



Florida Office of Early Learning Florida Department of Education

Rick Scott
Governor
Shan Goff
Director
Dr. Tony Bennett
Commissioner

Date: April 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors, Early Learning Coalitions; Exceptional Student Education Directors, School Districts; and Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction, School Districts

FROM: Shan Goff, Director, Office of Early Learning
Pam Stewart, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools

SUBJECT: Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Specialized Instructional Services

The Office of Early Learning (OEL), in partnership with the Florida Department of Education (DOE), is pleased to announce a new program type created by the Florida Legislature within the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education program. The Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) program was created for children with disabilities who are eligible for the VPK program and who have Individual Educational Plans (IEPs).

As an alternative to traditional classroom instruction in the VPK program, a child enrolled in the SIS program receives services consistent with his or her IEP. These services include, but are not limited to, applied behavior analysis, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and listening and spoken language services. Parents may select one or more approved SIS providers.

This new program is jointly administered by OEL and DOE. OEL, via the early learning coalitions, determines the eligibility of children and enrolls them in the VPK SIS program and reimburses SIS providers. DOE approves and maintains a list of SIS providers and notifies school districts and early learning coalitions of the approved provider list.

For questions regarding the administration policies and procedures of the VPK SIS program, please contact Todd Twilley, OEL, 850-717-8624, todd.twilley@oel.myflorida.com. For questions regarding approval of providers for the VPK SIS program, please contact Dr. Tara Huls, DOE/Bureau of Voluntary Prekindergarten, 850-245-0445, tara.huls@fldoe.org. An overview of the VPK SIS program will be offered via WebEx on April 12, 2013, and repeated on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Parents interested in the VPK SIS program can call OEL toll free at 1-866-FL-READY (357-3239) for further information on eligibility, registration, and enrollment or an early learning coalition's contact information. Alternatively, parents can access an early learning coalition's contact information on the OEL website's Early Learning Coalition Directory at http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/OEL_Coalitions_Map.html. Local early learning coalitions will assist parents with questions about eligibility and enrollment in the VPK SIS program. Individuals interested in providing specialized instructional services can contact DOE for information on becoming an approved SIS provider at 1-866-447-1159 or at www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/sis-providers.asp.

cc: Beth Moore, Chief, Bureau of Voluntary Prekindergarten
Monica Verra-Tirado, Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
Michael Kooi, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice
Inclusion Specialists, Early Learning Coalitions

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