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Technical Assistance Paper

Determining Eligibility of Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) Providers for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Children with Disabilities

Summary: Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, a new program option for VPK, Specialized Instructional Services (SIS), exists ([Section 1002.66, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#)) for a child who has a disability that is eligible for the VPK program and has a current individual educational plan (IEP). The Department of Education (Department) outlines approved SIS providers in Rule #6A-6.03033 (Effective July 2012).

The Department is responsible for approving SIS providers, maintaining a list of approved providers, and notifying early learning coalitions and school districts of the approved list. This Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) serves to provide responses to general questions as well as to provide notice of those that are approved to provide SIS services.

Contact: Tara Huls, Bureau of Voluntary Prekindergarten, (850) 245-5037
Tara.Huls@fldoe.org

Status: X Approval of Specialized Instructional Service providers (SIS Providers) as outlined in Rule #61-6.03033

cc: Florida's Office of Early Learning
Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors
School District VPK Contacts

Bureau of Voluntary Prekindergarten
<http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning>

Technical Assistance Paper

Determining Eligibility of Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) Providers for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Children with Disabilities

Eligibility

There are **four** categories of SIS providers that are approved or eligible for approval (see Rule #6A-6.03033, Florida Administrative Code, for more details) as follows:

1. Automatically approved (with Florida licensure or certification):
 - a. Applied behavior analysis services
 - b. Speech-language pathologists
 - c. Occupational therapists
 - d. Physical therapists
 - e. Clinical social workers
 - f. Psychologists
2. Listening and Spoken Language Specialists™ and Board-Certified Behavior Analysts® (Form VPK-SIS1)
3. Other SIS providers meeting specified criteria (Form VPK-SIS2)
4. Parent request for SIS provider meeting specified criteria (Form VPK-SIS3)

Guidance for Determining Eligibility

Category 1: Automatically Approved

The following are automatically-approved SIS providers: (1) applied behavior analysis services, (2) speech-language pathologists, (3) occupational therapists, (4) physical therapists, (5) clinical social workers and (6) psychologists.

For applied behavior analysis services, where the provider is a behavior analyst, go to <http://www.bacb.com/index.php?page=100155> to search for the provider by name and click the search button. On the Certificant Registry search results page, click on the provider's name (hyperlink) to view specific information about the provider, including the certification expiration date. If a provider's license is current (not expired), the provider is automatically approved.

For all other listed SIS providers in Category 1, Early Learning Coalitions can check an individual's eligibility on the Florida Department of Health's **Look Up a License** webpage:

<http://ww2.doh.state.fl.us/IRM00PRAES/PRASLIST.ASP>.

- a. Choose the "Show Currently Licensed Providers" button.
- b. Type the provider's first and last name.
- c. Under "Profession," choose the applicable license: "**Speech-Language Pathologist,**" "**Occupational Therapist,**" "**Physical Therapist,**" "**Licensed Clinical Social Worker**" or "**Psychologist.**"
- d. Click "Find Provider."
- e. Click on the license number to view specific information about the provider, including license expiration date.
- f. If a provider's license is current (not expired), the provider is automatically approved.

Guidance for Determining Eligibility (continued)

Category 2: Listening and Spoken Language Specialists™ and Board-Certified Behavior Analysts®

FDOE Form VPK-SIS1 can be used to approve SIS providers who meet the following criteria: Listening and Spoken Language Specialists™ certified by the Alexander Graham Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language OR Board-Certified Behavior Analysts certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board®. Approval is granted for five years, or until a license or certification suspension, revocation or expiration, whichever occurs earlier.

Applications will be processed within four weeks of receipt. The department will notify the applicant of the status. The application includes a section for the applicants to indicate the counties to be served. The department will notify, via email, the executive director of each Early Learning Coalition that includes an approved applicant's service area. The department will maintain a list of providers approved in Category 2.

Category 3: Other SIS providers meeting specified criteria

FDOE Form VPK-SIS2 can be used to approve SIS providers that have a licensure or certification in an applicable field of study. Approval is granted for five years, or until a license or certification suspension, revocation or expiration, whichever occurs earlier.

Applications will be processed within four weeks of receipt. The department will notify the applicant of the status. The application includes a section for the applicants to indicate the counties to be served. The department will notify, via email, the executive director of each Early Learning Coalition that includes an approved applicant's service area. The department will maintain a list of providers approved in Category 3.

Category 4: Parent request for SIS provider meeting specified criteria

FDOE Form VPK-SIS3 is for use by parents to request approval of potential SIS providers that meet the following criteria: (1) provision of services must be consistent with the child's individualized educational plan (IEP), (2) provider licensure or certification is in an applicable field of study, (3) delivery according to professionally accepted standards, (4) delivery in accordance with the performance standards adopted by the department for use in VPK programs, and (5) addresses the age appropriate progress of the child in the development of capabilities, capacities and skills required under s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution. Approval for this category is specific to services for a particular child. Approval is granted for the period of the child's eligibility for VPK, or until a license or certification suspension, revocation or expiration, whichever occurs earlier.

FDOE Form VPK-SIS3 must be received by the department no less than 30 calendar days prior to the beginning of the program (school year or summer program). Applications will be processed within four weeks of receipt. The department will notify the proposed SIS provider and parent of the status. The application includes a section for the applicants to indicate the counties to be served. The department will notify, via email, the executive director of each Early Learning Coalition that includes an approved applicant's service area.