

EARLY LEARNING GUIDANCE

Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

Date: May 23, 2016

Subject: Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

Contact: email VPKquestions@oel.myflorida.com or call 1-866-447-1159

The information that follows provides guidance to help determine if a **non-licensed private provider** is eligible to provide the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

According to Section (s.) 1002.55(3)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be eligible to offer VPK, private providers must either

- be licensed as a child care facility under s. 402.305, F.S., family day care home under s. 402.313, F.S., or large family child care home under s. 402.3131, F.S.; or
- be licensed exempt under s. 402.3025(2), F.S. (for nonpublic schools) or s. 402.316, F.S. (for faith-based providers), **and**
 - hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281, F.S.;
 - **or** be accredited by an accrediting association that is a member of
 - National Council for Private School Accreditation
 - The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools;
 - **or** be accredited by
 - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
 - Western Association of Colleges and Schools
 - North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
 - Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
 - New England Association of Colleges and Schools

How to Verify Gold Seal Designations

If a facility has an accreditation from one of the **Gold Seal** accrediting agencies, they have to apply for Gold Seal with Department of Children and Families. You can see if an accrediting agency is approved for Gold Seal by checking <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/goldseal>.

How to Verify Accrediting Association Members

To check if an accrediting association is a member of

The National Council for Private School Accreditation

visit http://www.ncpsa.org/accrediting_agencies/members.

The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools

visit <http://www.faans.org/accrediting.html>.

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Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

How to Verify Accreditation

To check if a facility is accredited by

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <http://www.sacs.org> and select the SACS/CASI option.

The Western Association of Colleges and Schools

visit http://www.acswasc.org/directory_search.cfm.

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <http://www.advanc-ed.org/oasis2/u/par/search>.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

visit http://www.msa-cess.org/RelId/606553/ISvars/default/Search_Our_Members.htm.

The New England Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <https://www.neasc.org/find-member-schools>.