

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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March 2, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District School Superintendents

**FROM:** John L. Winn, Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Class Size Reduction Requirement and School District Eligibility to Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education School-Year Program for 2006-07

Florida has a unique opportunity to impact the lives of young children by preparing them for successful entry into kindergarten through quality VPK programs. To meet the expectations of these children and their parents, local school districts that are in compliance with their class size reduction obligation have the option to offer the VPK program during the 2006-07 school year. Many of Florida's school districts are currently providing high-quality 540-hour VPK programs and all are planning to provide the 300-hour Summer VPK Program for "every eligible child within the district whose parent enrolls the child in a summer prekindergarten program delivered by a public school" (Section 1002.53(6)(b), Florida Statutes).

In the same manner as for 2005-06, the certification of districts as eligible to offer the school-year VPK program will be based on the 2005 class size compliance. Based on these data, sixty-six (66) school districts are in compliance with class size calculation for grades Prek-3 (see Attachment A).

The State Board of Education certified this compliance during its meeting on January 17, 2006. School districts are now free to make the local and final determination of whether they will offer the school-year VPK program while balancing their obligation to meet class size reduction. These districts should also take into consideration that compliance for class size in 2006-07 will be based on school-level averages, which will significantly increase the demand for classroom space for K-12 students.

District School Superintendents

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If you have questions, please feel free to contact Shan Goff, Director, Office of Early Learning, at (850) 245-0445, SunCom 205-0445, or via email at [shan.goff@fldoe.org](mailto:shan.goff@fldoe.org) or Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations, at (850) 245-0406, SunCom 205-0406, or [linda.champion@fldoe.org](mailto:linda.champion@fldoe.org).

JLW/sg

*Attachment A – 2006 District Class Size Averages, Grades Prek-3, Compliance Calculation, VPK Certification*

cc: District Finance Officers  
Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction  
District Prekindergarten Directors  
Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors