

Voluntary Pre-K or Head Start for Four Year Olds



State of Florida Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) **STATE FUNDED**

Pasco County Head Start/Early Head Start **FEDERALLY FUNDED**

Contact information: www.phelc.org or www.vpkflorida.org or 727-569-1004 or 352-834-0052.	Families are referred to the program's website www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ecp/ , a Head Start support staff person at the school, or the district office 727-774-2730, 813-794-2730, 352-524-2730.
Apply online and upload required documents.	
Child's age: 4 on or before Sept. 1 of the current school year.	Child's age: 3 or 4 on or before Sept. 1 of the current school year. Also serving expectant moms, infants and toddlers.
540-hour school year program: (3 hours a day for 180 days or 6 hours a day for 90 days) private provider's choice.	6.5 hours a day following the elementary school schedule (Aug.- May) Some sites offer extended day.
Applications through the Early Learning Coalition 727-569-1004 or 352-834-0052. www.phelc.org . Process is online only, must create a Family Portal account and upload child's proof of age and family residency.	Applications require an in-person interview with program staff at regional application days and limited elementary schools by appointment. An online pre-application can be completed by parent if family is not currently in database. This is not a requirement.
Open to any age eligible 4 yr. old. Parent chooses a private provider that has space. First come first served. No fees for VPK portion.	Limited enrollment/space. Not first come; first served. <u>Cannot</u> exceed funded enrollment. There are no fees.
No eligibility requirements (age only).	Eligibility is based on family need and income. All are welcome to apply. A selection criteria prioritizes children on the waiting list. Children with disabilities are encouraged to apply
Adult child ratio – 2:20, 1 CDA teacher and an assistant. Summer program has certified teachers, ratio is 1:12.	Adult/child ratio – 2:18, 1 certified teacher and 1 instructional assistant and 1 Classroom Assistant. Summer VPK– certified teacher; ratio 1:12
A list may be provided of VPK providers to the parent after receiving their child's VPK certificate of eligibility (COE).	Program sites are listed on the district website: www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ecp/ .
No transportation provided.	Transportation provided according to the District School Board of Pasco County guidelines. Not guaranteed.
This program is not required before kindergarten, is voluntary and free.	This program is free and not required before kindergarten. Limited enrollment.
Meals may be included at individual private providers.	Free breakfast, lunch, and snack.
No support services in the summer for children with an IEP.	Comprehensive services to all families: education, health, mental health/disabilities, social services and parent involvement.
Summer VPK: 300 hours in select public school sites and limited private providers.	<u>No Head Start</u> summer services. The School District is a Summer VPK provider. http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ecp/page/vpk
Families cannot take their child's Certificate of Eligibility to a public school for services; families must apply for Head Start and be considered for eligibility. The Head Start slots in limited elementary schools are reserved and funded by the federal government.	Enrolled 4 year olds in Head Start receive dual services with VPK during the school year and are typically not eligible for a Summer VPK program.
VPK is an entitlement program. All children who turn 4 on or before 9/1 of applying year are entitled to a VPK program.	Early Childhood Programs is charged with the responsibility to PROVE and DOCUMENT eligibility of applying families.

