

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF OCEOLA COUNTY

VPK PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

ITEM: 510A.06

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2.4.26

REVISED: N/A

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POLICY STATEMENT

This policy establishes the Coalition's standards and procedures for monitoring, implementing, and supporting the VPK Program Assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to measure the quality of teacher-child interactions that are strongly linked to positive child outcomes and to ensure continuous improvement in instructional practices across all VPK classrooms.

PROCEDURE

1. For school-year programs, program assessments must be conducted no earlier than fifteen (15) instructional days after the program start date.
2. For summer programs, program assessments shall be conducted no earlier than five (5) instructional days after the program start date.
3. Each coalition must ensure all program assessments, including second program assessments, are conducted before the scheduled program end date.
 - a. All observers must have a current certification required by the vendor to conduct a classroom observation with validity and reliability. To the extent possible observers must have the ability to speak, understand, and write in the language of the classrooms they are observing.
 - b. Observers must enter and save all dimension scores and notes into the FDOE-approved vendor system (WELS), within five (5) business days of conducting a classroom observation.
 - c. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the observation being completed, the coalition must notify VPK providers of their composite program assessment score and score for each observed VPK classroom and provide VPK providers with the classroom observation notes. An observation is considered complete when the observer has entered the classroom observation data into the FDOE-approved system (WELS).
 - d. VPK classrooms organized as a multi-class group, as defined in Rule 6M-8.400, F.A.C., must have one (1) classroom observation completed, and the resulting classroom observation score will be used for each classroom in the composite program assessment score calculation.

Contract Minimum Threshold

The minimum composite program assessment score a VPK program must achieve is 4.00. A provider's school-year and summer VPK programs are considered separately.

- a. VPK providers that score below the contract minimum threshold based on their composite program assessment score may request, from the coalition, a second program assessment within the same program type and year at the provider's expense. Providers must provide payment to the coalition for the second program assessment prior to the program assessment being conducted.
- b. A second program assessment for a VPK classroom or classrooms, must be requested from the coalition in writing, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the composite program assessment score. For second program assessments, each requested classroom will be observed, and its score will replace the previous score to calculate a new composite program assessment score.
- c. For the requested classrooms, if the originally assessed teacher is no longer active in their assigned VPK classroom, and a new teacher has been moved there from another assigned VPK classroom, both classrooms will be reassessed, and the new VPK classroom scores will replace the previous ones.

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Re-entry Pathway

A provider that scores below the contract minimum threshold of 4.00 cannot participate in the VPK Program the following year or in any future year until it has sat out a full program year as defined in Rule 6M-8.100(9), F.A.C., and successfully completed the re-entry pathway.

To requalify for participation in the VPK program a provider must:

- a. Notify the coalition of its desire to provide the VPK program at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to anticipated contract execution.
- b. Obtain a re-entry composite program assessment score, valid for one (1) year, issued by coalition or FDOE-approved vendor observers at or above the contract minimum threshold, based on one (1) of the following methods:
 1. Most recent observations for School Readiness (SR) preschool classrooms at a current SR provider that serves 3- to- 5-year-old children.
 2. Most recent observations for the provider's other VPK program type (e.g., a summer VPK composite program assessment score for schoolyear VPK program) or
 3. Most recent observations completed in all the provider's preschool classrooms with 3-to- 5-year-old children. The provider bears responsibility for the cost of this re-entry program assessment and is limited to two (2) re-entry program assessment requests per year.
- c. Meet all VPK requirements in accordance with ss. 1002.55, 1002.61 and 1002.63, F.S., as applicable.

Special Considerations

In the event of a change of ownership, sale, sale of assets, conveyance of ownership, or other transfer of ownership interest that requires a VPK provider to execute a new VPK Provider Contract per subsection 6M-8.301(9), F.A.C., the provider may submit a request to the coalition to retain the existing composite program assessment score if at least 50% of VPK classrooms and their assigned instructors that were previously assessed remain the same. If the provider elects not to retain the existing score, the provider is required to obtain a program assessment pursuant to subsection (2) of this rule. If 25% or fewer of the VPK program hours remain at the time of the ownership change, a program assessment is not required until the consecutive program year.

Observations conducted in VPK classrooms during participation in the School Readiness program assessment under Rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., that meet the requirements of this rule, may be used for meeting contract minimum threshold, provided the observation was conducted within VPK program hours.

Composite Program Assessment Score Calculation

The composite program assessment score will be calculated using the combined average of the dimension scores, excluding negative climate scores, from each VPK classroom's observation and will be rounded to two (2) decimal places.

All active VPK classrooms registered in the Provider Portal for each VPK provider must be observed to calculate the composite program assessment score.

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Program Assessment Scheduling

In scheduling a program assessment, coalitions or their designees must select a two (2)-week window when a VPK provider's regular activities are occurring, and allow the provider to choose up to three (3) days the provider is not available for observation

If the provider experiences a temporary closure, as defined in Rule 6M-8.204, F.A.C., on the day it is scheduled to be observed, the provider must request to reschedule the program assessment within two (2) weeks of the original program assessment.

If the coalition-approved lead VPK instructor, aide, substitute, and VPK director have an extenuating circumstance which causes all to be absent from a classroom on the day it is scheduled to be observed, the observer must reschedule the program assessment within two (2) weeks of the original program assessment. A provider should notify the observer as soon as the provider is aware of any extenuating circumstance which would cause rescheduling of the program assessment