

Guide to Calculating Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Provider Performance Metrics and Designations



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Questions?

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Overview

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Provider Accountability creates a set of policies and practices that will be used to measure and hold providers accountable for quality instruction that leads to child learning growth and kindergarten readiness, and to prompt and support improvement where necessary. An accountability system:

- Sets a clear expectation that providers must raise achievement.
- Communicates to families and the public whether providers are meeting those expectations.
- Celebrates providers that are above expectations, and prompts action in those that are not.
- Directs additional resources and supports to low-performing providers to help them improve.

The VPK provider performance metric and designations provide the public an understandable method for measuring the performance of each VPK provider on quality classroom instruction, child achievement and child learning gains. The Florida Department of Education developed the methodology for VPK Provider Accountability using data from the 2022-2023 VPK program year.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a description of the procedures used to determine the VPK provider performance metric and designation for all VPK providers as set forth in Rule 6M-8.622, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes (F.S.). This guide does not replace or supersede the rule or statute.

VPK Provider Performance Metric Components

Beginning with the 2024-25 VPK program year, each VPK provider will receive a performance metric and performance designation based on three components: quality classroom instruction, child achievement and child learning gains.

Quality Score

The quality score uses the Composite Program Assessment Score, which is the average of all Division of Early Learning-adopted program assessment dimension scores from VPK classrooms, omitting the negative climate score, as defined in Rule 6M-8.621(1), F.A.C. The quality score accounts for 50% of the total performance metric and is worth up to 50 possible points.

Providers with Composite Program Assessment Scores:

- Below 4.00 receive 0 out of 50 possible points.
- 4.00 to 4.49 receive 5 out of 50 possible points.
- 4.50 to 4.99 receive 10 out of 50 possible points.
- 5.00 to 5.49 receive 20 out of 50 possible points.
- 5.50 to 5.99 receive 30 out of 50 possible points.
- 6.00 to 6.49 receive 40 out of 50 possible points.
- 6.50 to 7.00 receive 50 out of 50 possible points.

Achievement Score

The achievement score is calculated as the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate kindergarten readiness by scoring a 707 Unified Scaled Score (USS) or higher at progress monitoring 3 (PM3) on Star Early Literacy. The achievement score accounts for 20% of the total performance metric and is worth up to 20 possible points.

Learning Gains Score

The learning gains score calculates learning gains as a growth rate based on two factors for the school-year program and summer VPK programs.

- VPK School-Year program: as the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate a growth rate of 12 USS points or more a month or maintain a score within the highest literacy classification (e.g., Probable Reader) at PM1 and PM3.
- VPK Summer program: as the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate a growth rate of 40 USS points or more a month in VPK summer programs or maintain a score within the highest literacy classification (e.g., Probable Reader) at PM1 and PM3.

The learning gains score accounts for 30% of the total performance metric and is worth up to 30 possible points.

Learning gains are calculated by multiplying the percentage of children that meet the expected growth rate by 100 and multiplying the results by 30 percent. The score is expressed as a whole number by rounding a value of .5 or greater up and rounding a value of less than .5 down.

Growth rate is calculated by subtracting each child's progress monitoring one (PM1) score from the child's progress monitoring three (PM3) score, then dividing by the number of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 administration dates and multiplying by 30.

Growth Rate Formula:
$$\text{USS at PM3} - \text{USS at PM1} / \# \text{ of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 test administration dates} * 30$$

Calculating VPK Provider Performance Metrics Using the Three Components

New VPK Provider Accountability will be applied at the end of the 2024-25 VPK program year. The department will calculate a VPK provider performance metric for each provider and will assign each provider a performance designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the VPK school-year and summer programs, respectively. A performance metric will be calculated when a provider has a minimum of four eligible children, meaning children who have completed more than 50% of the total number of instructional hours of the VPK program in the same provider's program. A performance metric is calculated as the sum of the three components: quality score, achievement score and learning gains score. The overall VPK performance metric calculation is displayed in Table 1.

Table 1: Provider Performance Metric Calculation

50% Quality + 30% Learning Gains + 20% Achievement		
CLASS Composite Score	FAST Star Early Literacy	
50% Quality	30% Learning Gains	20% Achievement

VPK Provider Performance Designation

The department will assign each VPK provider a performance designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-year and summer VPK programs, respectively. Designations will be assigned based on the total points earned:

- 61 points or higher equals a designation of “Excellent.”
- 46-60 points equals a designation of "Above Expectations.”
- 28-45 points equals a designation of “Meets Expectations.”
- 16-27 points equals a designation of “Below Expectations.”
- 0-15 points equals a designation of “Unsatisfactory.”

For VPK providers to earn a designation, they must meet the following criteria:

- A provider has sufficient data for all three components, and
- A provider served a minimum of four children who have completed more than 50% of the total number of instructional hours of the VPK program in the same provider’s program.

Providers that do not meet the criteria to calculate a VPK provider performance metric will receive the designation of “Incomplete.”

Transfer of Ownership

When a transfer of ownership occurs, as defined in Rule 6M-8.301(9), F.A.C., and the new private VPK owner has delivered:

- More than fifty (50%) percent of the VPK school-year or summer program instructional hours, the VPK provider performance designation will be binding on the provider.
- Fifty (50%) percent or less of the VPK school-year or summer program instructional hours, the VPK provider performance designation will not be binding on the provider and the provider will be assigned the designation of incomplete.

VPK Provider Performance Designation Distribution

Following development of the methodology for VPK Provider Accountability, the department applied the methodology using 2022-2023 VPK program year data. Tables 2 and 3 below, and the file attached, are for information use only and display the distribution of VPK School-Year and Summer provider performance metrics and designations, were new VPK Provider Accountability applied at the end of the 2022-2023 VPK program year. To review provider level details, use the 2022-2023 VPK Provider Performance Metrics and Designations Results File available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/vpk-accountability>.

Table 2: VPK Provider Performance Designation Distribution of School-Year Providers

Program Designation	Provider Performance Metric	Percent of Providers	Average CLASS Score	Average Learning Gains Per Month	Average Achievement Score
Excellent	61-100	20.7	5.7	17.5	791.3
Above Expectations	46-60	33.5	5.1	14.9	770.09
Meets Expectations	28-45	33.6	4.9	11.2	739.6
Below Expectations	16-27	10.2	4.5	8.9	712.4
Unsatisfactory	0-15	1.9	4.3	7.6	701.2

Table 3: VPK Provider Performance Designation Distribution of Summer Providers

Program Designation	Provider Performance Metric	Percent of Providers	Average CLASS Score	Average Learning Gains Per Month	Average Achievement Score
Excellent	61-100	23.0	5.7	64.2	782.8
Above Expectations	46-60	29.7	5.2	54.5	767.9
Meets Expectations	28-45	35.8	5.0	37.6	732.7
Below Expectations	16-27	10.8	4.7	26.7	704
Unsatisfactory	0-15	0.7	4.2	8.4	688