

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Consent Item

September 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-8.610, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Credential for Private Providers

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) 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 program: 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.

This rule is amended to adopt two additional online courses that, after November 1st, will be required of candidates for a VPK director credential. The courses add to the minimum standards and educational requirements and are aligned to the performance standards for children participating in the VPK education program. The additional courses cover mathematical thinking for early learners and language and vocabulary in the VPK classroom.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-8.610, F.A.C.

Facilitator: Rodney J. MacKinnon, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning

6M-8.610 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Credential for Private Providers.

(1) A private prekindergarten program delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program must have a director who has a VPK Director Credential.

(a) Successful completion of the Director Credential, as required by Section 402.305(2)(f), F.S., and paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C., prior to December 31, 2006, shall satisfy this requirement.

(b) Successful completion of the minimum standards listed in paragraphs (2)(a) through (d) of this Rule and completion of the education and onsite requirements listed in paragraphs (3)(a) through (d) of this Rule prior to November 1, 2017, shall satisfy this requirement.

(2) In accordance with Section 1002.57(1), F.S., the Office of Early Learning (OEL) adopts the following minimum standards for a VPK Director Credential. The VPK Director Credential must include each of the following:

(a) An instructor-led or online course, approved by OEL, on the VPK performance standards adopted under Rule 6M-8.602, F.A.C.

(b) An online ~~training~~ course, approved by OEL, on emergent literacy standards adopted under Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.

(c) An online course, approved by OEL, that addresses the following VPK Director competencies:

1. Organizational Leadership and Management – To implement strategies and techniques that promote a responsive work and learning environment, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

- a. Management strategies that support a professional culture and climate;
- b. Instructional leadership skills and the provision of supports to VPK instructors;
- c. Available resources and supports for VPK instructors and parents; and,
- d. Local processes and procedures for the transition of VPK children to public and private kindergarten programs.

2. Financial and Legal – To maintain effective financial planning and budgeting systems and sound practices related to legal obligations and responsibilities, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

- a. Applicable laws and rules and legal responsibilities;
- b. Roles and responsibilities of state agencies, local coalitions, and providers;
- c. Monitoring requirements; and,
- d. Financial operating procedures.

3. Program and Performance Standards – To maintain an instructional leadership role in creating and sustaining an effective learning environment, VPK directors shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of:

- a. Developmentally appropriate and research-based instructional practices and their application in the classroom;
- b. Evaluation of the appropriateness and effectiveness of available prekindergarten curricula;
- c. Effective implementation of a prekindergarten curriculum in the classroom;
- d. Effective instructional strategies for children with disabilities or other special needs and for English language learners;
- e. Developmentally appropriate methods for the on-going assessment of young children and interpretation of these data for program planning and the delivery of instruction; and,
- f. Local and state accountability systems; and,

(d) Education and onsite experience through the successful completion of the Director Credential, as established in paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C.

(e) An online course, approved by OEL, designed to deepen an individual’s understanding of mathematical concepts and skills appropriate for preschool-aged children.

(f) An online course, approved by OEL, designed to deepen an individual’s understanding of the use of language and vocabulary in VPK classrooms.

(3) The following OEL approved courses and credential will satisfy the minimum standards for the VPK Director Credential as established in subsection (2) of this rule:

- (a) DOE – Standards for Four-Year-Olds or Florida Standards for Four-Year-Olds- Online; ~~and~~,
- (b) Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors (online); ~~and~~,
- (c) VPK Director Credential course; ~~and~~,
- (d) A Director Credential issued in accordance with paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C.;
- (e) Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners (online); and
- (f) Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom (online).

(4)(a) A VPK Director Credential will be issued to an individual that has successfully completed all of the requirements established subsection (3) of this rule.

(b) For purposes of this rule “successfully completed” is defined as follows:

- 1. For the online courses, an eighty (80) percent passing rate on the course test.

2. For the DOE – Standards for Four-Year-Olds course, attendance and participation in full course, as verified by the OEL approved instructor of the course.

3. For the Director’s Credential, a current credential issued in accordance with paragraph 65C-22.003(8)(a), F.A.C.

Rulemaking Authority 1002.79 FS. Law Implemented 1002.55(3)(g), 1002.57 FS. History–New 12-31-06, Amended 5-19-08, Formerly 6A-6.040, Amended 1-11-16,_____.