

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
January 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-8.400, VPK Class Sizes; Blended Classes; Multi Class Groups

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213(2), 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 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.

This purpose of the revised rule is OEL's continued effort to update its administrative rules. This rule has not been updated since 2007. The updates to this rule align it with the Florida Statutes regarding maximum class sizes in VPK. The revision also updates an obsolete term "prepayment" and replaces it with "advance payment." The revision eliminates references to classroom as the concept of physical space is not addressed in VPK statutes, instead defaulting to the Department of Children and Families' childcare standards for students per space consideration. VPK statutes only reference a class as a group of students in relationship to a VPK instructor and whether an assistant to the VPK instructor is required.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-8.400, VPK Class Sizes; Blended Classes; Multi Class Groups

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6M-8.400 VPK Class Sizes; Blended Classes; Multi-Class Groups.

(1) Blended classes.

(a) A private provider or public school may organize a VPK class as a blended class, instructing children enrolled in the VPK program together with children not enrolled in the program.

(b) A blended class may include children of any age. A private provider or public school, however, may not organize a blended class in a multi-age arrangement that prevents the provider or school from implementing a developmentally appropriate curriculum in accordance with Section 1002.67(2)(b), F.S.

(2) Minimum class size. A VPK class must be composed of at least four children enrolled in the VPK program.

(a) An early learning coalition may not issue the initial ~~advance payment~~ ~~prepayment~~ for a VPK class unless at least four children in the class are enrolled in the VPK program.

(b) A private provider or public school does not violate the minimum class size, if:

1. Fewer than four children enrolled in the VPK program attend a VPK class on a particular day; or
2. After the ~~advance payment~~ ~~initial prepayment~~ is issued, fewer than four children in a VPK class remain enrolled in the VPK program (e.g., withdrawals).

~~(c) If a VPK class is composed of four or fewer children enrolled in the VPK program, the VPK provider may not dismiss a child enrolled in the program, unless, within 3 business days after the child's dismissal, the VPK provider submits to the coalition written documentation of the child's noncompliance with the conduct or attendance policies of the provider.~~

(3) Maximum class size. A VPK class may not exceed ~~20~~ ~~18~~ children for a school-year program or ~~12~~ ~~10~~ children for a summer program. Children enrolled in the VPK program, and children not enrolled in the program, are both counted toward the ~~20-child~~ ~~18-child~~ ~~or~~ ~~12-child~~ ~~10-child~~ maximum class size. A VPK class may not exceed the maximum class size in enrollment or attendance on a particular day.

(4) Multi-class group. A private provider or public school may instruct two or more VPK classes as one, ~~group in a single classroom.~~ A VPK class within a multi-class group may not exceed the maximum class size described in subsection (3).

(5) Compliance with other requirements. This rule does not allow a private provider or public school to exceed a staff-to-children ratio, square footage per child, licensing requirements under Sections 402.301-319, F.S., or other state or local requirement.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.213(2), 1002.79(2)FS. Law Implemented 1002.55(3)(f) (~~e~~), 1002.61(7) (~~6~~), 1002.63(7) FS. History--New 8-17-06, Amended 5-24-07, Formerly 60BB-8.400, Amended X-XX-XX.