

EARLY LEARNING GUIDANCE

Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

Date: June 1, 2015

Subject: Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

Contact: email VPKquestions@oel.myflorida.com or call 1-866-447-1159

The information that follows provides guidance to help determine if a non-licensed private provider is eligible to provide the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

According to Section (s.) 1002.55(3)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be eligible to offer VPK, private providers must either

- be licensed as a child care facility under s. 402.305, F.S., family day care home under s. 402.313, F.S., or large family child care home under s. 402.3131, F.S.; or
- be licensed exempt under s. 402.3025(2), F.S. (for nonpublic schools) or s. 402.316, F.S. (for faith-based providers), **and**
 - hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281, F.S.;
 - **or** be accredited by an accrediting association that is a member of
 - National Council for Private School Accreditation
 - The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools;
 - **or** be accredited by
 - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
 - Western Association of Colleges and Schools
 - North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
 - Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
 - New England Association of Colleges and Schools

How to Verify Gold Seal Designations

If a facility has an accreditation from one of the **Gold Seal** accrediting agencies, they have to apply for Gold Seal with Department of Children and Families. You can see if an accrediting agency is approved for Gold Seal by checking <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/goldseal>.

How to Verify Accrediting Association Members

To check if an accrediting association is a member of

The National Council for Private School Accreditation

visit http://www.ncpsa.org/accrediting_agencies/members.

The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools

visit <http://www.faans.org/accrediting.html>.

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

250 MARRIOTT DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399 • 850-717-8550 • TOLL FREE 866-357-3239 • www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com

OFFICE OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

How to Verify Accreditation

To check if a facility is accredited by

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <http://www.sacs.org> and select the SACS/CASI option.

The Western Association of Colleges and Schools

visit http://www.acswasc.org/directory_search.cfm.

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <http://www.advanc-ed.org/oasis2/u/par/search>.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

visit http://www.msa-cess.org/RelId/606553/ISvars/default/Search_Our_Members.htm.

The New England Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <https://www.neasc.org/about-us/membership-directory>.