



Voluntary Prekindergarten Frequently Asked Questions

1 Is my child eligible to attend the school year VPK Program in August?

Any child who reaches the age of four on or before September 1 and lives in the State of Florida is eligible for VPK. **NOTE:** A new law took effect on July 1, 2016; they are extending VPK eligibility for 4 year-olds for children with birthdays from February 2 through September 1 in a calendar year. Parents can enroll their child in the state's free, voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) education program that year or wait until the following year when their child is five. If a parent opts to delay VPK to the next year, they understand that their child will not attend the 2018-2019 school year. Their child will attend VPK in 2019-2020. Students are **only** eligible to participate in **one** program year of VPK. Please click here for an FAQ provided by the Office of Early Learning. Once your child has started the VPK program, you are no longer eligible to delay your child's enrollment to the following year.

2 Do I need to complete a school choice application for VPK if I am out of zone?

No, school choice does not apply to the VPK program in Osceola County it is only for grades K-12.

3 Where can I obtain an Osceola County Schools VPK Application?

The application can be found on our osceolaschools.net website.

4 How do I get a certificate?

The Certificate of Eligibility is currently available for the 2018-2019 school year. It is issued on-line through the Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C) Office. To receive a VPK Certificate of Eligibility parents must complete an online application and upload required documents at <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/>. Should you need assistance or do not have access to a computer and scanner, please go to the Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C) Office located at 2220 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway Unit #7 Kissimmee, FL 34744 Phone: (321) 219-6300, Monday - Friday (8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.).

- **You must have a valid email address (Yahoo and Gmail offer free email accounts). Additionally, you must take your child's original birth certificate (or a certified copy) and proof of residency for the certificate to be issued. It is also required that the parent or guardian be present. You may not send someone else as a representative.**

5 What do I do once I get the Certificate of Eligibility?

The Certificate of Eligibility must be turned in to the Early Childhood Education Center located at 1200 Vermont Ave St. Cloud, Florida 34769 ***on the day of your appointment.*** **We will not be accepting the Certificates of Eligibility prior to your appointment.** *NOTE: Any Student on the class list without a certificate may lose that position and will be replaced by another student.*

6 Is there a cost for VPK?

The Voluntary Prekindergarten program is completely free of charge but you must provide the Certificate of Eligibility. There are several sites that provide extended hours for a fee.

7 What about attending the extended learning program?

Parents may arrange Extended Learning Program (ELP) services for before and after school care directly with the ELP contact at the assigned school.

8 What happens if the program is full and my child cannot attend?

Each class may have no more than 20 children. If your first selection is full then your second selection will be reviewed for availability, if your selection is also full then your third selection will be reviewed if this selection is also at capacity then your fourth selection will be granted.

9 What are the hours and calendar of VPK?

The Voluntary Prekindergarten program operates on the school calendar and with each school's regular hours.

10 Do I need to register with the school?

NO. All VPK children must register at the Early Childhood Education Center in order to attend class. Children may not attend prior to providing all required documentation.

11 What documentation do I need to register?

You may enroll your child only if the Certificate of Eligibility has been received and you provide the following documents at your registration appointment:

- Parent or guardian identification
- Original Birth Certificate or a Certified Copy
- 2 Proofs of Residency (one must be an updated lease or mortgage statement, if you don't have either please contact the department of Student Services at 407-870-4897).
- Florida Immunization Records
- School Physical
- Social Security Number (optional)
- SDOC Employee ID Number

12 Where does my child attend VPK?

Where your child attends is strictly up to you; preschools, faith-based programs, family childcare homes and early learning facilities all participate in the VPK Program. VPK enrollment is based on the county in which you want to attend, NOT on which county you live. You may live in the surrounding county and enroll your child in an Osceola County center through the ELC of Osceola County. You may NOT use an ELC of Osceola certificate/voucher for a provider in another county.

13 What if my child can't be served during the school year?

All children whose parents so desire will be given the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program. If there are children who cannot be served during the school year, a summer VPK program will be provided. The school district must serve all children who have not participated in the school year VPK program during the summer prior to their kindergarten year, if the parent so requests.

14 What is the ½-Day Program?

The State provides funding for 540 hours for the school year program. The ½-Day Program provides the 540-hour program for 3 hours per day for the 180 school days. This is ½ day only for the entire school year.

15 What is the Title I Program?

This is a combination of VPK State funds and Federal Title I funds being used to provide a full day, full year program to students who qualify for the program. To qualify for this program, you must apply and submit documentation listed on Part 2 of Application. Additionally, your child will participate in an on-site screening process as a part of the eligibility determination. Students will be selected and notified of placement provided the screening has taken place in a timely manner. If not, we will move to the next child on the list. This service is available to Title I schools only. These schools are listed in the **VPK Sites** section of this website.

16 Can I transfer my child to another provider?

The State of Florida allows each VPK enrollee to make ONE transfer only, during the school year. Be sure to visit the center where you want your child to attend to reduce the need for a transfer. You must provide the name of the new center where you want your child to attend and you will be given a transfer certificate at the Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C) Office located at 2220 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway Unit #7 Kissimmee, FL 34744 Phone: (321) 219-6300, Monday - Friday (8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.).

17 What are appropriate causes for a parent to dis-enroll a child?

The following are examples of appropriate reasons for dis-enrolling your child: medical reasons, job transfer, and changing home address.

18 Will it present a problem if a parent chooses not to enroll their child in VPK when the child enters kindergarten?

No, participation is voluntary. Many parents choose to provide school readiness activities at home.

19 What happens if a parent removes their child from the program for a vacation? Depending on the length of the vacation and the Providers' attendance policy, the parent and child could lose their opportunity to participate in the VPK program. Parents must know this before they enroll their child and choose their VPK program accordingly.

20 Transportation:

Transportation is not provided for VPK Students. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children arrive safely and in a timely manner per the VPK program requirements.