarten program under s. 1002.55 or the summer pre-kindergarten program under s. 1002.61. These may include a licensed child care center, a licensed family child care home, non-public school exempt from licensure or a faith-based child care provider exempt from licensure. Educational credentials for staff working in a private provider setting may range from a Child Development Associate (CDA), Associates Degree (AA), and/or 4-year college degree.
PS	Public School Pre-Kindergarten Provider	A public-school pre-kindergarten provider includes public school locations that are offering a VPK program at their site.
CHTR	Charter School	A charter school separate from the private or public schools that is eligible to offer the VPK school year and summer programs.
LC	Licensed Child Care Facility	A child care center or family child care home that is licensed with the State of Florida and meets certain health and safety requirements, background checks are run on personnel and sites are inspected two to three times a year.
FBE	Faith-based Exempt	A faith-based child care provider who is exempt from licensure under s. 402.316. These programs are offered through religious organizations and include a spiritual component as part of the VPK program

AC	Accredited	A licensed child care center, home, or public school that has applied to a national early childhood association and has successfully met certain health and safety requirements, curriculum and adult child ratios
GS	Gold Seal	An accredited private or public pre-kindergarten provider facility that has applied to the State of Florida and has received a Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281.
HS	Head Start	A Head Start center that is licensed with the state of Florida and meets certain health and safety requirements; background checks are run on personnel and sites are inspected two to three times a year.

Parental choice is a priority; therefore, both private and public providers may participate. VPK providers have flexibility in structuring the hours per day and days per week of VPK class schedules in order to meet the required instructional hours:

- **School Year Program - 540 instructional hours.** Class sizes not to exceed 11 students with one lead instructor, up to 20 students with a lead instructor and an assistant; instructors must have a minimum of a Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) for the school year program.
- **Summer Program - 300 instructional hours.** Class sizes not to exceed 12 students with one lead instructor; instructors must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree.

Definition of Provider Type

Provider Type – The following chart defines VPK provider types and required credentials as defined by Florida Statutes Chapter 1002: *Student and Parental Rights and Education Choices*.

Definition of Terms

STATUS: *Pending* = Provider application under review
Approved = Process Finalized

Provider Address & Phone Number – street location and primary phone number of the VPK provider except public schools which are listed under their respective zip code locations, but all registration is held at 239 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, FL 32746.

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate – measures how well a VPK Provider prepares four-year-olds to be ready for kindergarten based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). The maximum possible 2017-2018 readiness rate is 100. Readiness rates are calculated for all VPK providers that served at least four children who:

- Were in attendance at least 70% of either the School Year or Summer program (have substantially completed the program)

- Participated in the FLKRS Kindergarten screening. Additional information about the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness may be found at www.vpk.fldoe.org

For the year 2018-2019 providers who scored below 60 are considered a Low Performing Provider. The readiness rates represented below were effective as of May 2020. Once the new readiness rates are finalized, The VPK Provider Profile will be updated with the new rates. Providers without a score represent non-participation during the VPK program year or had fewer than four children who did not qualify to be screened. For further information visit the Department of Education website at <https://vpk.fldoe.org>

Number of Classrooms – shows the number of classes available at that VPK provider location.

Start Date and End Date – represents the date in which the VPK class will start and when the class will end.

Teacher Credentials – represents the Credential degree of the instructor for the VPK class. Degree Code includes: NECC- National Early Childhood Certificate; FCCPC Active Birth through Five Child Care Credential (FCCPCC). DOE Early Childhood Professional Certificate (ECPC) or Child Care Apprenticeship Certificate (CCAC), or the Florida Child Development Associate Equivalency Credential (CDAE). AS:AA, AAS : BA: MA or MS: PhD.: **STNR:** Second teacher, credential not required.

Minimum Days Offered – represents the days of the week that the VPK class will be offered at the VPK provider location.

Minimum # of Hrs. Daily – represents the number of VPK instructional hours that will be provided on a daily basis in the VPK class.

Curriculum – describes the instructional format the VPK site is using. For more information on curriculum, talk with your provider. The following is a list of individual curricula that are most widely used:

Creative Curriculum: <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/pages/page.cfm?pageid=34>

Wee Learn Curriculum: <http://www.cdealliance.org/research.html>

High Reach: <http://www.highreach.com/Scripts/default.asp>

High Scope: <http://www.highscope.org>

Early Foundations: <http://www.knowledgelearning.com/programs/preschool/overview.html>

Beyond Centers and Circle Time: www.cccrt.org

Montessori: www.montessori.org

A provider may also have “various” instructional curricular formats.

Teacher Ratio – describes the number of adults per number of children within each class. In order to protect the health and safety of students, each VPK provider must provide appropriate adult supervision for students at all times and, for each pre-kindergarten class composed of 11 or more students, an additional instructor is required. The teacher ratio is shown as “the total number of children in the class: the total number of instructors in the class” or 20 children: 2 instructors or 2:20 at a maximum.

Other Services Offered - In addition to offering the VPK program, providers may offer school readiness services, extended day services, field trips, etc. For more information regarding the types of additional services offered, please contact the provider directly. Additional charges may apply for other services offered. For a complete definition of terms, please refer to page two.