

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Funding



Maintain VPK per child funding at \$2575 in order to ensure continued high-quality programs Florida voters envisioned.

Based on enrollment projections, program funding total will need to be \$411.5 million to continue providing children with a high-quality educational foundation, ensuring future academic success.

With anticipated growth and potential funding reductions, Florida could become the largest program in the nation with one of the lowest rates for per child spending.

Current Proposed Funding Allocations

As of March 16th, the House and Senate PreK-12 Appropriation committees have released their anticipated reductions to the VPK Program. Below is a chart that represents the cuts in state general revenue and the impact on the program.

<u>House PreK-12 Appropriations Recommendations</u>	<u>Senate PreK-12 Appropriations Recommendations</u>
Total VPK Budget: \$348,915,886	Total VPK Budget: \$350,509,999
Base Student Allocation: School Year and Summer \$2,190	Base Student Allocation: School Year and Summer \$2,200
Coalition Administrative Spending: 4.5% (Current 4.85%)	Coalition Administrative Spending: 4.5% (Current 4.85%)
Teacher to Student Ratio: 1 to 12 and for any class with a thirteenth student secondary instructor must have a CDA credential for a total class size of 24 (Current 1:10/2:18).	Teacher to Student Ratio: 1 to 12 and for any class with a thirteenth student secondary instructor must have a CDA credential for a total class size of 24 (Current 1:10/2:18).

House position represents a \$385 dollar cut per child for a reduction of nearly 15%

Success in VPK

- Constitutionally mandated prekindergarten program, free to every four year old in Florida.
- **Children that participate in the VPK program consistently perform better** on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener than children that did not participate in VPK.
- Consists of quality indicators including **developmentally appropriate curriculum, teacher credentials and ratios.**
- Program has served approximately **654,000 children since it began in 2005** and is the second largest prekindergarten program in the nation.

- In 2009-2010, it is estimated that the program will serve approximately **70% of all four year olds in Florida**. The total projected to be served is 160,555.
- Program growth is estimated to continue. Current estimates anticipate the program to serve **75% of all four year olds by 2010-2011**.