

General Information about VPK Teacher and Director Requirements

To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program, a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the following requirements:

1. The private prekindergarten provider must have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one prekindergarten who meets each of the following requirements:
 - a. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum, one of the following credentials:
 - A child development associated credential issued by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional Recognition; or
 - A credential approved by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services as being equivalent to or greater than the national CDA
 - b. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully complete an emergent literacy training course approved by the department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.59
2. Each prekindergarten instructor employed by the private prekindergarten provider must be of good moral character, must be screened using the level 2 screening standards in s. 434.04 before employment and rescreened at least once every 5 years.
3. A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum credentials and courses may hold one of the following:
 - a. a bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool education, or family and consumer science;
 - b. a bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education, if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school because his or her certificate has been suspended or revoked
 - c. an associate's or higher degree in child development
 - d. an associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field, at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing child care services for children any age from birth through 8 years of age; or
 - e. an educational credential approved by the department as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential described in this above.

For more information on VPK programs and credentialing, please see www.myfloridaeducation.com/earlylearning.

Voluntary Prekindergarten Director Endorsement

A Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Director Endorsement Course is now Available at www.myflorida.com/childcare/training.

Who is required to take this course?

All directors of private VPK programs, who have not earned a Department of Children and Families (DCF) Director Credential as of December 31, 2006, are **required** to complete this course as one of the components of the VPK Director Endorsement.

Providers who were issued a DCF director credential prior to December 31, 2006, are exempt from this requirement, but are encouraged to participate in the available training.

What are the full requirements to obtain the VPK Director Endorsement?

Completion of the DCF Florida Director Credential Certificate program

Completion of the DOE-approved training on the VPK Education Standards

Completion of *Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors* via the DCF child care training website noted above

Completion of the *VPK Director Endorsement Course* via the DCF child care training website noted above.

How to I apply for the VPK Director Endorsement?

Upon completion of the requirements, submit the VPK Director Endorsement application, available at www.myflorida.com/childcare, to the DCF Child Care Program Office-Credential Unit for processing.