

**Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference  
Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
Executive Summary  
August 8, 2024**

The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference met on August 8, 2024, to adopt a revised Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) forecast that is now extended through Fiscal Year 2029-30. The new forecast incorporated enrollment and payment data through June 2024, as well as an updated birth forecast from the July 2024 Demographic Estimating Conference.

**Demographic Data...**

Forecasted growth in enrollment is based on the growth in previous Florida births that align with each cohort entering VPK. Enrollment in the current and upcoming three years is colored by actual births; however, the latest birth forecast from the Demographic Estimating Conference indicates that there will be a decrease in the number of births eligible to enter VPK beginning in FY 2027-28 relative to the prior forecast. This is reflected in a similarly sized downward shift in the VPK enrollment forecast.

**Reported 2023-24 Data...**

The FY 2023-24 enrollment data reported through June showed little change from the prior forecast; however, the minor downward adjustment in enrollment was coupled with a higher number of completed hours among those who did enroll throughout the school year. This resulted in an increase of 497.61 FTE relative to the prior forecast. As FY 2023-24 concluded, preliminary FTE enrollment was 139,095.98 relative to the prior estimate of 138,598.37 FTE (adopted in January 2024) or the originally appropriated level of 139,874.05 (adopted in February 2023). Both of the differences between forecast vintages are well within the range that the Conference normally attributes to noise.

**Forecast...**

With the exception of FY 2028-29, all of the changes to the prior forecast reflect relatively modest adjustments that are comfortably within the range of plus or minus one percent. Shaped primarily by the new Demographic forecast, FY 2028-29 is -1.5% below the previous estimate for that year. The new forecast produces a participation rate of 66.8% in FY 2024-25, which increases to 68.8% in the outermost year (FY 2029-30).

**Enrollment, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment, and Participation  
in Statewide VPK Programs**

	FY 2023-24 Actual (prelim)	FY 2024-25 Forecast	FY 2025-26 Forecast	FY 2026-27 Forecast	FY 2027-28 Forecast	FY 2028-29 Forecast	FY 2029-30 Forecast
<b>August 2024</b>	139,095.98	137,367.52	135,971.73	144,953.51	144,329.35	145,125.85	147,080.60
<b>January 2024</b>	138,598.37	136,713.40	135,321.68	144,229.94	145,547.11	147,246.37	
<b>Difference</b>	497.61	654.12	650.05	723.57	-1,217.76	-2,120.52	