



# Early Learning Update

**Florida Organization of  
Instructional Leaders (FOIL)**

**Shan Goff and Melinda Webster  
Office of Early Learning**

**Tallahassee, Florida**

**November 4, 2020**



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

# Agenda

- Florida’s Early Learning Population
- Overview of Office of Early Learning
- Impact of COVID-19 and FDOE/OEL’s Response
  - Funding
  - Successful Transition to K Projects
- 2020-21 VPK Enrollment
- Review of 2019 Kindergarten Screening Results & 2020 Predictions
- Opportunities for Training



# Early Learning Population

1.3 million children younger than 6<sup>1</sup>

42% percent of those are from low-income families<sup>1</sup>

- Of the 42%, 27% participated in the SR Program<sup>2</sup>
- 221,715 children are enrolled in Fiscal Year 2019-20<sup>3</sup>

71% of Florida's 4-year-olds participated in the VPK Program<sup>4</sup>

- 166,726 children enrolled in Program Year 2019-20

Sources:

<sup>1</sup>US Census Bureau - Census 2010; American Community Survey 2013-2017; Florida Demographic Estimating Conference, February 2019, Florida Demographic Database, 2019.

<sup>2</sup>EFS Modernization payment data as of October 8, 2020.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

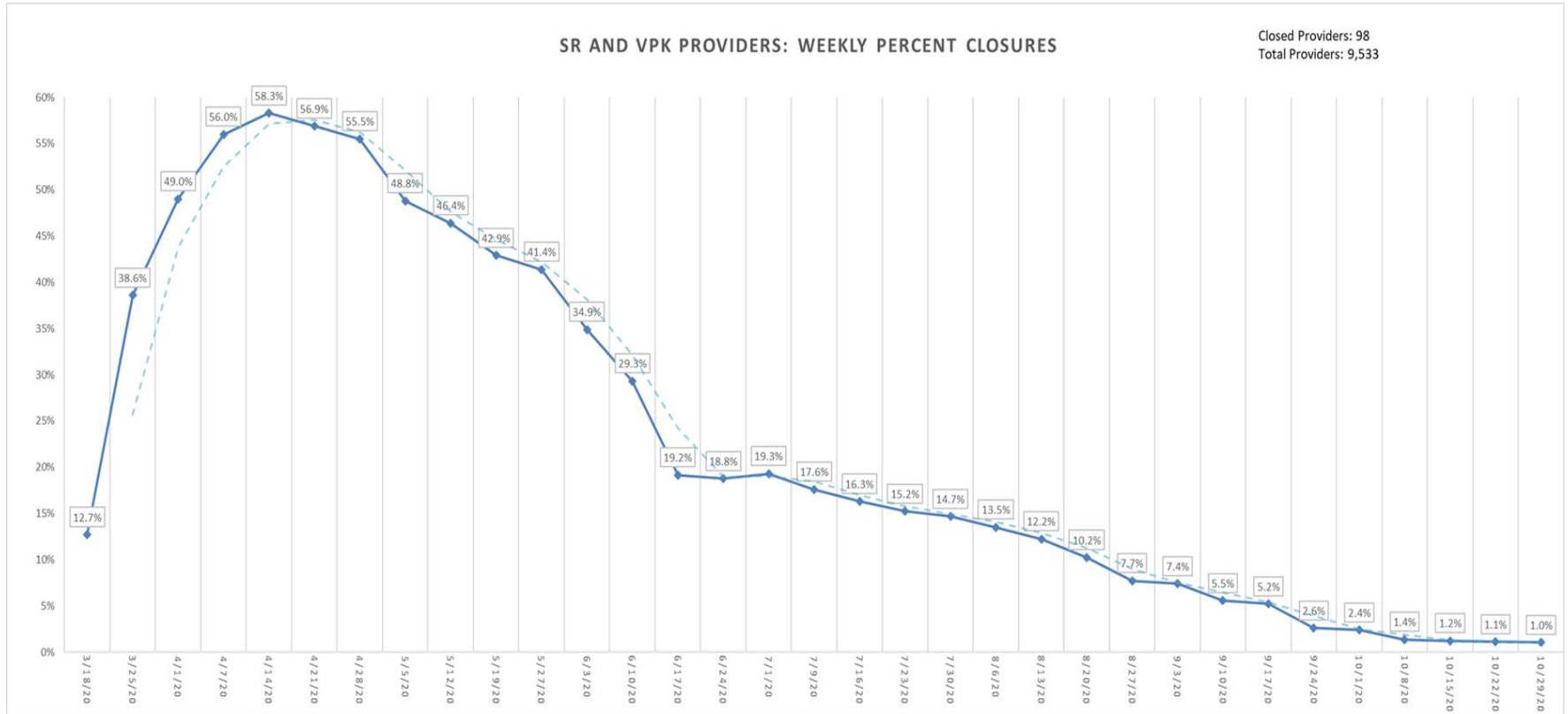
<sup>4</sup>VPK Estimating Conference, August 4, 2020.

# Office of Early Learning

## State-Level Duties & Responsibilities

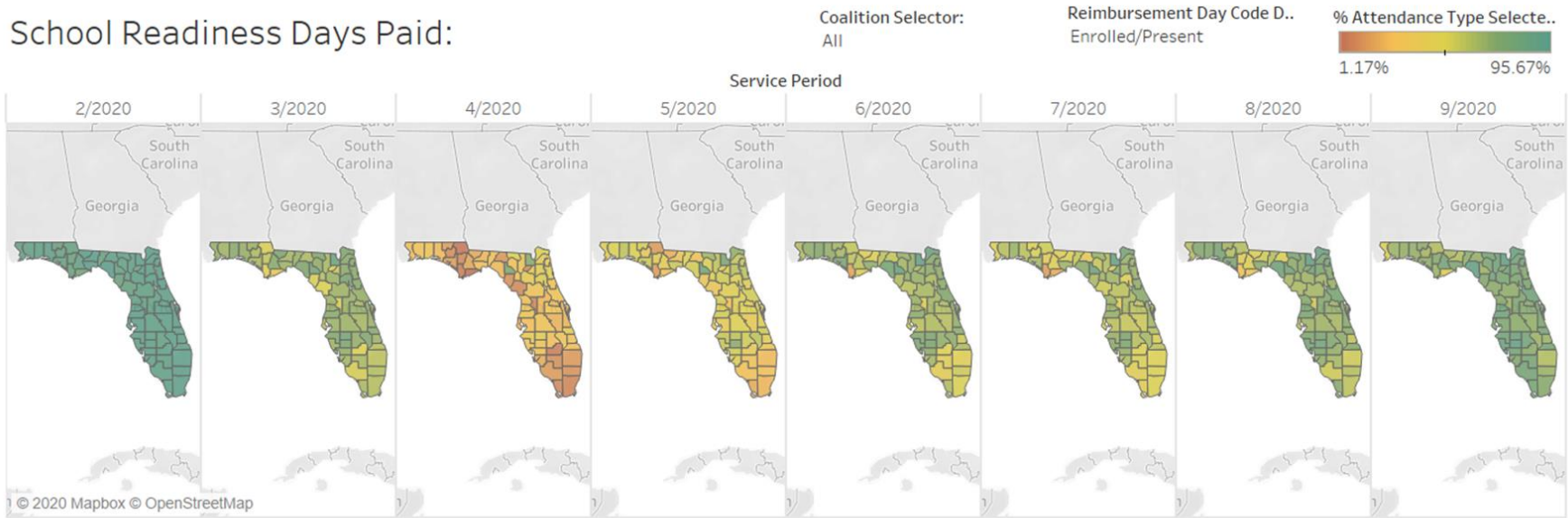
- Designated as lead to administer **state and federal child care funds (Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)/Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)) – Florida’s SR Program**
- Responsible for implementing state’s **VPK** program
- Partner with **30 early learning coalitions**, Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) and others to deliver comprehensive, statewide early learning services
- Accountable to the Commissioner of Education

# Impact of COVID-19



# FDOE/OEL's Response

## School Readiness Days Paid:



## Statewide Day Type Totals:

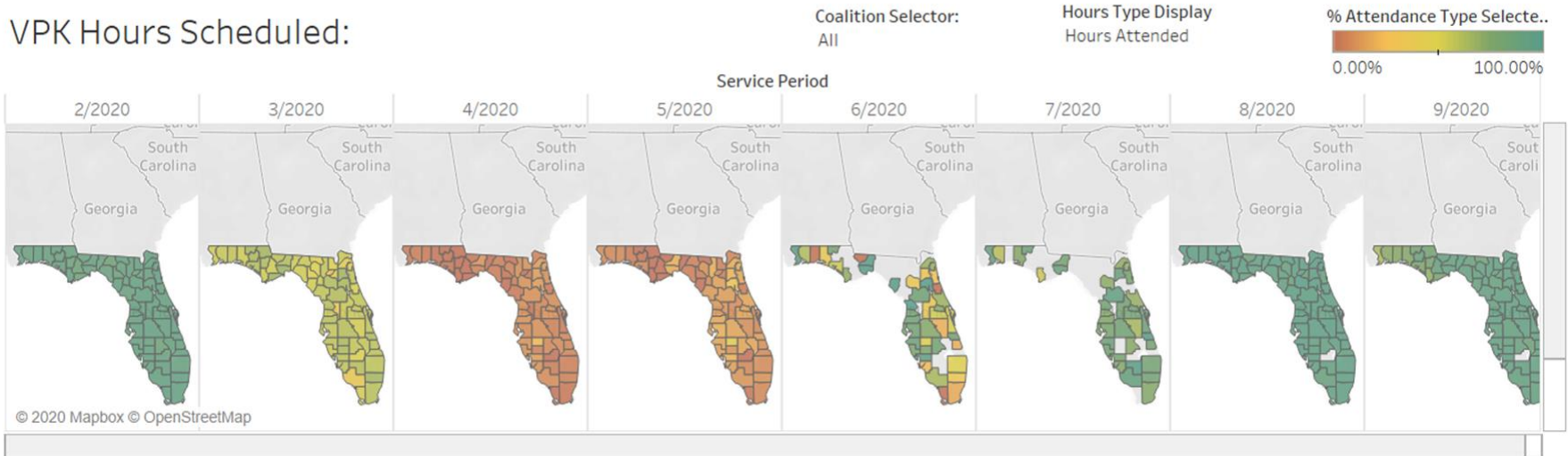
Reimbursement Day Code ..	Service Period							
	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020	5/2020	6/2020	7/2020	8/2020	9/2020
Absence Due To Disaster	32	442,575	773,817	938,951	1,097,631	1,132,841	953,231	628,480
Authorized Absence	9,198	20,958	4,837	8,593	14,187	15,759	16,325	16,202
Enrolled/Present	2,345,610	1,785,228	662,137	1,156,942	1,913,577	1,912,971	2,008,733	2,093,141
Excused Absence	125,897	111,708	25,098	38,813	66,129	70,099	71,269	64,706
Reimbursable Holiday	56,911	5,335	34,229	112,880	1,332	115,128	11,816	131,333

## Statewide Day Type %:

Reimbursement Day Code ..	Service Period							
	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020	5/2020	6/2020	7/2020	8/2020	9/2020
Absence Due To Disaster	0.2%	15.6%	25.8%	30.8%	33.1%	32.6%	30.1%	21.2%
Authorized Absence	0.4%	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Enrolled/Present	92.4%	63.0%	22.1%	38.0%	57.6%	55.0%	63.4%	70.5%
Excused Absence	5.0%	3.9%	0.8%	1.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.2%
Reimbursable Holiday	2.3%	0.3%	1.2%	3.7%	0.1%	3.3%	0.5%	4.4%

# FDOE/OEL's Response

## VPK Hours Scheduled:



## Statewide Hour Type Totals:

Hours Type Display	Service Period							
	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020	5/2020	6/2020	7/2020	8/2020	9/2020
Closed Reimbursable	159	2,018,737	6,801,977	4,460,602	154,840	2,722	3,908	66,677
Hours Absent	723,889	1,397,921	2,244,117	2,457,843	159,437	35,664	108,089	426,074
Hours Attended	8,310,980	4,493,551	659,804	970,794	188,424	150,906	1,842,334	5,288,843
Grand Total	9,035,027	7,910,209	9,705,898	7,889,239	502,700	189,292	1,954,331	5,781,594

## Statewide Hour Type %:

	Service Period							
	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020	5/2020	6/2020	7/2020	8/2020	9/2020
Closed Reimbursable	0.0%	25.5%	70.1%	56.5%	30.8%	1.4%	0.2%	1.2%
Hours Absent	8.0%	17.7%	23.1%	31.2%	31.7%	18.8%	5.5%	7.4%
Hours Attended	92.0%	56.8%	6.8%	12.3%	37.5%	79.7%	94.3%	91.5%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# FDOE/OEL's Response

*The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), through the Office of Early Learning (OEL), has allocated more than \$363 million in funding to support Florida's youngest learners.*

These funds, from Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF), General Revenue (GR), Preschool Development Grant (PDG), and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), may be used to provide the resources and support needed to help providers remain open or re-open as soon as they can safely do so. A description of Florida's responses to provide resources and supports to both families and child care providers is below. Each of the supports provided are consistent with the following principles:

**\$363  
MILLION**

*in funding to support  
Florida's youngest learners.*

- Strategically rebuild the early childhood education and care landscape with an emphasis on quality providers.
- Provide local early learning coalitions with flexibility, as appropriate, to leverage established partnerships and available resources.
- Redirect existing federal discretionary funding, as appropriate to support families, providers and communities.
- Enhance the early childhood education and care workforce through incentives to gain new skills and expand existing skills, competency and professionalism.

## I. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

OEL implemented the following actions to provide supports to both School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) families and child care providers.

### CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS (CCDF) - \$119.5M (MARCH – OCTOBER)

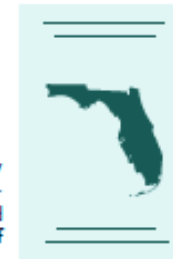
- **Spring 2020:** Distributed to providers \$14.2 million in mini-grants to meet infrastructure, cleaning and supply needs and teacher training stipends.
- **March-August 15, 2020:** Suspended terminations of SR child care services, and extended timelines for submission of paperwork by parents to maintain eligibility for families.
- **May-October 2020:** Provided flexibility for eligibility for SR child care by adding "job search" as a purpose for care for families.
- **April-September 2020:** Waived required SR copayments for parents, and reimbursed SR (birth – age 5 and school-age programs) (\$9.6M per month) based on enrollment as opposed to attendance (\$7.9M per month).

### GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS (GR) - \$84.4 MILLION

- **April-September 2020:** Reimbursed VPK providers based on enrollment as opposed to attendance. Totalling \$84.4M from April – September 2020.

### PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS (PDG) - \$4 MILLION

- The PDG funds, designed to strengthen Florida's overall early childhood system to improve quality early learning experiences for children, were redirected to provide mini-grants to support the provision of mental health services to child care staff and the families they serve, as well as provided support for the use of high-quality curriculum by SR providers (\$2M for each two sets of mini-grants to early learning coalitions).



OFFICE OF  
**Early Learning**  
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org



# FDOE/OEL's Response

## II. CARES ACT RESPONSE

The information below describes Florida's use of the CARES ACT funds to support the state's childcare providers and the families they serve. To date, \$155,312,343 of Florida's total \$223,605,108 allocation have been awarded.

### A. CHILD CARE FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS - \$52.9M

• In April 2020, OEL, in coordination with local early learning coalitions, prioritized and increased access to child care services for health care and first responder professionals by creating a referral process and financial incentives for programs to swiftly provide expedited access and expedited referrals for 26,000 children of first responders and health care professionals (as of 9/8/2020). 87% of these children are now enrollments in the program. Over 4,000 eligible early learning/child care providers, with SR contracts, received a monthly bonus/incentive of \$500 per child (with a maximum limit of \$12,000 per provider location).

**\$155,312,343**  
of Florida's total  
**\$223,605,108**  
allocation have been awarded.

### B. THREE GRANT PHASES TO NEARLY 12,000 EARLY LEARNING/CHILD CARE PROVIDERS – \$88.8 MILLION

- PHASE 1** **Emergency Child Care Relief Grants for Early Learning/Child Care Providers - \$52.8M**
- 6,500 SR and VPK providers and non-contracted providers that were open for business as of April 30, 2020 received grants to continue their services. These providers may have had intermittent closures, and providers that have closed permanently after April 30, 2020 were not eligible for these funds.
- PHASE 2** **High-Quality Reopening Support Grants for Early Learning/Child Care Providers - \$19.1M**
- 2,300 SR and VPK providers and non-contracted providers that were closed on April 30, 2020 and reopened by August 31, 2020 received grants. These providers were required to have a Gold Seal designation or a program assessment (CLASS score) of 3.5 or higher.
- PHASE 3** **Contracted SR/VPK Providers - \$16.9M**
- 3,100 SR and VPK providers, including contracted public/charter school providers and program assessment (CLASS) exempt providers that were closed on April 30, 2020 and reopened by August 31, 2020 received grants to assist in reopening during the COVID-19 crisis.

### C. OTHER PROGRAMS - 13.6 MILLION

#### **Successful Transition to Kindergarten - \$10.7M**

• Incoming kindergarten students had their preschool experience significantly disrupted by COVID-19. Funding has been provided to 36 school districts via their early learning coalition to implement summer programs for rising kindergarten students identified with limited language and emergent literacy skills as determined by the VPK assessments and teacher recommendations. To date, the investment has been \$10.7M, and the remaining funds will be support continuing this program throughout this year.

#### **Progress Monitoring for VPK and K - \$2.9M**

• A pilot program for VPK providers to use the same screening tool that is currently required for kindergarten screening (STAR Early Literacy) will begin in January and includes an evaluation component.



# FDOE/OEL's Response

## School Readiness

- October – December – “dimmer switch” approach by reducing extra number of days absent paid
  - October - +6 days
  - November +4 days
  - December +2 days

## VPK

- October – Returned to “current policy” for payments



# FDOE/OEL's Response

## Successful Transition to Kindergarten: Rising K Program

- Funded through CCDF/CARES (\$10.9M) via coalitions
- 37 school districts participating
- **Provide an emphasis on closing/remediating achievement gaps.**
- Minimize potential learning loss due to program closures this spring.
- Set students up for success.
- Help students acclimate to kindergarten.
- Provide a jump start to the kindergarten concepts and skills.
- Provide instruction to fill any early literacy achievement gaps for children in need.

# FDOE/OEL's Response

## Successful Transition to Kindergarten: VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Program

### Goals

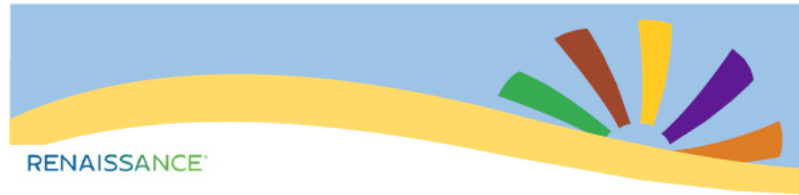
- Provide opportunity for VPK providers to implement Star Early Literacy in their VPK programs in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.
- Extend the administration of Star Early Literacy to Florida's VPK programs to establish consistency in assessments between VPK and Kindergarten.
- Provide a more comprehensive overview of the learning and growth continuum during critical early learning years.

# FDOE/OEL's Response

## VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Program

- Funded through Child Care Development Fund/CARES (\$2.9M).
- Voluntary participation available on an application basis with funding for up to 1,919 providers (3,644 classrooms and 50,243 VPK students).
- Access to a variety of progress reports for students and resources as well as reports to share with parents.
- Available during Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3 as well as throughout the school year for ongoing progress monitoring, as needed.
- Pilot study results evaluated by The Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University.

# FDOE/OEL's Response



## VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot Program

- \* The VPK Progress Monitoring Pilot will provide the opportunity for VPK providers to implement STAR Early Literacy in their VPK programs in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Extending the administration of STAR Early Literacy to Florida's VPK programs will establish consistency in assessments between VPK and Kindergarten and provide a more comprehensive overview of the learning and growth continuum during critical early learning years.

Participating providers will have access to a variety of progress reports for their students and resources as well as reports to share with parents. Star Early Literacy will be available during Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3 as well as throughout the school year for ongoing progress monitoring, as needed. Pilot study results will be evaluated by The Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University.

- \* **Who can apply?** VPK school-year program providers (private and public.)
- \* **Where to apply?** Applications are available through the Bright Beginnings website. VPK Administrators will find a link to the application from their Administrator Home Page after logging in.
- \* **Application Period:** October 21 through November 11, 2020.

For more information, please visit the dedicated web page at:  
<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-star-early-literacy-assessment-pilot>

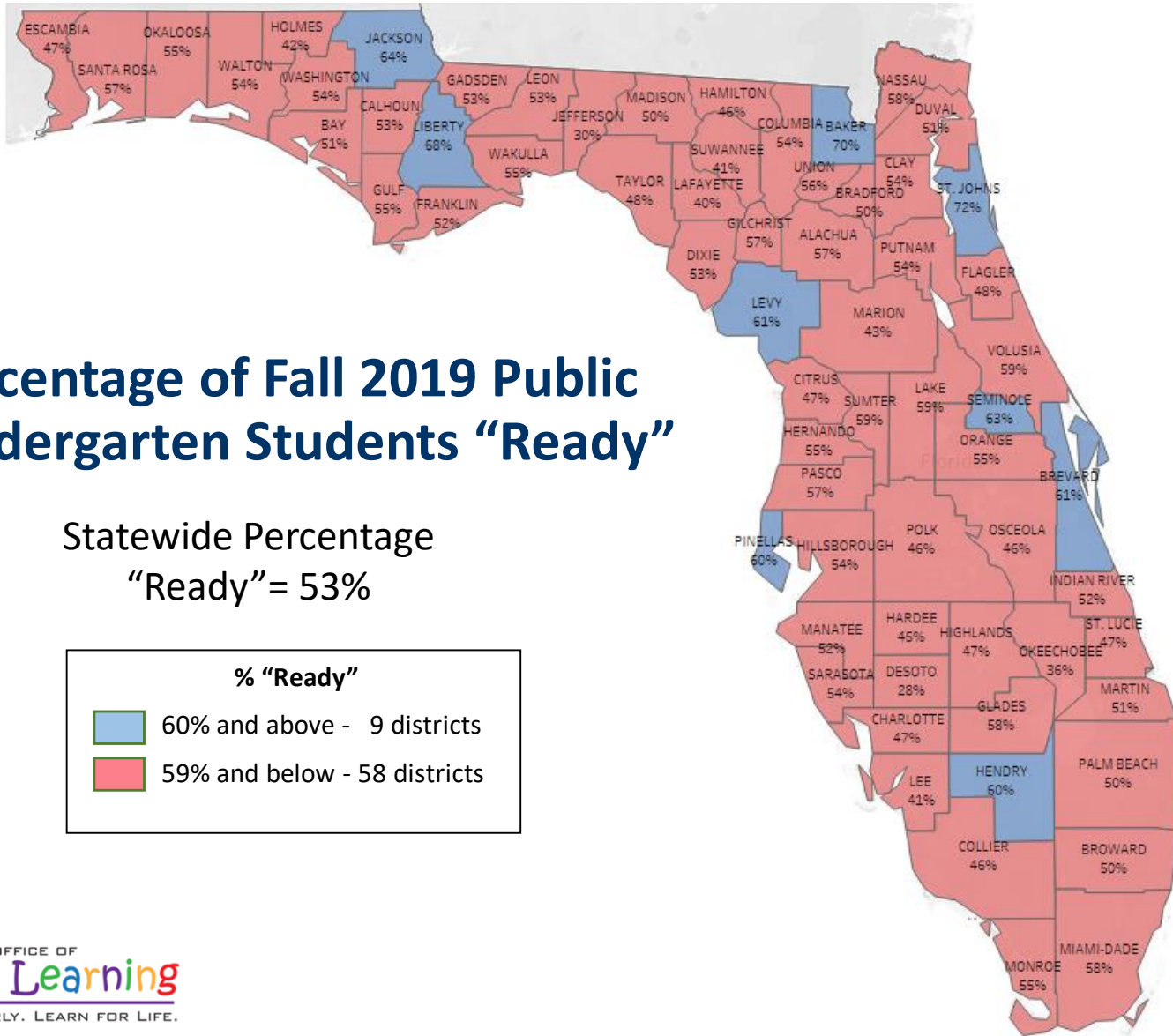
# VPK Enrollment

## Readiness of Incoming Kindergarten Students Statewide – Fall 2019

Category	Total Children	Percent “Ready”
All Public School Kindergartners	190,805	53%
VPK Completers	126,238	63%
VPK Non-Completers	26,487	47%
Non-VPK Participants	55,184	39%
SR Only Kindergartners	3,723	31%

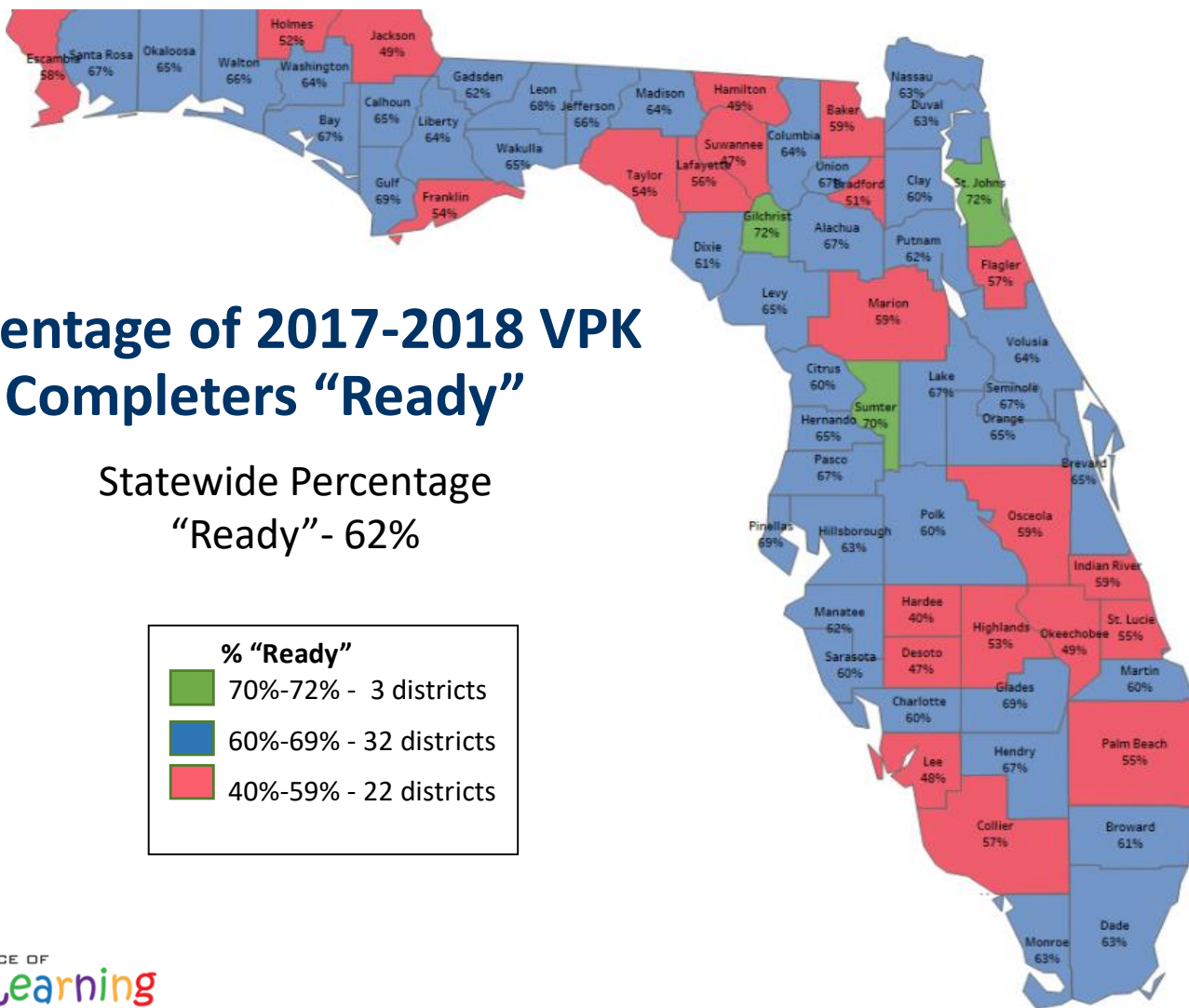
Source: 2018-19 VPK Readiness Rate match files and 2019 FLKRS final data files.

# 2019 Kindergarten Readiness by County





# Kindergarten Readiness by County



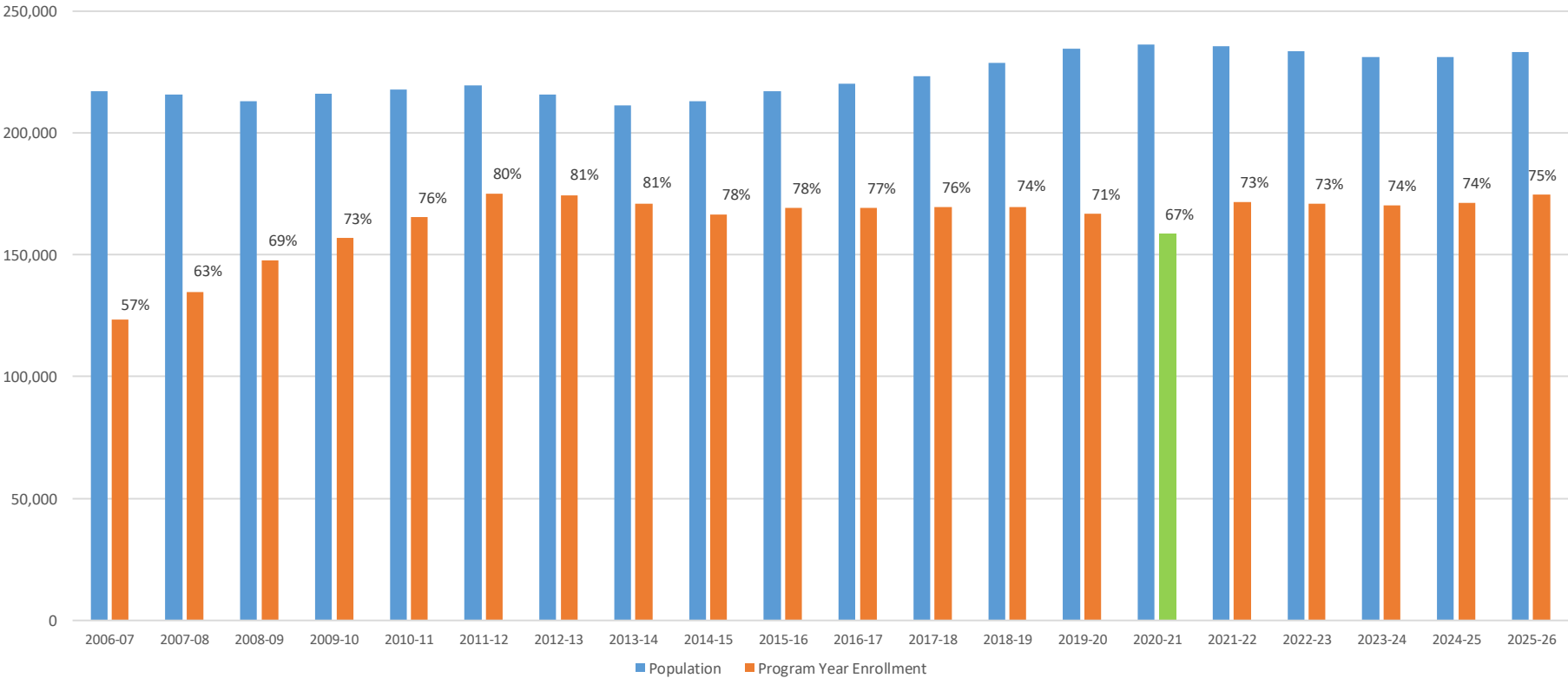
**% "Ready"**

- 70%-72% - 3 districts
- 60%-69% - 32 districts
- 40%-59% - 22 districts



# VPK Program Participation

## VPK Program Participation Rate 2006-2007 to 2025-2026\*



Source: Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Estimating Conference, August 4, 2020. \* 2005-2006 – 2019-2020 are actual enrollments, 2020-2021 are estimated enrollments and 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 are projected enrollments.



# VPK Enrollment

## Efforts to Increase Enrollments

- Authorized VPK Flexibility Option Programs
- Targeted focus by coalitions on School Readiness children not enrolled in VPK
- Daily review of data on VPK enrollment
- Consideration for full-day VPK in January – June 2021



# VPK Enrollment

## Approved VPK FLEX Providers/Classrooms

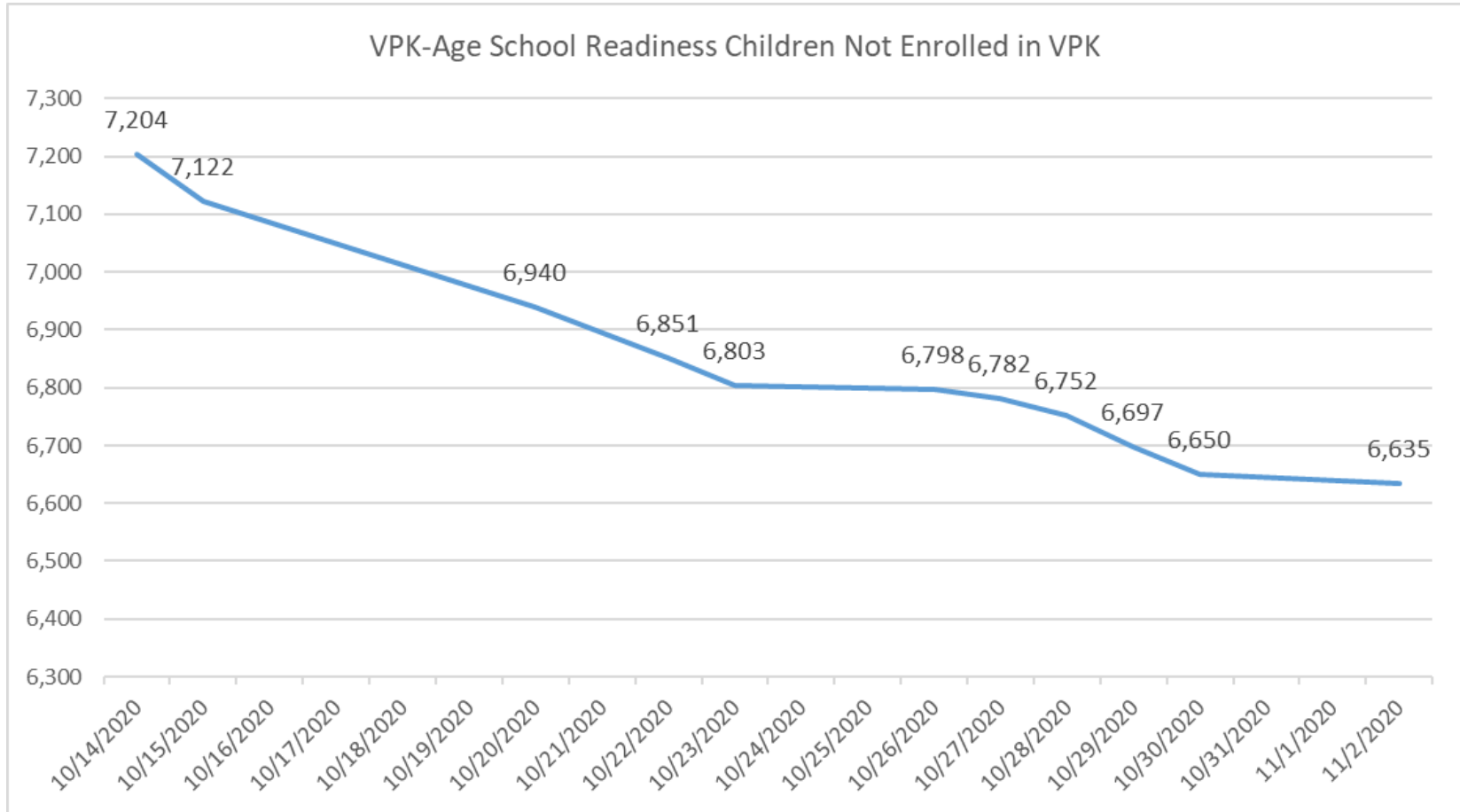
Capacity Data, Current Program Year, FLEX Classrooms			
Active School Year VPK FLEX Classrooms With or Without Enrollments for Program Year 2020-21			
County Name	Providers	Classrooms	Capacity
Brevard	4	4	50
Broward	84	136	2,299
Charlotte	1	1	10
Duval	5	9	152
Hillsborough	104	128	2,551
Lake	1	1	11
Leon	23	30	600
Manatee	1	1	11
Marion	1	1	11
Martin	5	7	140
Miami-Dade	291	637	11,245
Monroe	8	20	382
Orange	13	14	217
Osceola	2	2	40
Palm Beach	78	142	2,704
Pasco	21	45	744
Pinellas	7	15	255
Polk	2	3	60
Seminole	2	4	80
St. Johns	13	30	544
Total	666	1,230	22,106

All active classrooms set up for the 2020-21 VPK School Year as of the 'created date' are counted, regardless if there are any enrollments.

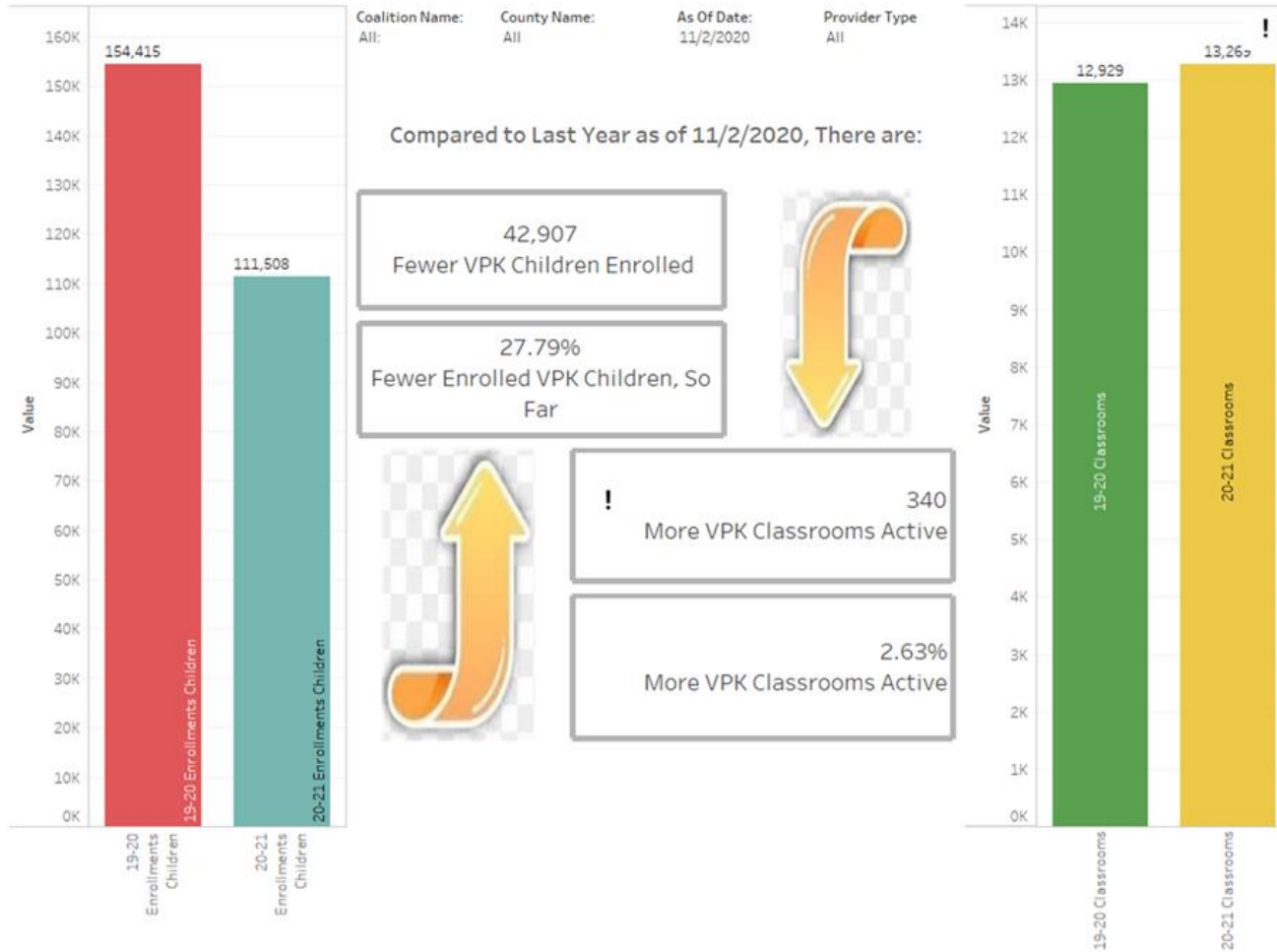
Child counts are based on the capacity of the active classrooms, not on enrollment counts.

From EFS Modernization as of October 27, 2020.

# VPK Enrollment



# VPK Enrollment



\*Does not yet include Miami-Dade Public School enrollments

# Kindergarten Screening Results

## 2019 Kindergarten and 2017-18 VPK Completers - Proficiency by Domain

Domain	2019 All Kindergartens	2017-18 VPK Completers
Visual Discrimination	68.1%	72.3%
Concept of Words	59.4%	63.8%
Alphabetic Principle	58.4%	62.6%
Vocabulary	38.4%	42.1%
Phonemic Awareness	37.4%	41.2%
Phonics	35.5%	39.2%
Early Numeracy	55.5%	59.8%

# Professional Development

**Goal:** Provide more guidance and support for science of reading professional development for PreK-Grade 3 teachers, aligned to the Reading Endorsement.

## VPK Available Resources

- Free or low-cost training available from the Department of Education/Office of Early Learning at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training>
  - Emergent Literacy
  - Integrating Phonological Awareness
  - Language and Vocabulary Development



# Professional Development Continued....

## VPK Available Resources Continued

- **Early Learning Standards website** with resources for teachers and families  
<http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com>
  - Activity Plans
  - Preschool Booklist
  - Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards Crosswalks Preschool through Grade 3
- **Bright Beginnings website** with resources and tools that teachers may use to meet the individual needs of children in the VPK classroom  
<https://brightbeginningsfl.org>

# Professional Development Continued....

## PreK-Grade 3 Resources

- **Literacy Matrix (Lastinger Center)**  
<https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/literacy/literacy-matrix/>
  - Full Reading Endorsement for elementary teachers
- **BEESS [www.fl-pda.org](http://www.fl-pda.org)**
  - Competency 4: Differentiated Reading Instruction
- **[Teaching Foundational Reading Skills MOOC-Ed \(FREE\)](#)**
  - Course for teachers to effectively prepare students in grades K–3 with the skills they need to become successful readers.

# Professional Development Continued....

## PreK-Grade 3 Resources Continued

- **Targeted and statewide PreK/K Language and Vocabulary Development Modules (REL-SE partnership)**
  - Targeted: for select providers on probation and lowest performing elementary schools' coaches and teachers
  - Statewide: ELC/district leaders and coaches (teacher self-study/PLC model)
- **Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding K-3**
  - Practice Guide
  - Professional Learning Community Facilitator's Guide
  - Tips for Supporting Reading Skills at Home
  - New REL Tool: A Kindergarten Teacher's Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills

# Questions?



Shan Goff and Melinda Webster

Office of Early Learning

250 Marriott Drive | Tallahassee, FL 32399

850-717-8550 | Toll Free 866-357-3239



[www.floridaearlylearning.com](http://www.floridaearlylearning.com)

