



VPK News Flash

New Attendance Policy

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) has issued new attendance policies for VPK. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, no more than 20% of a child's absence will be paid. This means for the 540 hours school-year program, only 108 hours will be paid for absences. For programs offering three (3) hours daily, this means only 36 days will be paid for absences for the entire year (approximately two (2) days per month). As providers, it is critical to work with parents to help them understand the importance of children attending school every day and on-time.

*Notes excusing illness, vacation, or special family situations are no longer needed. Only 20% of absences will be paid.

VPK Reimbursement

The rate per child for the 09-10 school year is \$2,605.90 or \$4.82 per hour.

Please remember that parents are not to be charged any fees if their child is ONLY enrolled in your VPK program. If their child is enrolled in extended care beyond VPK hours, then the parent is responsible for additional fees. Parents are expecting to see a savings from regular tuition with a VPK certificate. For example, If your weekly tuition is \$120 and VPK pays \$72.30...what is your discounted rate for parents?

Reminders!

- All centers should have identified substitutes for their programs. This will help providers avoid being out of compliance when they are monitored.
- If you have made changes in your program such as staff, director, or number of children, you must notify the Coalition by submitting the proper document within ten (10) business days. Only two (2) schedule changes are allowed during the program year.
- If you are adding a new class, you must submit your documents for approval before your class can start. Please plan ahead so you do not miss payments for days children

have been in attendance.

- Change of ownership: If you are selling your center, please inform the buyer you participate in VPK so the new owner can submit a new application package before the new license is issued. The certification unit can review the information and determine if any additional document is needed. Once the provider receives the new license, fax it to the Coalition ASAP. This will prevent loss of funds or extension of the VPK schedule.
- Parents may not sign the Parental Choice Form earlier than the last three days of the month.
- Only those providers who do not wish to receive pre-payment must provide written notice to the Coalition. Send your letter to Ms. Roseline J. Philippe, VPK Director. If you submitted a letter in a previous year, you do not need to resend it.

Kindergarten Assessment

Children who attended VPK during the 2008-2009 school year will be assessed soon. You can assist us by:

- Reminding your former parents to make sure their children are assessed at the school they are currently attending.
- If you are a school that offers kindergarten, making sure your kindergarten teachers complete the ECHOS for all children who attended VPK.

Your score can be improved if more of the children you have served participate in the assessment.

Low Performing Providers (LPP)

- The completion of periodic progress reports is a requirement set by the Department of Education (DOE) and Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI). Please continue to check the Readiness Rate website (<https://vpk.fldoe.org/>) for deadlines.

Please remember the Coalition is obligated to stop payment for the current program until the provider has met the LPP requirements.

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