

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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March 19, 2007

MEMORANDUM # 07-11

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jeanine Blomberg, Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Class Size Reduction Requirement and School District Eligibility to Provide Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education School-Year Program for 2007-08

More than 111,000 young children are currently being prepared for successful entry into kindergarten through quality Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education programs offered by private and public providers across the state. To meet the 2007-08 expectations of these children and their parents, schools that are in compliance with their class size reduction obligation have the option to decide whether to continue to provide these services through the VPK program.

In 2006-07, Class Size Reduction is calculated at the school level. Accordingly, schools which failed to meet the Class Size Reduction cap or reduce by two in any grade group are ineligible to offer the School-Year VPK program in 2007-08. After appeals, 24 districts have at least one traditional or charter school that is ineligible, in addition to three of the University Laboratory Schools (see Attachment A).

The State Board of Education certified this compliance during its meeting on February 20, 2007. School districts are now free to make the final determination of whether they will offer the 2007-08 school-year VPK program while balancing their obligation to meet class size reduction. (All districts are required to offer the Summer VPK Program.)

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 or Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations, at (850) 245-0406, SunCom 205-0406, or linda.champion@fldoe.org.

JB/sg/mh

Attachment: (Attachment A – Schools Ineligible to Offer VPK in 2007-08 Based On Inability to Meet Class Size Reduction Requirements in 2006-07)

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