

From: Mims, Tom
Sent time: Thursday, October 27, 2011 2:23:50 PM
To: Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org) <Joanna@afloridapromise.org>
Cc: Nadia Hagberg (Nadia@excelined.org) <Nadia@excelined.org>; Sabitsch, Gary; Greenberg, Stuart
Subject: RE: VPK question

Hi Ms. Hassell, that information is available on Florida's Office of Early Learning website under the Factbook link at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/EarlyLearning/index.html>. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Tom Mims
Program Specialist
Florida Department of Education
Office of Early Learning
www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/
(866) 447-1159 toll free
(850) 245-5015 direct
(850) 245-5105 fax

From: Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org) [mailto:Joanna@afloridapromise.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 3:38 PM
To: Mims, Tom
Cc: Nadia Hagberg (Nadia@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: VPK question

Tom,

I tried calling your office and I got your voicemail message. I tried calling the number on your voicemail but reached a voicemail as well.

As a follow-up the email below – do you have current enrollment numbers for the 2011-12 VPK school year? I can't seem to find any updated information on the DOE website. The latest number that I have is from your email response in October is 165,265 which was the student enrollment for the 2010-11 school year.

Also, can you tell me the number or percentage of students are attending private schools?

I understand that you will not be back in the office until Thursday, if there is someone else on your staff that can help obtain this information, that would be most helpful.

Thank you,

Joanna Hassell

Joanna Hassell
Policy Analyst
Foundation for Florida's Future
P.O. Box 10691
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
joanna@afloridapromise.org
www.afloridapromise.org
850-298-8571 (Office)
850-321-1735 (Cell)

From: Mims, Tom [mailto:Tom.Mims@fldoe.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org)
Cc: Greenberg, Stuart; Sabitsch, Gary
Subject: RE: VPK question

Good afternoon Joanna, please see our responses below:

Do you have a current enrollment figure on the number of kids enrolled in VPK? I found on the website the following: 152,356 children or 93% are enrolled in the 2010-11 School Year VPK Program (as of January 2011). In 2010-11 165,265, 71% of Florida 4 year olds attended VPK. Of that number 92% attended a school year program and 8% enrolled in summer.

I am updating the following information on the VPK program:

- All 4 years olds in Florida are eligible to participate [Correct](#)
- Parents receive approximately \$2,600 to send their child to a public or private early-literacy program. For 2010-2011 the BSA (Base Student Allocation) for the VPK school year program was \$2,562 and \$2,179 for the summer program. For 2011-12 the BSA for the school year program is \$2,383 and for summer is \$2,026.
 - 85% of parents select private schools. *(do you have updated numbers?) In 2009-10 84% of children attended non-public schools and 16% were enrolled in public schools.*
 - 22% of the providers are faith-based. *(do you have updated numbers?) In 2009-10, 14%, 884 of the 6,384 VPK programs were faith based. They served 17% of the children that attended VPK.*
 - All students are measured based upon developmental and early literacy readiness within the first 30 days of entering kindergarten. Kindergartners are administered the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). Information about FLKRS is available at <http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/FLKRS2009.asp>.

- The students “readiness rates” are tracked back to the pre-k providers and the providers are “rated” in order to assist parents in the selection of their child’s pre-k program. *(does this remain the same?)* VPK providers are assigned a readiness rate based on the percentage of children that screen ready on FLKRS. See below for updated information on the readiness rate.

The bottom performing 15 percent of providers must improve or lose their eligibility to participate in the program. *I heard in a committee meeting before the Legislature that there is a rule changed expected this month (10-18-11) to Rule 6A-1.099823 relating to the Readiness Rate. I apologize for not being able to find the exact language but I remember the presenter saying that it will be 70% of the students must pass the assessment. Can you tell me what the new rule will require (should it be approved by the Board). The presentation to the State Board concerning changes to the readiness rate is available at [Approval of the 2010-2011 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate](#). The Department recommended that providers be required to have at least 60% of their children ready for kindergarten, however, the SBOE decided the minimum should be 70%. The rule number is 6A-1.099821.*

Please let me know if there is anything else I can assist you with. Thank you.

Tom Mims
Program Specialist
Florida Department of Education
Office of Early Learning
www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/
(866) 447-1159 toll free
(850) 245-5015 direct
(850) 245-5105 fax

From: Greenberg, Stuart
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 3:23 PM
To: Mims, Tom
Subject: FW: VPK question

Tom,
Can you review this and get back with Joanna?

Stuart Greenberg
Executive Director, Just Read, Florida! and the Office of Early Learning Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 514
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 245-0503
(850) 245-9530 (Fax)

From: Greenberg, Stuart
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 1:44 PM
To: Joanna@afloridapromise.org
Subject: Re: VPK question

I have been out of the office. I will review this tonight

-----Original message-----

From: Joanna@afloridapromise.org
To: "Greenberg, Stuart" <Stuart.Greenberg@fldoe.org>
Sent: Tue, Oct 4, 2011 17:59:25 GMT+00:00
Subject: VPK question

Stuart,

Do you have a current enrollment figure on the number of kids enrolled in VPK? I found on the website the following: 152,356 children or 93% are enrolled in the 2010-11 School Year VPK Program (as of January 2011).

I am updating the following information on the VPK program:

- All 4 years olds in Florida are eligible to participate
- Parents receive approximately \$2,600 to send their child to a public or private early-literacy program.
 - 85% of parents select private schools. *(do you have updated numbers?)*
 - 22% of the providers are faith-based. *(do you have updated numbers?)*
 - All students are measured based upon developmental and early literacy readiness within the first 30 days of entering kindergarten.
- The students “readiness rates” are tracked back to the pre-k providers and the providers are “rated” in order to assist parents in the selection of their child’s pre-k program. *(does this remain the same?)*
- The bottom performing 15 percent of providers must improve or lose their eligibility to participate in the program. *I heard in a committee meeting before the Legislature that there is a rule changed expected this month (10-18-11) to Rule 6A-1.099823 relating to the Readiness Rate. I apologize for not being able to find the exact language but I remember the presenter saying that it will be 70% of the students must pass the assessment. Can you tell me what the new rule will require (should it be approved by the Board).*

Thanks for your help,

Joanna

Joanna Hassell
Policy Analyst
Foundation for Florida's Future
P.O. Box 10691
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
joanna@floridapromise.org
www.floridapromise.org
850-298-8571 (Office)
850-321-1735 (Cell)