



Instructional Hours for the VPK Program

PURPOSE

To define what constitutes instructional hours for the VPK program.

REFERENCES

Sections 1002.55(2), 1002.61(2), 1002.63(2), 1002.67(2)(b), and 1008.25, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
Rule 6M-8.410, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

AUTHORITY

Reference to any laws, rules, and regulations in this guidance document includes revisions to those laws and regulations made after the effective date of this guidance document.

BACKGROUND

Florida Statutes require a school-year VPK program to comprise 540 instructional hours (ss. 1002.55(2) and 1002.63(2), F.S.) and a summer VPK program to comprise 300 instructional hours (s. 1002.61(2), F.S.).

As used in the VPK program, the term “instructional hour” means:

1. Planned learning activities or experiences that implement curricula.

Sixty consecutive or nonconsecutive minutes of instructional time in planned activities or experiences that implement a private provider’s or public school’s curricula for the VPK program. In accordance with s. 1002.67(2)(b), F.S., these planned activities or experiences must be developmentally appropriate and must:

- a. *Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and provide for instruction in early math skills;*
- b. *Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in attaining the performance standards adopted by the department;*
- c. *Support student learning gains through differentiated instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.25(9), F.S.*

2. Instructor is engaged in activities or experiences.

THE CREDENTIALED OR SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR, AS DEFINED IN S. 1002.55(3)(E), F.S., AND RULE 6M-8.410, F.A.C., MUST BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVITIES OR EXPERIENCES BY TEACHING, GUIDING, INTERACTING, SUPPORTING, OR ACTIVELY OBSERVING THE ACTIVITIES OR EXPERIENCES THROUGHOUT THE INSTRUCTIONAL TIME. PLANNING PERIODS OR STAFF BREAKS CANNOT COINCIDE WITH INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

NON-COMPLIANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Whether through monitoring or by report, if an early learning coalition finds non-compliance with private or public school VPK program requirements, results must be included in appropriate monitoring reports. Corrective action and/or revocation of provider eligibility must be clearly

documented and issued in accordance with statute and rule. The intended action must be resolved timely.

HISTORY

Issued July 1, 2016. Reissued July 1, 2017. Reissued July 1, 2018. Reissued July 1, 2019. Reissued July 1, 2020. Reissued July 1, 2021. Reissued July 1, 2022. Reissued July 1, 2023. Reissued July 1, 2024.

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