

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
May 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Approval of New Rule 6M-8.615, VPK Training Requirements

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Early Learning administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. OEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

The rule establishes minimum standards for emergent literacy and performance standards training courses for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program instructors. The rule also adopts the courses in emergent literacy and performance standards for VPK instructors, providing reference to a Form that describes how to access the courses.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C. and Form OEL-VPK 25

Facilitator: Maggi Parker, General Counsel, Office of Early Learning

6M-8.615 VPK Training Requirements

(1) In accordance with Section 1002.59(1), F.S., the Office of Early Learning (Office) adopts the following minimum standards for training courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors:

(a) The training course(s) must contain instruction in emergent reading with the goal that the participant will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of motivation and emergent reading;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of phonological awareness;
3. Identify alphabet knowledge and skills; and
4. Understand the importance of retelling stories to develop comprehension.

(b) The training course(s) must contain instruction in language and communication with the goal that the participant will be able to:

1. Learn how to increase the language skills of prekindergarten children;
2. Learn how to increase the complexity of the spoken language of prekindergarten children;
3. Develop skills to help prekindergarten children initiate conversations, ask questions, and respond to

others;

4. Know how to improve the speaking, listening, and conversational skills of prekindergarten children; and
5. Know how to expand the vocabulary of prekindergarten children.

(c) The training course(s) must contain instruction in emergent writing with the goal that the participant will be able to:

1. Demonstrate how writing with children will influence the way they learn to communicate through writing;

2. Learn how to provide meaningful and purposeful writing opportunities to motivate and encourage children to explore print; and

3. Examine the skills and strategies needed to know how to coach children in writing throughout the year keeping in mind developmental needs of each child.

(2) In accordance with Section 1002.59(2), F.S., the Office adopts the following minimum standards for training course(s) in performance standards:

(a) The training course(s) must contain instruction in Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Standards for Four-Year-Olds as adopted by reference in Rule 6M-8.602, F.A.C., that does the following:

1. Discusses the purpose, history, and development of the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds;

2. Leads participants to identify the domains, components, standards, and benchmarks in the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds; and

3. Demonstrates how developmentally appropriate daily practices relate to the standards found in the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds.

(3) As required by Section 1002.55(3)(c)2, F.S., the Office adopts the courses relating to emergent literacy and performance standards listed in Training Requirements: VPK Instructors (with CDA or equivalent), Form OEL-VPK 25, dated February 2015, which is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained as described in Rule 6M-8.900, F.A.C., or found at (F.A.C. LINK PLACEHOLDER).

(a) The course listed in OEL-VPK 25 relating to emergent literacy meets the relative minimum standards for emergent literacy in Section 1002.59(1), F.S.

(b) The courses listed in OEL-VPK 25 relating to performance standards for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) instructors meet the minimum standards for performance standards in Section 1002.59(2), F.S.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.213(2), 1002.79 F.S. Law Implemented s. 1002.55(3)(c)2, 1002.59 F.S.

History–New



Training Requirements: VPK Instructors (with CDA or equivalent)

VPK Instructors:

For **VPK Instructors** that qualify to teach VPK by holding a valid child development associate credential issued by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional Recognition or a credential approved by the Florida Department of Children and Families as being equivalent to or greater than that credential, the instructor must successfully complete the following training courses:

1. Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors (online course); and
2. **ONE** of the following Standards for Four-Year-Olds training courses that meet the minimum standards for training courses on the performance standards adopted under Section 1002.67(1), Florida Statutes
 - Title of online course: Florida Standards for Four-Year-Olds – Online, or;
 - Title of instructor-led course: DOE-Standards for Four-Year Olds

Applicants can view their child care training transcript online at: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare>.

To register for online and instructor-led OEL-Approved courses, including those listed above, go to: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare>.