

## Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program Specialized Instructional Services Fact Sheet for Families

### Overview

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Specialized Instructional Services (VPK SIS) education program is an additional option for parents of 4-year-old children with disabilities that is available outside the traditional VPK classroom setting. If your child has a current individual educational plan (IEP) from your local school district that calls for specialized instructional services, you can choose VPK SIS instead of traditional VPK school year or summer programs.



### What are the eligibility requirements for VPK SIS?

If your child is eligible for VPK, you must first enroll them through your local early learning coalition office. They must meet three basic eligibility requirements for VPK SIS. Your child must live in Florida, must be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current year, and your child must have a current IEP from your local school district.

### How do I apply for VPK?

You can apply online from a computer, mobile phone or other digital device by visiting <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com>. You will need an email address, proof of Florida residency and proof of your child's age to apply.

Your local early learning coalition will review your application and email you with further instructions. Once your application is approved, the coalition will provide you with a Certificate of Eligibility you can take to any VPK provider.

### VPK SIS Program Options

VPK Specialized Instructional Services are offered in individual or small group settings with a certified or licensed professional trained to provide specific instruction. Students enrolled in VPK SIS may use services identified on their IEP such as:

- Applied behavior analysis
- Speech language pathology
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Listening and spoken language instruction.
- Other specialized instructional services consistent with your child's IEP.

Parents can choose one or more services and select from providers the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has approved. Funding for each student is the same as for traditional VPK but based on the rates these specialists charge for their services. Therefore, students in VPK SIS may receive fewer hours of service than students in traditional VPK.

#### Providers

FDOE has approved the following professionals to be VPK SIS providers:

- Individuals certified or licensed for applied behavior analysis services.
- Licensed speech-language pathologists.
- Licensed occupational therapists.
- Licensed physical therapists.
- Licensed clinical social workers.
- Licensed psychologists.
- Other licensed professionals who have applied to and been approved by FDOE.

The local early learning coalition pays VPK SIS providers directly for services delivered to children in the program based on the schedule of services form. Parents and providers work together to complete required forms.