



## Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)

### Program Highlights

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free education program designed to prepare four-year-olds in Florida for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. Children who live in Florida and are four years old on or before September 1st are eligible for the VPK program. All VPK providers must meet the program's quality standards:

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

### Program Options

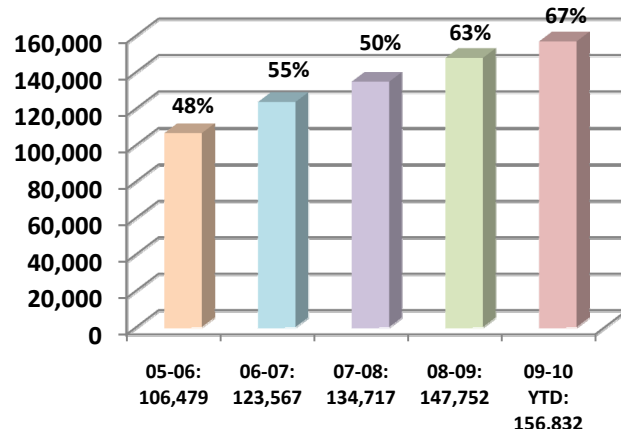
Parents may enroll their child in a VPK classroom located in a private child care or school-based setting. Parents also have the choice between a school year program or a summer program. VPK providers must meet specific requirements for either program:

- The School year program consists of 540 instructional hours with class sizes of 18 or fewer students. Instructors must hold a minimum of a Birth to Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential to teach the School year program.
- The Summer Program consists of 300 instructional hours and class sizes of 12 or fewer students. Instructors must hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree to teach the Summer program.

### VPK Providers

VPK providers must meet the minimum requirements outlined in Florida law. Private VPK providers must hold the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Director Credential with the VPK Director Endorsement. Private providers must also hold a valid child care license or be exempt from licensure and be recognized by an approved child care accrediting agency.

### Percentage of Four-Year-Olds in VPK

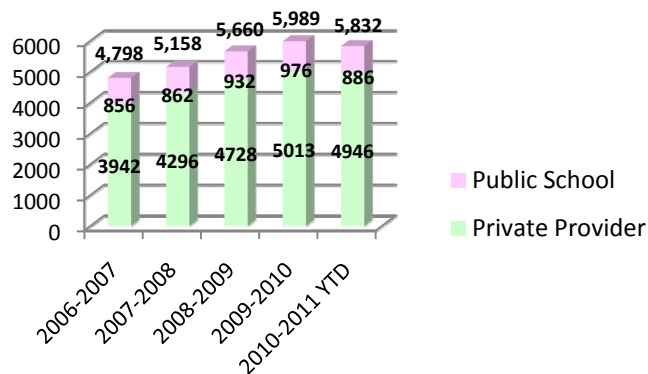


### VPK Provider Readiness Rates

A VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate, calculated for VPK providers, measures how well prepared four-year-olds are for kindergarten based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). The FLKRS is based on the VPK Education Standards, which describe what four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of VPK.

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate is a tool parents may use to select a VPK program best suited for their family. Early Learning Coalitions ([www.floridajobs.org/vpk/CoalitionInfo.aspx](http://www.floridajobs.org/vpk/CoalitionInfo.aspx)) can provide parents with Provider Profiles for local VPK providers and access to licensing reports.

### Historical VPK Provider Data



FALL 2010

