Attachment E

### **EARLY LEARNING GUIDANCE**

## **Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation**

Date: May 23, 2016

Subject: Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

Contact: email VPKguestions@oel.myflorida.com or call 1-866-447-1159

The information that follows provides guidance to help determine if a non-licensed private provider is eligible to provide the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

According to Section (s.) 1002.55(3)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be eligible to offer VPK, private providers must either

- be licensed as a child care facility under s. 402.305, F.S., family day care home under s. 402.313, F.S., or large family child care home under s. 402.3131, F.S.; or
- be licensed exempt under s. 402.3025(2), F.S. (for nonpublic schools) or s. 402.316, F.S. (for faith-based providers), and
  - hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281, F.S.;
  - or be accredited by an accrediting association that is a member of
    - National Council for Private School Accreditation
    - The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools;
  - or be accredited by
    - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
    - Western Association of Colleges and Schools
    - North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
    - Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
    - New England Association of Colleges and Schools

#### **How to Verify Gold Seal Designations**

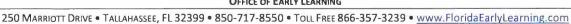
If a facility has an accreditation from one of the Gold Seal accrediting agencies, they have to apply for Gold Seal with Department of Children and Families. You can see if an accrediting agency is approved for Gold Seal by checking http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/goldseal.

#### **How to Verify Accrediting Association Members**

To check if an accrediting association is a member of

The National Council for Private School Accreditation visit http://www.ncpsa.org/accrediting\_agencies/members.

The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools visit <a href="http://www.faans.org/accrediting.html">http://www.faans.org/accrediting.html</a>.





# Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

#### **How to Verify Accreditation**

To check if a facility is accredited by

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <a href="http://www.sacs.org">http://www.sacs.org</a> and select the SACS/CASI option.

The Western Association of Colleges and Schools

visit <a href="http://www.acswasc.org/directory\_search.cfm">http://www.acswasc.org/directory\_search.cfm</a>.

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

visit http://www.advanc-ed.org/oasis2/u/par/search.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

visit http://www.msa-cess.org/RelId/606553/ISvars/default/Search Our Members.htm.

The New England Association of Colleges and Schools

visit https://www.neasc.org/find-member-schools.