VPK Flexible Innovative Options for Private Providers
2020-21 School Year

August 25 - 28, 2020
VPK Flexible Innovative Options

Agenda

• Goals of Program
• Participation Requirements
• Assurances
• Decision Considerations
• Application Process
• Next Steps
• Questions
Flexible, innovative instructional options for delivering the 2020-2021 School Year VPK Program by VPK private providers are available through December 31, 2020 for qualified providers.

This is an added feature to in-person instruction, but not a replacement. This flexibility will ensure that:

- VPK programs are open to enable learning to continue and allow parents to rejoin the workforce.
- Choices for VPK parents that mirror those choices that K-12 parents now have via FDOE approved Plans for Reopening.
- Structure safeguards that will encourage and shift families to in-person learning.
Eligibility requirements include:

- **Private providers** must be open, offering in-person VPK, in order to leverage this innovative option for families who choose it.

- **Private providers** must be in good standing with the Statewide VPK Provider Contract and have no Class 1 Violations within the last two years.

- **Private providers** must have alignment with the school district’s approved reopening plan and the options, if offered, for K-12 students.
  - If the district’s approved school reopening plan includes a flexible, innovative delivery option, VPK private providers may apply to offer a similar option.
VPK Flexible Innovative Options

Phase 1 Counties

• Approved Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach private VPK providers may deliver their VPK program consistent with their school district’s approved K-12 reopening plans.

• Given the current Department of Health directives, approved Monroe private VPK providers may also deliver their VPK program consistent with their school district’s approved K-12 reopening plans.

• All flexible, innovation options must meet the existing statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., hours of instruction, alignment of curriculum, qualifications of the instructor, etc.) outlined in the Assurances.
Phase 2 Counties

• For all remaining counties, in-person instruction is preferable. However, approved private VPK providers may deliver their VPK program consistent with their school district’s approved K-12 reopening plans.

• All flexible, innovative options must meet the existing statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., hours of instruction, alignment of curriculum, qualifications of the instructor, etc.) outlined in the Assurances.
Submission of Assurances and implementing information regarding:

- Equitable access.
- Required 540 hours (270 FLEX, 270 in-person) of instruction by qualified staff.
- Daily attendance and family contact.
- Developmentally appropriate instruction aligned with the VPK standards.
- Progress monitoring and reporting of student performance.
- Training for staff, students and parents.
- Privacy and security.
- Access for ELC and OEL staff for monitoring purposes.
VPK Flexible Innovative Options

Assurances (See Attachment)

• **Assurance 1:** The ELC will ensure that flexibility proposed for the fall 2020 VPK School Year Program is consistent with the district’s 2020-21 *Optional Innovative Reopening Plan* approved by the Department of Education.

• **Assurance 2:** The private provider will ensure that participating students will have equal access to the learning and any required materials, including technology.
Assurances

• **Assurance 3:** The private provider will ensure that the 2020-21 School Year program delivers the required 540 hours of instruction by qualified staff *(s. 1002.63, F.S.)* including daily contact with students and families. The flexible, innovative model shall not exceed a total of 270 hours.

  *The provider **must allow students attending the flexible, innovative program in fall 2020 to return to the face-to-face delivery model for the remainder of the school year program** and plan accordingly considering the provider’s space capacity.*

• **Assurance 4:** The private provider will maintain the ability to track daily attendance of both students and staff. *(s.1002.71, F.S. and 6M-8.305, F.A.C.)*

• **Assurance 5:** The ELC and private provider will ensure that tools used in the innovative option are aligned with VPK standards and are developmentally appropriate. *(s. 1002.67, F.S)* *(Describe the tools to be used and upload examples of instructional plans under Documents in the VPK Flex Application folder.)*
Assurances

• **Assurance 6:** The private provider will monitor the student’s performance towards meeting the VPK standards using the VPK Assessment. *(s. 1002.67, F.S)*

• **Assurance 7:** The private provider will ensure that the assigned instructor is appropriately trained and knowledgeable of how the selected system works. *(Describe the qualifications and training of the staff.)*

• **Assurance 8:** The private provider will ensure that parents are reminded of the opportunity to withdraw and transfer to another VPK program if they choose to do so. *(Describe how families will be notified.)*
Assurances

- **Assurance 9:** The private provider will ensure the systems in use are secure and will not allow for the release of protected student or staff information. *(s. 1002.72, F.S.)* *(Describe the technical requirements of the system to be used.)*

- **Assurance 10:** The private provider will ensure that the ELC and OEL staff will be provided access to the innovative learning program implementation for monitoring purposes.
Decision Considerations

• What is the demand for flexible VPK options? Will high demand offset additional costs?

• Will you be able to serve all children who request virtual learning? If not, how will you select enrollment and address equal access?

• What will parents expect in a virtual learning environment? How do expectations relate to attendance? How will you manage expectations?
Decision Considerations

• What options are available for flexible preschool programs? What are the costs?

• Do you have access to a qualified VPK teacher who has the expertise to facilitate virtual learning?

• How many children will or will not have access to required technology and materials?

• What are the costs associated with providing technology to some or all students?
Decision Considerations

• Will you have classroom capacity to transfer all virtual classrooms to brick and mortar in Jan. 2021? Will you have qualified teachers for all classrooms?

• Will all children remain in the program after the virtual classroom is transferred to a brick and mortar? If not, what impact will the transfer have on the program, child outcomes, and my business?
How to Apply

• Private Providers with a certified VPK-20 contract for program year 2020, not located in Charlotte county.

• Prompted upon log on.
How to Apply

• Clicking “Yes” will open the application.
  • Work can be saved for later.
  • The link is available until the application window closes.

• Clicking “No” will record your answer.
  • The link is available until the application window closes.

• Clicking “Cancel” will close the pop-up.
  • The link is available until the application window closes.
How to Apply

• Application consists of six sections:
  • Provider Information
  • Intent to Apply
  • Eligibility Requirements
  • Assurances and VPK Program Description
  • Classroom Information
  • Sign and Certify
    • Not available unless intent is “Yes” and all sections are complete.
How to Apply

Private Provider VPK Flex Application for the 2020-2021 School Year

1. PROVIDER INFORMATION

Provider ID:
Provider Name:
Site Address:
County:

2. INTENT TO APPLY

Flexible, innovative instructional options for delivering the 2020-2021 School Year VPK Program by VPK private and public school providers will be available through December 31, 2020 for qualified and approved providers. This is an added feature to in-person instruction, but not a replacement. This flexibility will:

- Ensure that VPK programs are open to enable learning to continue and allow parents to rejoin the workforce.
- Provide choices for VPK parents that mirror those that K-12 parents now have via FDOE approved Plans for Reopening.
- Include structure safeguards that will encourage and shift families to in-person learning.

Providers applying for approval to offer the VPK Flex Option must describe how each of the following assurances will be met. The responses will be submitted to the coalitions and OEL for review and approval.

Are you applying for approval to offer a flexible option for the 2020-21 VPK School Year Program based on the eligibility and implementation requirements noted below?  Yes  No

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Eligibility is limited to providers located within a school district with a 2020-21 K-12 Optional Innovative Reopening Plan approved by the Florida Department of Education.
- Providers must have at least one VPK classroom with in-person instruction delivery; other classrooms may utilize flexible options for instruction delivery.
- Providers must be in good standing with the Statewide VPK Provider Contract and not have any Class 1 violations within the last two years.
- This form must be completed and submitted for review and approved prior to implementation.
How to Apply

**ASSURANCES AND VPK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The VPK provider, and the ELC where appropriate, agree to the following assurances. Describe how each of these assurances will be met (1000 characters max):

**Assurance 1.** The provider and ELC will ensure that flexibility proposed for the fall 2020 VPK School Year Program is consistent with the district’s 2020-21 Optional Innovative Reopening Plan approved by the Department of Education (No response needed).

**Assurance 2.** The provider will ensure that participating students will have equal access to the learning and any required materials, including technology.

**Assurance 3.** The provider will ensure that the 2020-21 School Year program delivers the required 540 hours of instruction by qualified staff (s. 1002.55, F.S.) including daily contact with the enrolled student and their family. The portion of the VPK program implemented through a flexible, innovative model shall not exceed a total of 270 hours. The provider must allow students attending the flexible, innovative program in fall 2020 to return to the face-to-face delivery model for the remainder of the school year program.

**Assurance 4.** The provider will maintain the ability to track daily attendance of both students and staff. (s. 1002.71, F.S. and 6M-8.305, F.A.C.)

**Assurance 5.** The ELC will ensure that tools used in the innovative option are aligned with VPK standards and are developmentally appropriate in instructional plans under Documents in the VPK Flex Application folder.

**Assurance 6.** The provider will monitor the student’s performance towards meeting the VPK standards using the VPK Assessment. (s. 1002.87, F.S.)

**Assurance 7.** The provider will ensure that the assigned instructor is appropriately trained and knowledgeable of how the selected system works. (Describe the qualifications and training of the staff)

**Assurance 8.** The provider will ensure that parents are reminded of the opportunity to withdraw and transfer to another VPK program if they choose to do so. (Describe how families will be notified)

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a) Each assurance requires a response.

b) Text boxes are re-sizeable.

c) Supporting documentation may be uploaded to Documents.
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How to Apply

Assurance 9. The provider will ensure the systems in use are secure and will not allow for the release of protected student or staff information (s. 1002.72, F.S.) (Describe the technical requirements of the system to be used.)

Assurance 10. The provider will ensure that the ELC and OEL staff will be provided access to the innovative learning program implementation for monitoring purposes.

CLASSROOM INFORMATION

If eligible, how many classrooms at this location will be offered in-person?

If eligible, how many classrooms at this location will be offered utilizing flexible options?

Save For Later

Please contact your early learning coalition for immediate assistance.

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer version 10 or higher. Download the latest version of Internet Explorer.
If you are using an Apple device (iPad, iPhone, Mac computer, MacBook), please download and use Google Chrome, instead of Safari, to complete your application.
### Next Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible private VPK providers complete the VPK School Year Flex Program Delivery Fall 2020 Assurances.</td>
<td>August 26 - September 17, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELCs review/approve private provider plans.</td>
<td>August 26 - TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private VPK providers identifying VPK classes with flexible options; must have in-person instruction available.</td>
<td>TBD after ELC approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disseminate/provide training to approved providers on remote administration of the VPK Assessment.</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELCs conduct ongoing monitoring and review of progress.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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