



# Voluntary Prekindergarten Program Assessment & Accountability

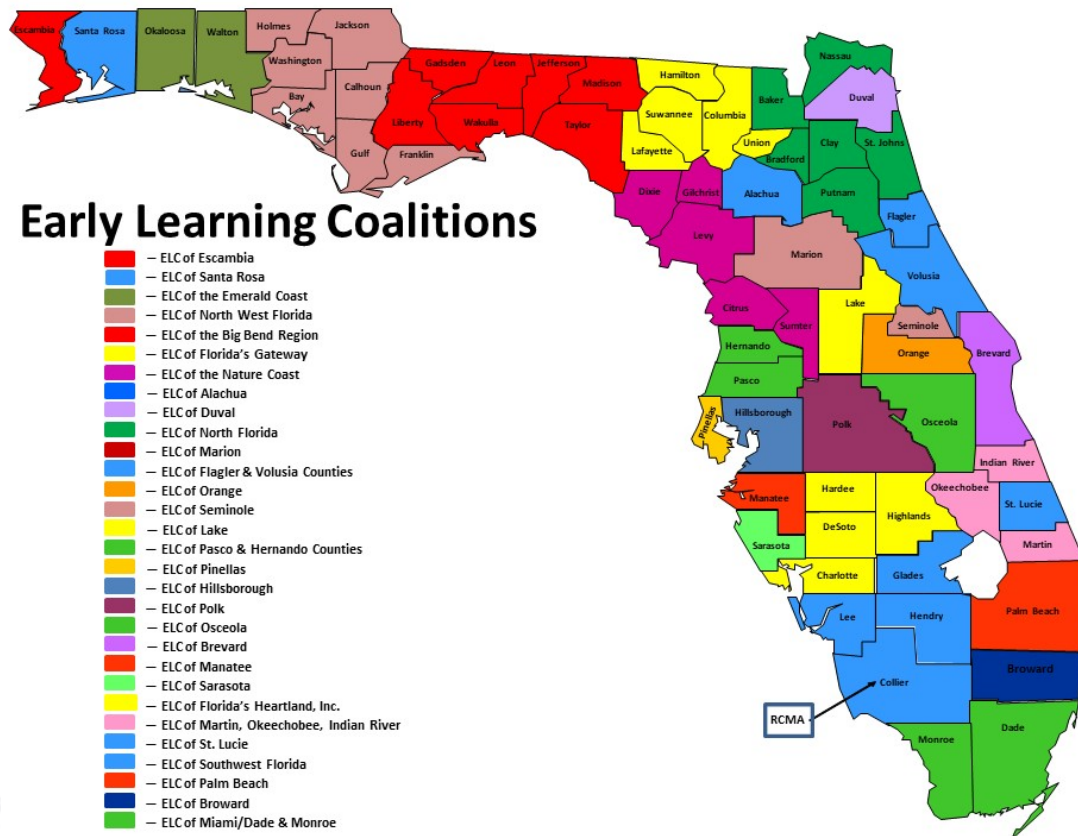
August 30, 2023

# New Structure for Early Learning

- In 2021, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) was brought into the Department of Education to provide coordinated and seamless educational services and supports to children from birth through grade 12 and beyond.
- The division is the lead administrator for federal and state childcare funds. As such, DEL:
  - Oversees Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) network which helps parents identify and select quality child care options that best meet their needs, and provides technical assistance that improves the quality, availability and affordability of child care.
  - Administers the School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs.
  - Develops, adopts, and implements quality standards and measures to improve Florida's comprehensive early childhood care and education system.

# Early Learning Coalitions and RCMA

The Department of Education's DEL, administers SR and VPK programs statewide, in partnership with thirty (30) early learning coalitions (ELCs) and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA).



## DEL Goals:

1

Increase Kindergarten readiness, setting children on a path to learn, graduate and succeed.

2

Engage parents as their child's first teacher and support them in making informed decisions on high-quality child care that best meet their family needs.

3

Support families by providing high-quality child care as they work to become financially self-sufficient.

4

Increase participation in high-quality early learning programs.

5

Build high-quality early learning programs to meet the individual needs of all children.

6

Increase knowledge and skills of early learning professionals to provide high-quality care and education.



# Early Learning Policy Highlights



# 2023-24 Early Learning Policy Highlights

- Establishment of an **online, forward facing provider search** that integrates with the online portal for K-12 schools.
- Allows VPK providers who score below a **4.0 on CLASS** to continue to be eligible to contract through the 2023-24 program year.
- The assignment of performance metric/designations for **VPK Accountability** will now take place in 2024-25.
- Expands the **Emergent Literacy Micro-Credential stipend** eligibility to all child care staff, no longer just staff at SR/VPK contracted providers.
- **New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI)** is expanded to include eligible VPK students.
- Standards for courses in emergent literacy skills are required to be **grounded in the science of reading** and correlate with content students will encounter in grades K-12.
- VPK curriculum is required to be **content rich** and sequentially **build knowledge in early literacy**.
- **No instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity** in Prekindergarten.



# FAST Star Early Literacy & CLASS Results



# FAST Star Early Literacy

The Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program is the statewide, standardized program known as Florida Assessment of Student Thinking or FAST Star Early Literacy, is implemented in all VPK programs.

- **Why are we implementing Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring?**
  - To assess and monitor VPK student achievement and learning gains of the performance standards in early literacy and mathematics. (Sections 1002.68 and 1008.25(8), F.S., and Rule 6M-8.620, F.A.C.)
- **Who is assessed?**
  - All VPK program students enrolled with valid certificates of eligibility.
- **What assessment is used and what does it assess?**
  - The Star Early Literacy is a computer-adaptive assessment administered through a secure login through the Renaissance platform, students answer 27 total items – 22 early literacy items and 5 numeracy items.
- **When are students assessed?**
  - Three Progress Monitoring periods (PM1, PM2, PM3) in the program year (school-year and summer).



## FAST Star Early Literacy

- **What are the VPK provider requirements?**
  - Maintain current and accurate profile information in the DEL Provider Portal
  - Designate and maintain a current “Authorized Renaissance User” in the DEL Provider Portal.
  - Maintain a qualified VPK FAST Star Early Literacy test administrator.
  - Administering FAST Star Early Literacy within the correct progress monitoring windows for each VPK class.

# FAST Star Early Literacy/Reading VPK-Grade 2

## Star Early Literacy (VPK-Grade 1)

- Assesses three broad domains: Word Knowledge and Skills, Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning, and Numbers and Operations
- 10-Key Early Literacy Sub-Domains: Visual Discrimination, Alphabetic Principle, Concept of Word, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Structural Analysis, Vocabulary, Sentence-Level Comprehension, Paragraph-Level Comprehension, Early Numeracy
- 27 questions
- 10-20 minutes average test length

## Star Reading (Grades 1 – 2)

- Test skills in five key reading domains: Word Knowledge and Skills, Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning, Analyzing Literary Text, Understanding Author's Craft, Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text
- 34 items
- 15-20 minutes average test length
- Grades 1 (PM3) and 2 (PM1-PM3)
- Can be given to K-1 students who reach a 852 Scale Score on Star Early Literacy; 852 Scale Score is demonstration that the student has basic reading skills

# FAST Star Early Literacy Update

## PM1 – PM3 VPK Students Tested

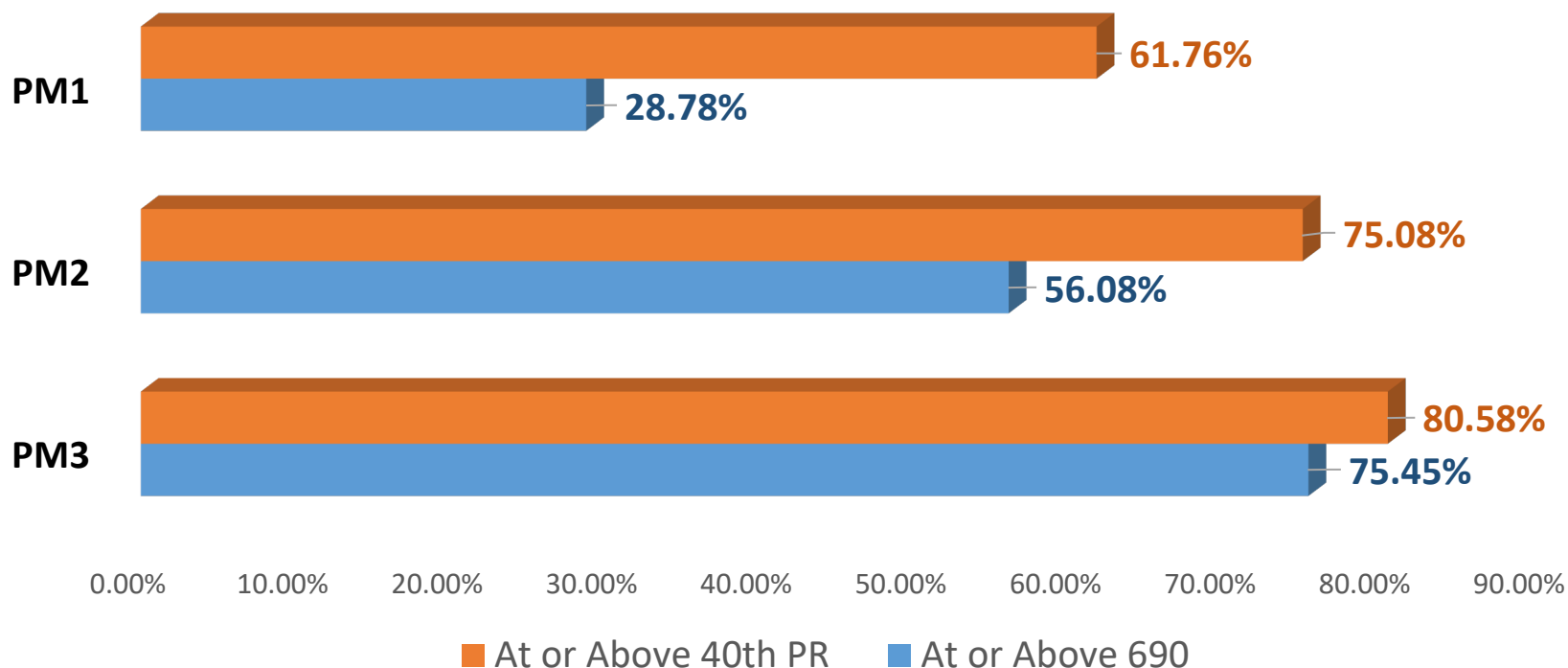
Results are reported as number and percent of students assessed by progress monitoring period

Progress Monitoring Period	Number of Students Tested	Percent of Students Tested	Total Students Enrolled
PM1	135,284	92.0%	147,119
PM2	127,440	86.7%	146,989
PM3	132,112	93.3%	141,549

\*Data as of 7/28/23 reported for  
22-23 VPK School-Year 8/10/22- 06/30/23

# FAST Star Early Literacy VPK Results

Percent of Students Who Scored  
At or Above the 40th Percentile Rank and  
At or Above 690 Scaled Score



# FAST Star Early Literacy Successes/Improvements

- 6,114 providers implemented FAST Star Early Literacy in FY 22/23.
- Required annual test administrator training available on Renaissance-U increases understanding of data and reports to plan targeted instruction as well as secure test administration and fidelity.
- To improve student data transfers, all VPK programs will use one testing site instead of being divided among four sites.
- To create secure access into the Renaissance system, all coalition and provider administrators will be managed in the coalition or provider portals.
- Ongoing development of additional test items aligned to FELDS.
- VPK FAST student performance results available through the DEL Family Portal.

## Program Assessment: CLASS

- CLASS = **C**lassroom **A**ssessment **S**coring **S**ystem
- CLASS is a research-based method of measuring, evaluating and improving teacher-student interactions from infant care-12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- CLASS measures high quality interactions that lead to improved academic outcomes. The interactions teachers have with children are proven to impact learning development.
- Providers receive the results within 14 days.
- Early learning coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for administration of CLASS which must be conducted by qualified individuals.

# CLASS Assessment Results

*\*July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023*

## School Readiness:

**More than 97%** of SR providers scored 4.0 or higher

## VPK:

**99%** of VPK providers scored 4.0 or higher

Overall Score Group	Count of VPK Providers:
Below 3	8
3 to 3.49	10
3.5 to 3.99	44
4 to 4.49	894
4.5 to 4.99	1,665
5 to 5.49	1,908
5.5 to 5.99	1,049
6 to 6.49	320
6.5 and above	320
Grand Total	6,218



## CLASS Successes

- Statewide, 18,501 unduplicated classroom observations were completed for FY 22/23 compared to 10,433 in the previous fiscal year, a 77% increase.
- Coalitions reported:
  - Most providers who received second assessments were successful with intervention – coaching and Teachstone training.
  - Improved relationships and communication between school districts and ELCs.
  - Providers are more involved and seeking professional learning (PL) opportunities.
  - Providers have used CLASS Reports to identify areas they would like to enhance and strengthen.

## CLASS Improvements

- Through ARPA, able to offer an abundance of Teachstone training to provider and school district staff.
- Many lessons learned, including,
  - Start planning and conducting observations early.
  - Consider second assessments when planning.
  - Conduct VPK and SR assessments concurrently to reduce on site visits by numerous observers.
  - Take advantage of calibration offerings to maintain observer coding skills and avoid drift.

# Rule Update

## October 18, 2023 SBOE Meeting (Tentative)

- Rule 6M-8.620 Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring
- Rule 6M-8.621 Program Assessment Requirements for the VPK Program



# Kindergarten Readiness

# Importance of Kindergarten Readiness

- For children who enter kindergarten behind, **roughly 75%** will never catch up to their classmates.
- The **strongest predictors of later achievement** are school-entry math, reading and attention skills.
- State and local **prekindergarten programs**, almost without exception, **improve academic readiness for school**.
- Participants in the prekindergarten program **scored higher on third-grade language arts tests** than did nonparticipants.
- Participation in an **early childhood experience** (child care or preschool) **increases high school graduation rates**.

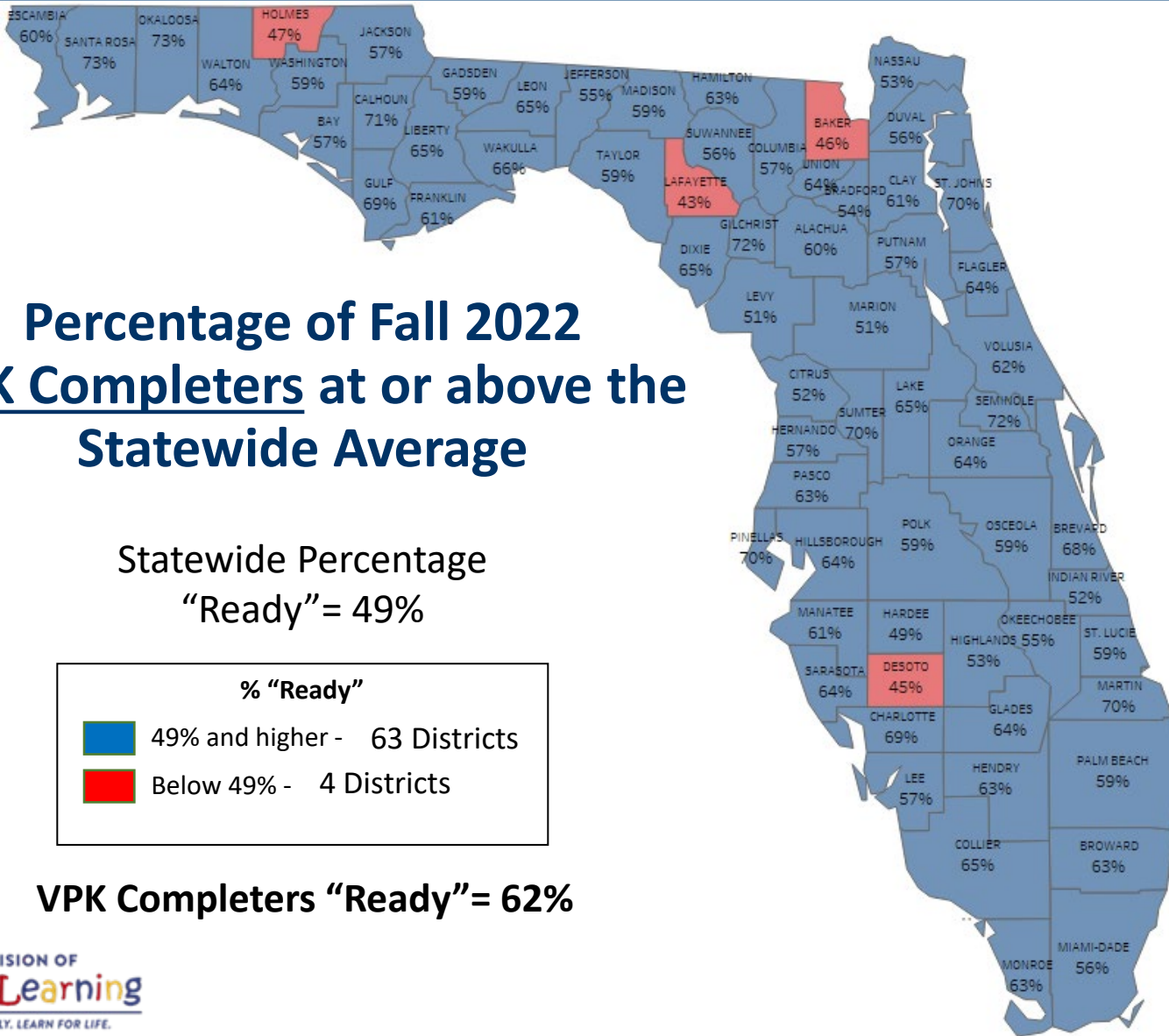


## Percentage of Fall 2022 Public Kindergarten Students at or above the Statewide Average

### % "Ready"

- [illegible]

# 2022 FAST PM 1 VPK Completer Results by County





# 2022 FAST PM 1 Kindergarten Results

## Percent Kindergarten Ready Students Statewide – Fall 2022

	Number of Test Takers	Number of Students "Ready"	Percent of Students "Ready"
All Kindergarten Students	188,511	92,755	49%
VPK Completers	92,794	57,154	62%
Non-VPK Completers	16,121	6,517	40%
Non-VPK Participants/ Unmatched	79,325	29,012	37%

*\*Ready for K: Scoring 690+ on FAST Star Early Literacy*

# Florida Statutes Driving Kindergarten Readiness

**s. 1008.25(9)(a)6.** – ...The determination of kindergarten readiness must be based on the results of each student's initial progress monitoring assessment in kindergarten. The methodology for determining a student's readiness for kindergarten must be developed by the department and aligned to the methodology adopted pursuant to s. 1002.68(4).

**s. 1002.68(4)** – Addresses the 3 components that the new performance metric must be based off for VPK Accountability

# Process for Establishing Kindergarten Readiness

- **Educator Standard Setting – July 24-28**
- **Standard Setting Reactor Panel – August 3-4**
- **Council for Early Grade Success (CEGS)**
  - Work with the department to review the methodology for determining a child's kindergarten readiness.
  - Provide input on the methodology for calculating a provider's or school's performance metric and designations under s. [1002.68](#)(4).

## Council for Early Grade Success

- **August 16 -**
  - Update on VPK Accountability Legislation
  - Overview of 2022-23 CLASS and FAST Results (School Year Programs)
  - Overview of Educator Standard Setting/Reactor Panel Work
- **Week of October 2 -**
  - Dive Deeper into Educator Standard Setting/Reactor Panel Work
  - Kindergarten Readiness



# VPK Provider Accountability

# Historical Lens of VPK Accountability

- Prior to the 2018/19 program year, VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates were solely based on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). VPK providers were required to have a certain number of students measured as ready on FLKRS.
- From 2013/14 to 2015/16, no VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates were calculated due to changing of the tool used for FLKRS.
- From 2016/17 to 2017/18, Star Early Literacy was used as FLKRS. VPK providers were issued readiness rates but no new providers were placed on probation.
- Beginning with the 2018/19 program year, VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates included a combination of the percentage of children measured ready on the FLKRS and the learning gains shown by children on the Florida VPK assessment.
  - The learning gains contributed to up to 10 points towards the final readiness rate.
  - Children needed to show gains in all 4 domains of the VPK Assessment: Print Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Mathematics, Oral Language/Vocabulary.

# VPK Accountability

## *Methodology for Calculating Each Provider's Performance Metric*

- The department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the following:

<b>1</b>	Program assessment composite score, which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent. <b>(CLASS)</b>
<b>2</b>	Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results. <b>(FAST Star Early Literacy)</b>
<b>3</b>	Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes. <b>(FAST Star Early Literacy)</b>

- The methodology shall include a statistical latent profile analysis developed by the department that shall produce a limited number of performance metric profiles which summarize the profiles of all sites that must be used to inform designations.

*\*s. 1002.68, F.S. Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program accountability*



# VPK Accountability

## *Designations*

Produce a limited number of performance metric profiles which summarize the profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following designations:

- Unsatisfactory
- Emerging Proficiency
- Proficient
- Highly Proficient
- Excellent

**OR**

Comparable terminology determined by the department which may not include letter grades.

## Timeline for Establishing Performance Metric for VPK Accountability

- **July 1-August 31:** Receive final CLASS/Star data
- **August 14th Week:** Virtual CEGS Meeting – Update on VPK Accountability Legislation; Overview of 2022-23 CLASS and FAST Results (School Year Programs); Overview of Educator Standard Setting/Reactor Panel Work
- **October 2<sup>nd</sup> Week:** Face-to-Face CEGS Meeting – Kindergarten Readiness discussion
- **August 31-November 30:** Run simulations using 22-23 data from CLASS/Star; Develop 3-5 models for consideration (learning gains calculation, performance metrics and designations)
- **December:** ELC Committee Meeting for feedback on the proposed models/designations
- **January 2024:** CEGS Meeting/Consultation of proposed models/designations
- **February 2024:** DEL consider recommendations from CEGS and make final determination for performance metric/designations
- **March 2024:** Notice of Rule Development Packet due
- **April 1-2, 2024:** Tentative Rule Workshop Dates
- **May 15, 2024:** NRP and final Rule language and materials due
- **July 2024:** State Board Meeting; publish VPK accountability calculation/designations and VPK Provider results using approved model (Information Use Only) prior to the beginning of the 2024-25 VPK program to set expectations.



**[www.FLDOE.org](http://www.FLDOE.org)**

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