



# Florida VPK

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



### 1) What is the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program?

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free educational program that helps your child be ready for kindergarten. VPK helps build a solid foundation for school using educational materials appropriate for various stages in your child's development.

### 2) Who is eligible?

To be eligible for VPK, children must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year. If their fourth birthday falls between February 2 and September 1 in a calendar year, parents can postpone enrolling their child in VPK that year and wait until the following year when their child is 5.

### 3) What types of VPK programs are there?

- The state of Florida offers two types of VPK Programs.
- The school year VPK program is 540 instructional hours. The Summer VPK program is 300 instructional hours.
- Your child can ONLY participate in one of the VPK programs.

### 4) Is VPK an all-day program?

VPK offers different options. The standard school-year program provides 540 instructional hours, usually in a part-time format. There is also a summer VPK program, which is full-day and offers 300 instructional hours for children who haven't yet attended VPK. Families should check with their local providers to see what schedules are available.

### 5) How do I apply for VPK?

You will need to visit the Early Learning Coalition of NW Florida's website <https://elcnwf.org/> - from home screen - apply for VPK - upload required documents, complete the application, and submit. A Family Support Specialist will review your application.

### 6) My child is going to VPK with the school district. I'm told I need a certificate of eligibility. How do I get one?

You will need to visit the Early Learning Coalition of NW Florida's website <https://elcnwf.org/> - from home screen - apply for VPK - upload required documents, complete the application, and submit. A Family Support Specialist will review your application.

### 7) What documents do I need for VPK?

You will need proof of Florida residency, such as a driver's license, and proof of your child's age, such as their birth certificate.

### 8) Is transportation provided?

No. Florida law specifies that families are responsible for transportation to and from the VPK program.

### 9) Where are VPK classes held?

School districts provide VPK classes along with private childcare centers.

### 10) Who do I contact for help?

Please call us at the Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida at 850-747-5400.