



## Frequently Asked Questions about the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (2017)* January 2018

### 1. What are early learning and developmental standards?

Early learning and developmental standards reflect the knowledge and skills that a child on a trajectory for success should have at the end of an age-related time frame. The Office of Early Learning (OEL) submitted the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards – Birth to Kindergarten (2017)* for use in the School Readiness (SR) Program and the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards – 4 Years Old to Kindergarten (2017)* for use in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program to the State Board of Education for approval in November 2017. Although they are displayed in different formats, the 4-years-old-to-kindergarten standards have the same content found in the birth-to-kindergarten standards, age level 4 years old to kindergarten. SR and VPK programs are guided by separate Florida statutes and rules, requiring two standards documents.

### 2. Why were the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (2011) revised?

The state is required to review the standards periodically and determine if they need revisions. In spring 2017, OEL convened a group of national and state early learning content experts to review the *2011 Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to 5* to ensure that standards were rich, interactive and led to better preparation for children based on current research to support high-quality standards. The revised standards address eight early learning and developmental domains reflecting a child's expected age-appropriate progress – physical development, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, language and literacy, mathematical thinking, scientific inquiry, social studies and creative expression through the arts.

### 3. Where can I find the standards?

The revised standards are available online now at [www.flbt5.com](http://www.flbt5.com). There will be printed versions of the standards available for purchase in spring/summer 2018. Information about cost and ordering will be available at that time.

### 4. When will teachers be required to use the standards in the classroom?

The *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards--Birth to Kindergarten (2017)* for SR programs and the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards--4 Years Old to Kindergarten (2017)* for VPK programs will be implemented in programs beginning in fall 2018.

## 5. What professional development opportunities will be available?

OEL will begin providing online and instructor-led professional development opportunities in summer 2018. Information regarding available courses and the registration process will be available in spring 2018 for the following trainings:

- *Implementing the Florida Standards in the Preschool Classroom: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten* (online and instructor-led)
- *Implementing the Florida Standards in the Infant and Toddler Classrooms: Birth through 2 Years Old* (online and instructor-led)
- *Implementing the Florida Standards in Early Learning Classrooms: Birth to Kindergarten* (online)

## 6. Will there be a train-the-trainer opportunity?

A train-the-trainer opportunity will be provided for those offering the instructor-led *Implementing the Florida Standards in the Preschool Classroom: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten* training in early summer 2018. Other opportunities will be announced as they become available.

## 7. Will teachers and directors who have already taken standards training be required to take the new training on the revised standards?

The state does not require teachers and directors who have previously taken a standards course to take training on the new standards, although it is highly recommended. Individual employers may require standards training.

Educators will be accountable for implementing the new standards in their SR and VPK classrooms beginning in fall 2018.

## 8. Who is required to take the new standards training course(s)?

**VPK** - The following staff must have the new training, *Implementing the Florida Standards in the Preschool Classroom: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten*, once available

- ***New school year VPK instructors*** with a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or approved equivalent less than an associate's degree.
- ***Providers on probation*** using the Staff Development Plan.
- ***New directors seeking the VPK Director Credential Endorsement.***

**School Readiness** - Contract providers in the School Readiness Program are not required to complete standards training course(s).

## 9. Will the VPK Assessment be revised?

There are no plans to revise the VPK Assessment at this time. The VPK Assessment covers the areas of phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, vocabulary and number sense, addressed in the revised standards.

