

Voluntary Prekindergarten Estimating Conference

Executive Summary

August 12, 2021

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Estimating Conference met on August 12, 2021, to adopt a revised forecast through Fiscal Year 2026-27. The forecast incorporated school year and summer program data from the EFS Modernization system through June 2021.

The latest data indicated that school year enrollment for FY 2020-21 was lower than projected at the last conference by -850 children. Further, because fewer hours were paid out than expected across the system, FTE came in -6,248.77 below the estimate. The estimated 2020-21 school year enrollment is now 114,489.79 instead of the 120,738.56 FTE adopted in April.

Relative to the weak signals seen at the prior conference, both the May/June summer program enrollment and FTE were expected to be stronger. Even though summer programs began late, enrollment gained to the estimate by 1,575 students or 617.85 FTE.

Looking across the three components of the year (July/August 2020, School Year 2020-21, and May/June 2021), the 2020-21 fiscal year increased by 725 students from the prior forecast, but COVID-related challenges affecting attendance reduced FTE by -5,630.92.

Going forward into 2021-22, FTE ratios were lowered for the second half of summer 2021, resulting in -744.07 fewer FTE estimated for the new fiscal year. Expectations regarding program growth continue to be shaped by annual growth in births from the four years prior to enrollment. The Demographic Estimating Conference has not convened since the last VPK forecast adopted in April, resulting in no change to the 2021-22 school year VPK estimates and beyond. The new forecast produces a participation rate of 74.6% in the outermost year (2026-27), increasing from 56.8% in 2020-21.

Forecasted FTE Student Enrollment for the VPK Program			
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>VPK Estimating Conference</i>		
	<i>Change</i>	<i>August 12, 2021 Conference</i>	<i>April 1, 2021 Conference</i>
<i>2020-21 Forecast</i>	-5,630.92	117,357.35	122,988.27
<i>2021-22 Forecast</i>	-744.07	157,778.86	158,522.93
<i>2022-23 Forecast</i>	0.00	157,680.88	157,680.88
<i>2023-24 Forecast</i>	0.00	156,955.34	156,955.34
<i>2024-25 Forecast</i>	0.00	154,677.81	154,677.81
<i>2025-26 Forecast</i>	0.00	152,782.30	152,782.30
<i>2026-27 Forecast</i>		155,579.90	