



Overview of Governor's 2014-15 Early Learning Budget Recommendations

At a Glance.

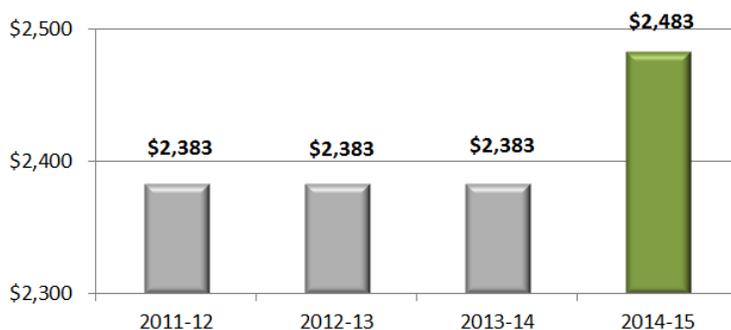
Governor Rick Scott's 2014-15 *It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget* recommendations for early learning represent the **highest increase in funding in the last decade**, underscoring the **link between high-quality early education and success** in school, career and life.

The governor is recommending \$1.1 billion in state funding—an **increase of \$59 million** over the base budget. Budget highlights include a **\$100 per student boost for VPK** funding, a one-time **\$30 million to serve additional children in Florida's school readiness program**, money for early childhood teacher scholarships and school readiness teacher improvement, and funding for technology and information systems to improve early learning functions statewide.

Investing in Early Learning.

The VPK base student allocation (BSA) for the school-year program has remained at \$2,383 for the past three years—down 11 percent from 2007-08. The governor is recommending an **increase of \$929,000 or \$100 per student**—the **largest increase in VPK funding in seven years**.

VPK BSA



The BSA for the summer program will also increase by \$100 per child, moving from \$2,026 to \$2,126.

The governor is recommending an additional \$30 million in non-recurring federal budget authority to serve 6,500 more children in the school readiness program, reducing waiting lists for the program that helps parents prepare for and return to the work force.

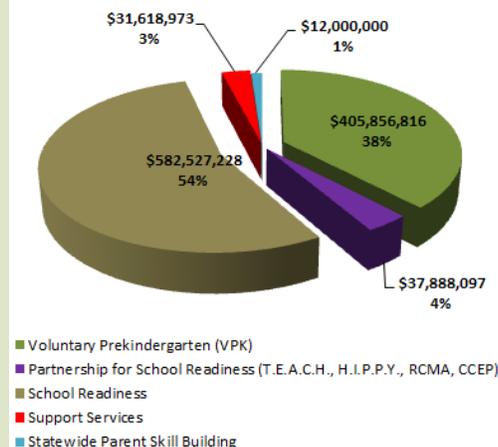
As a result of reorganization combining VPK program and accountability functions with school readiness in the Office of Early Learning (OEL), the budget would **eliminate seven positions**.

(over)

Early Learning Profile (2012-13)

- ➔ 222,817 children in school readiness
- ➔ 9,818 school readiness child care providers
- ➔ 174,200 4-year-olds in VPK
- ➔ 6,421 VPK providers
- ➔ 80 percent of Florida 4-year-olds attend VPK
- ➔ 79 percent of children who completed VPK are ready for kindergarten compared to 55 percent who did not attend

2014-15 Funding by Program \$1.07 Billion



Increases

- Increases VPK base student allocation
- Authorizes one-time additional school readiness dollars
- Increases teacher scholarship funding
- Funds school readiness teacher improvement
- Authorizes money for education technology and information services
- Funds a statewide parent skill-building initiative

Savings

- Reduces seven positions

FY 2014-15 Funding \$1.07 Billion

