

Understanding the VPK Designation

VPK is Florida's free, high-quality prekindergarten program, designed to help 4-year-olds (or those who turn 4 by September 1) get ready for kindergarten and beyond. It features age-appropriate curriculum, focused on early literacy and math, taught in small classes by qualified instructors.

How Is the VPK Designation Assigned?

Florida's Division of Early Learning (DEL) calculates a performance metric for each VPK provider using three important components:

- **50% Program Quality:** Based on classroom interactions measured via the CLASS assessment.
- **20% Student Achievement:** Percentage of children reaching a kindergarten-ready score on the PM3 assessment.
- **30% Student Learning Gains:** Growth from PM1 to PM3 in assessment scores.

Total Score Determines the Provider Designation:

Excellent: 61–100 points

Above Expectations: 46–60

Meets Expectations: 28–45

Below Expectations: 16–27

Unsatisfactory: 0–15

What If Data Is Insufficient?

Providers with fewer than 4 eligible children (those who have attended at least 50 % of instructional hours) cannot earn a designation—they're labeled "Incomplete Provider."

Where to Find The Provider's Designation

DEL publishes performance metrics and designations on the VPK Accountability webpage, updated after each school-year and summer session ends.

What It Means for Families

- **Choosing high-quality instruction:** Providers with favorable designations typically offer stronger classroom experiences and better readiness outcomes.
- **Transparency matters:** Designations help you compare providers based on quality and performance.
- **Be proactive:** If you see an "Incomplete" label, ask providers directly about how they support learning and why data may be limited.

Final Thoughts

- VPK is voluntary and free, delivering a strong foundation for school success.
- The designation system ensures accountability and helps families make better-informed choices.

If questions come up—about schedules, curriculum, or your child's progress reach out to your provider or the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties.