

# Guide to Calculating Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Performance Metrics and Designations



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Questions?

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## **Overview**

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Accountability creates a set of policies and practices that will be used to measure and hold providers accountable for quality instruction that leads to child learning growth and kindergarten readiness, and to prompt and support improvement where necessary. An accountability system:

- Sets a clear expectation that providers must raise achievement.
- Communicates to families and the public whether providers are meeting those expectations.
- Celebrates providers that are above expectations, and prompts action in those that are not.
- Directs additional resources and supports to low-performing providers to help them improve.

The VPK provider performance metric and designations provide the public an understandable method for measuring the performance of each VPK provider on quality classroom instruction, child achievement and child learning gains. The Florida Department of Education developed the methodology for VPK Provider Accountability using data from the 2022-2023 VPK program year.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a description of the procedures used to determine the VPK provider performance metric and designation for all VPK providers as set forth in Rule 6M-8.622, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes (F.S.). This guide does not replace or supersede the rule or statute.

## **Eligible Child**

For the purposes of calculating VPK provider performance metrics and designations, eligible child means a child who has completed more than 50% of the instructional hours at a provider. An eligible child's assessment results will be used to calculate the performance metric and designation of the provider where the child attended more than 50% of the instructional hours at a provider, regardless of the provider the child attended when the assessments were completed.

## **VPK Provider Performance Metric Components**

Beginning with the 2024-25 VPK program year, each VPK provider will receive a performance metric and performance designation based on three components: quality classroom instruction, child achievement and child learning gains.

### Quality Score

The quality score uses the Composite Program Assessment Score, which is the average of all Division of Early Learning-adopted program assessment dimension scores from VPK classrooms, omitting the negative climate score, as defined in Rule 6M-8.621(1), F.A.C. The quality score accounts for 50% of the total performance metric and is worth up to 50 possible points.

Providers with Composite Program Assessment Scores:

- Below 4.00 receive 0 out of 50 possible points.
- 4.00 to 4.49 receive 5 out of 50 possible points.
- 4.50 to 4.99 receive 10 out of 50 possible points.
- 5.00 to 5.49 receive 20 out of 50 possible points.
- 5.50 to 5.99 receive 30 out of 50 possible points.
- 6.00 to 6.49 receive 40 out of 50 possible points.
- 6.50 to 7.00 receive 50 out of 50 possible points.

### Achievement Score

The achievement score is measured by the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate kindergarten readiness by scoring a 707 Unified Scaled Score (USS) or higher at progress monitoring 3 (PM3) on Star Early Literacy. The provider must have at least four eligible children complete the PM3 assessment to have sufficient data for an achievement score calculation.

VPK providers can earn up to 20 points for achievement. The number of points earned is calculated by multiplying the percentage of eligible children taking the assessment that demonstrate kindergarten readiness on PM3 by 100 and multiplying the results by 20 percent (.20).

$$(\# \text{ eligible children achieving } 707 \div \# \text{ eligible children taking PM3}) \times 100 \times .20 = \\ \# \text{ Achievement Points}$$

The score is expressed as a whole number by rounding a value of .5 or greater up and rounding a value of less than .5 down.

### Learning Gains Score

Learning gains is measured by the percentage of eligible children who demonstrate **sufficient gains** between progress monitoring 1 (PM1) and PM3 on Star Early Literacy. The provider must have at least four eligible children complete the PM1 and PM3 assessments to have sufficient data for a learning gains score calculation.

VPK providers can earn up to 30 points for learning gains. The number of points earned is calculated by multiplying the percentage of eligible children that demonstrate sufficient gains by 100 and multiplying the results by 30 percent.

$$\frac{(\# \text{ eligible children with sufficient gains} \div \# \text{ eligible children taking PM1 and PM3}) \times 100 \times .30}{\# \text{ Learning Gains Points}} =$$

The score is expressed as a whole number by rounding a value of .5 or greater up and rounding a value of less than .5 down.

**Sufficient gains** is demonstrated in one of two ways.

1. Demonstrating a growth rate at or above the minimum of 12 USS points per month for school year programs or the minimum of 40 USS points per month for summer programs.
2. Achieve a USS that falls within the highest literacy classification (e.g., Probable Reader) at PM1 and PM3.

**Growth rate** is calculated by subtracting each child's progress monitoring one (PM1) score from the child's progress monitoring three (PM3) score, the dividing by the number of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 administration dates and multiplying by 30.

$$(\text{USS at PM3} - \text{USS at PM1}) / \# \text{ of calendar days between PM1 and PM3 test administration dates} \times 30 = \# \text{ USS points per month}$$

There is no rounding applied to the number of USS Points per month before determining if a child demonstrated sufficient gains.

### **Calculating VPK Provider Performance Metrics Using the Three Components**

The department will calculate a VPK provider performance metric for each VPK provider and within 45 days of the conclusion of the VPK school-year (June 30<sup>th</sup>) and summer (August 9<sup>th</sup>) programs, respectively.

A performance metric will be calculated when a provider has sufficient data to calculate all three components.

A performance metric is calculated as the sum of the three components: quality score, achievement score and learning gains score. The weight of each component in the overall VPK provider performance metric is displayed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Provider Performance Metric Component Weights**

50% Quality + 30% Learning Gains + 20% Achievement		
CLASS Composite Score	FAST Star Early Literacy	
50% Quality	30% Learning Gains	20% Achievement

### **VPK Provider Performance Designation**

The department will assign a performance designation to each VPK provider with a performance metric within 45 days of the conclusion of the VPK school-year (June 30<sup>th</sup>) and summer (August 9<sup>th</sup>) programs, respectively. Designations will be assigned based on the total provider performance metric points earned:

- 61 points or higher equals a designation of “Excellent.”
- 46-60 points equals a designation of “Above Expectations.”
- 28-45 points equals a designation of “Meets Expectations.”
- 16-27 points equals a designation of “Below Expectations.”
- 0-15 points equals a designation of “Unsatisfactory.”

Providers that do not have sufficient data to receive a VPK provider performance metric will be considered incomplete providers.

### **Transfer of Ownership**

When a transfer of ownership occurs, as defined in Rule 6M-8.301(9), F.A.C., and the new private VPK owner has delivered:

- More than fifty (50%) percent of the VPK school-year or summer program instructional hours, the VPK provider performance designation will be binding on the provider.
- Fifty (50%) percent or less of the VPK school-year or summer program instructional hours, the VPK provider performance designation will not be binding on the provider and the provider will be assigned the designation of incomplete.

### **VPK Provider Performance Designation Data**

Following development of the methodology for VPK Provider Accountability, the department applied the methodology using 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 VPK program year data. VPK Provider Performance Metrics and Designations for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 are **for informational purposes only** and display the provider performance metrics a provider would receive were new VPK program accountability applied at the end of those program years. To review provider level details, visit <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/vpk-accountability>.