



## Florida VPK

### School Year VPK Instructor Requirements

**1. What are the options for serving as a VPK Instructor during the school year?**

In addition to what is found in statute, the department has approved several other educational credentials in [Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C.](#) All options can be found on the last 2 pages of this document and are the same for both private providers and public schools. An individual employer's requirements may exceed those required by the state.

**2. What are the VPK instructor training requirements for school-year instructors outlined in [Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.](#)?**

VPK instructors with a CDA or equivalent [s.1002.55\(3\)\(c\)2](#) are required to complete training on emergent literacy and performance standards. The current versions of the approved training are

- Emergent Literacy training: *Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors* (online, title remains the same, but a new version is available Fall 2018)
- Performance Standards training: *Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten* (online or instructor-led, both new for Summer 2018)

**It is strongly recommended that VPK Instructors who became qualified under earlier versions of the approved emergent literacy or performance standards training take the new versions of the training.**

Please note that individual employer requirements may exceed the training requirements for VPK instructors outlined in [Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.](#)

**3. Are VPK instructors with an Associate's degree or higher required to take the trainings outlined above?**

No. **However, it is strongly recommended that all VPK instructors complete the most current training on emergent literacy and performance standards.** Please note that individual employer requirements may exceed the training requirements for VPK instructors outlined in [Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.](#)

**4. Where can I register for these training courses?**

Register for the courses on the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Training System: <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/student/site/admin/login.jsf>

Online training courses (5 hours) cost \$10.00 and the instructor-led training above (3 hours) is free.

**5. Where can I find information about the performance standards for which these trainings are based?**

Both of the trainings outlined above are based on the performance standards adopted in 2017, Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Kindergarten and the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten. The standards website, <http://fibt5.floridaearlylearning.com/>, contains the standards, examples of the standards, instructional strategies, videos of the standards in action and resources for families. Plan to visit this site often as new content is added.



**6. Are the requirements to teach VPK the same during the school year and the summer?**

No. The instructional time allotted to cover the VPK Education Performance Standards is 540 hours during the school-year program compared to 300 hours during the summer program. This time difference requires a more intensive and concentrated instructional program during the summer. As a result, Florida Statutes provide different requirements for instructor credentials differ for the school year ([s.1002.55](#)) and summer ([s.1002.61](#)) VPK programs.

Most notably, instructors in a summer VPK program must be certified teachers or must hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree with a specified major or certification, while instructors in a school-year program may hold a CDA, CDAE, or an associate's or higher degree in a specified area or other equivalency with specific course credits.

Because of these differences in credentialing requirements, it is imperative that prospective VPK instructors and their employers review the information relating to the program for which they plan to teach.

**7. Is an applicant who has a degree which is not listed as an equivalent degree, but who has taken electives in child development or early childhood education, eligible as a VPK instructor?**

Perhaps. If an applicant has an associate's degree or higher in an unrelated field, at least 6 credits in early childhood education or child development, and 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing child care services for children any age from birth through 8 years of age, that individual is qualified as an instructor for a school year VPK program.

**8. Must a prospective VPK instructor have a DCF Staff Credential?**

No, it is not required but it is permissible.

**9. Where do I obtain a valid Temporary or Professional Florida Educator Certificate?**

From Florida's [Bureau of Educator Certification](#). Their phone number is 1-800-445-6739.

**10. What type of documents must a potential VPK instructor provide to meet the requirement of 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing childcare services for children any age birth through 8 years of age?**

A letter from your employer on letterhead will suffice, but is not the only type of permissible documentation.

**11. Can an individual have more than one educational credential?**

Yes.

**12. If an individual was approved as a VPK instructor in one early learning coalition and moved to another coalition, is it necessary to reestablish eligibility with the new coalition?**

Yes.



**VPK Instructor Credential Options – School Year**

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 outlined in [Rule 6M-8.300, F.A.C.](#)

Options	Florida Statutes	Certificate or Degree
1	<a href="#">s.1002.55(3)(c)1.a</a>	Child Development Associate (CDA) credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition <b>and</b> Completion of the VPK training requirements outlined in <a href="#">Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.</a>
2	<a href="#">s.1002.55(3)(c)1.b</a>	Florida Childcare Professional Certificate (FCCPC) Birth through Five Credential <b>and</b> Completion of the VPK training requirements outlined in <a href="#">Rule 6M-8.615, F.A.C.</a>
3	<a href="#">s.1002.55(4)(b)</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certificate need not to be current</li> <li>• certificate need not be from Florida, but may not be suspended or revoked</li> </ul>
4	<a href="#">s.1002.55(4)(c)</a>	An associate's or higher degree in child development
5	<a href="#">s.1002.55(4)(d)</a>	An associates or higher degree in an unrelated field <b>and</b> at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child development <b>and</b> 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	<a href="#">s.1002.55(4)(a)</a>	A bachelor's or higher degree in prekindergarten or primary education
7	<a href="#">s.1002.55(4)(a)</a>	A bachelor's or higher degree in preschool education
8	<a href="#">s.1002.55(4)(a)</a>	A bachelor's or higher degree in family and consumer science
Options (cont.)	<a href="#">s.1002.55 (4)(e)</a> , Florida Statutes and <a href="#">Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C.</a>	
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.)	<a href="#">s. 1002.55 (4)(e)</a> , Florida Statutes and <a href="#">Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C.</a> A valid license issued by the <a href="#">Florida Department of Health</a> to serve as a:	
19	Physical therapist	
20	Speech language pathologist	

Additional options on next page.



**VPK Instructor Credential Options – School Year (Continued)**

Options (cont.)	Florida Statutes: <a href="#">s. 1002.55 (4)(e)</a> and <a href="#">Rule 6A-4.01411, F.A.C.</a> 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