

# Voluntary Prekindergarten Estimating Conference

## Executive Summary

### March 8, 2019

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Estimating Conference met on March 8, 2019, to review preliminary 2018-19 school year data and to adopt a new forecast through Fiscal Year 2023-24. As part of its analysis, the Conference reviewed both the latest birth estimates from the Florida Demographic Estimating Conference and the data collected through the new EFS Modernization portal by the Office of Early Learning as of the end of January 2019.

Growth in the program is related to births, which were revised downward in the last two years of the forecast horizon, resulting in declines in those years. The enrollment forecast for years prior to this reflect actual birth data from the relevant years.

The new EFS Modernization portal has a wealth of information for analysis and forecasting purposes. The Conference discussed the status of the new system and differences in the new process relative to the historical data system. The new system appears to allow better identification of children that move between counties while in the VPK system, effectively changing the base for analysis. The Conference reviewed forecasts that were built on varying amounts of data from the new EFS Modernization portal in combination with historical data. In particular, one forecast utilized 2017-18 final FTE ratios and another incorporated 2018-19 FTE ratio estimates based on 2018-19 hours of attendance data. Because of the differences between the two possible forecasts, the Conference decided to incorporate all of the data that is available by blending the two methods and averaging the school year forecasts through 2023-24. This approach also seems to balance the risk during the conversion between systems.

The resulting forecast for 2018-19 fiscal year enrollment was -1,215.76 FTE lower than anticipated at the last Conference, due to current enrollment information from the new system and methodological adjustments. The Conference continued to assume that summer enrollment will be held constant throughout the forecast horizon. Overall, the forecast is lower in all years than what was adopted in December 2018 ranging from -1,215.76 FTE in 2018-19 to -4,815.98 FTE in 2023-24 (see table below).

The new forecast produces a participation rate of 72.3% in the outermost year.

Forecasted FTE Student Enrollment for the VPK Program			
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<i>VPK Estimating Conference</i>		
	<i>Change</i>	<i>March 8, 2019 Conference</i>	<i>December 6, 2018 Conference</i>
<i>2018-19 Forecast</i>	<i>-1,215.76</i>	<i>155,913.56</i>	<i>157,129.32</i>
<i>2019-20 Forecast</i>	<i>-1,248.15</i>	<i>159,140.98</i>	<i>160,389.13</i>
<i>2020-21 Forecast</i>	<i>-1,266.44</i>	<i>161,018.17</i>	<i>162,284.61</i>
<i>2021-22 Forecast</i>	<i>-1,261.84</i>	<i>160,135.43</i>	<i>161,397.27</i>
<i>2022-23 Forecast</i>	<i>-3,246.08</i>	<i>159,777.67</i>	<i>163,023.75</i>
<i>2023-24 Forecast</i>	<i>-4,815.98</i>	<i>160,753.31</i>	<i>165,569.29</i>