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Ryan Petty
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Contact Information:

Cassandra Jackson
850-717-8583
Cassandra.Jackson@oel.myflorida.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Executive Directors
All Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Contracted Providers

FROM: Matthew H. Mears

DATE: January 28, 2022

SUBJECT: VPK Director Credential for Private Providers

All Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Directors must complete the [Florida Director Credential](#) program and five additional training courses in accordance with [Rule 6M-8.610](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). This training must be completed in order for a VPK program to be eligible for contracting in the 2022-2023 program year.

Prior to the passage of House Bill (HB) 419 and HB 7011 in the 2021 regular legislative session, directors who were issued a Florida Director Credential before December 31, 2006, were considered exempt from the VPK Director Credential requirement. But, the Legislature removed this exemption. Thus, continuing prekindergarten directors who were previously exempt from the VPK Director Credential requirement must now complete all requirements to obtain a VPK Director Credential in accordance with [section 1002.55\(3\)\(g\), Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#).

This legislative change became effective on July 1, 2021. Through this memorandum, the Department of Education, Division of Early Learning (DEL) is giving notice of this new requirement and strongly recommends all prekindergarten directors at private provider programs meet this requirement as soon as possible. All private VPK Providers must have a director with a current VPK Director Credential to be eligible for contracting in the 2022-2023 program year.

To receive a VPK Director Credential, individuals must complete the [Florida Director Credential](#) program and five additional training courses which includes the most current performance standards training: Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms 3 Years Old to Kindergarten, in accordance with [Rule 6M-8.610](#), F.A.C. New standards were adopted by DEL in 2017. Training on the prior standards will not satisfy this requirement. Thus, all directors must complete the training on the current standards that were adopted in 2017. All required training courses are available online through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Training

MATTHEW H. MEARS

CHANCELLOR, DIVISION OF EARLY LEARNING

250 MARRIOTT DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399 • 850-717-8550 • Toll Free 866-357-3239 • www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com

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System. Additional information regarding the updated VPK Director Credential for can be found in the attached document titled Director Credential VPK Director Endorsement. After completing all training requirements, VPK Directors will automatically be issued the VPK Director Credential on their child care training transcript. Directors will receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) upon completion of each course, and the completed courses will be added to the director's training transcript.

Additionally, statutory changes following the passage of HB 419 include the provision that states a private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in educational leadership issued by the Florida Department of Education satisfies the requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under [section 1002.57, F.S.](#)

MHM/cj

Attachment: Director Credential VPK Director Endorsement