



School Year VPK Instructor Credential Options

Individuals seeking employment as a VPK instructor for the school year VPK program must meet one of the following credentials. The employer (VPK provider or prospective provider) must provide required documentation to the local early learning coalition in accordance with [Rule 6M-8.300, F.A.C.](#),

| Options | Florida Statutes | Certificate or Degree |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 1 | s.1002.55(3)(c)1.a | Child Development Associate (CDA) credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition and Completion of the VPK training requirements outlined in Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C. , |
| 2 | s.1002.55(3)(c)1.b | Florida Childcare Professional Certificate (FCCPC) Birth through Five Credential and Completion of the VPK training requirements outlined in Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C. , |
| 3 | s.1002.55(4)(b) | A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach children any age from birth through 6 th grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • certificate need not to be current • certificate need not be from Florida, but may not be suspended or revoked |
| 4 | s.1002.55(4)(c) | An associate's or higher degree in child development |
| 5 | s.1002.55(4)(d) | An associates or higher degree in an unrelated field and at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child development and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing child care services for children any age from birth through 8 years of age; |
| 6 | s.1002.55(4)(a) | A bachelor's or higher degree in prekindergarten or primary education |
| 7 | s.1002.55(4)(a) | A bachelor's or higher degree in preschool education |
| 8 | s.1002.55(4)(a) | A bachelor's or higher degree in family and consumer science |
| Options (cont.) | s.1002.55 (4)(e) , Florida Statutes and Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C. | |
| 9 | An associate's or higher degree in early childhood education | |
| 10 | A bachelor's or higher degree in family and child sciences and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing child care services for children any age from birth through 8 years of age; | |
| 11 | A bachelor's degree or higher in exceptional student education or special education | |
| 12 | A bachelor's degree or higher in mental disabilities, mentally handicapped or mentally impaired | |
| 13 | A bachelor's degree or higher in specific learning disabilities | |
| 14 | A bachelor's degree or higher in physically impaired | |
| 15 | A bachelor's degree or higher in varying exceptionalities | |
| 16 | A bachelor's degree or higher in emotional disabilities | |
| 17 | A bachelor's degree or higher in deaf or hard of hearing or hearing impaired | |
| 18 | A bachelor's degree or higher in speech-language pathology, speech-language impaired or speech correction | |
| Options (cont.) | s. 1002.55 (4)(e) , Florida Statutes and Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C. A valid license issued by the Florida Department of Health to serve as a: | |
| 19 | Physical therapist | |
| 20 | Speech language pathologist | |

School Year VPK Instructor Credential Options (Continued)

| Options (cont.) | Florida Statutes: s. 1002.55 (4)(e) and Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C. A valid Temporary or Professional Florida Educator's Certificate in the area of: |
|--------------------|---|
| 21 | Prekindergarten/primary education (age three through grade three); |
| 22 | Preschool education (birth through age four); |
| 23 | Elementary education (grades 1-6) or (Kindergarten through grade 6); |
| 24 | Early childhood education (nursery through kindergarten); |
| 25 | Primary education (Kindergarten through grade 3); |
| 26 | Prekindergarten/primary education (age three through grade three); |
| 27 | Preschool education (birth through age four); |
| 28 | Exceptional student education (grades K-12); |
| 29 | Deaf or hard of hearing or hearing impaired (grades K-12); |
| 30 | Speech-language impaired or speech-language impaired associate (grades K-12); |
| 31 | Prekindergarten disabilities (endorsement); |
| 32 | Physically impaired (grades K-12); |
| 33 | Mentally handicapped (grades K-12); |
| 34 | Specific learning disabilities (grades K-12); |
| 35 | Varying exceptionalities (grades K-12); or, |
| 36 | Emotionally handicapped (grades K-12). |

CDA-Child Development Associate
 DCF-Department of Children and Families
 *Recommended for all VPK instructors

FCCPC-Birth-5 Florida Child Care Professional Credential
 DOE-Department of Education



Fall VPK Supporting Documents

- Copy of Current DCF License or License Exemption
- Copy of Gold Seal Certificate (if applicable)
- Copy of Accreditation Certificate (if applicable)
- Director Credential or valid certificate in education leadership issued by the Florida Department of Education.
- If you have a Director credential you must also have the following DEL course trainings:
 - ✦ Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten
 - ✦ Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors
 - ✦ Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners
 - ✦ Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom
 - ✦ VPK Director Credential Course
- If you have a valid certificate in education leadership issued by the Florida Department of Education:
 - ✦ No additional courses are needed
- For VPK Lead Instructors (regardless of the credential/degree type) you must have the following DEL trainings:
 - ✦ Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten and

Three of the 5-hour emergent literacy courses to satisfy the emergent literacy requirement:

- ✦ Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors (*Completed after July 1, 2018)
- ✦ Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom (*Completed after July 1, 2018)
- ✦ Phonological Awareness Development for Preschoolers
- ✦ Dialogic Reading: Language and Vocabulary Development for Preschoolers

- ✦ Book Embedded Vocabulary Instruction: Language and Vocabulary Development for Preschoolers
- ✦ Scaffolding and Think, Show, Tell, Talk: Language and Vocabulary Development for Preschoolers
- ✦ Building a Strong Foundation for Emergent Literacy or

Successful completion of one of the following courses can fulfill the emergent literacy course requirements:

- ✦ Preschool Language Development- **Flamingo Early Learning**
- ✦ The Building Blocks of Preschool Literacy- **Flamingo Early Learning** or
- ✦ Completion of **Competency 1** of the Florida Reading Endorsement

For Competency 1 of the Reading Endorsement:

- ✦ Can only be approved for someone who has a teaching certificate issued by the Florida Department of Education
 - ✦ Teachers who have the Reading Endorsement by way of the Department of Education Endorsement Exam would not have completed Competency 1 course work and therefore would need to meet the course requirement by completing the 15 hours of emergent literacy course work.
- Copy of Level 2 Background Screening
 - Attestation of Good Moral Character
 - Create a Fall VPK Calendar with exactly 540 hours of service as indicated on your current VPK application.
- ✦