

**EARLY LEARNING GUIDANCE****Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation****Date:** May 23, 2016**Subject:** Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation**Contact:** email [VPKquestions@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:VPKquestions@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](http://www.ncpsa.org/accrediting_agencies/members).

**The Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools**

visit <http://www.faans.org/accrediting.html>.

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## Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation

### How to Verify Accreditation

To check if a facility is accredited by

**The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**

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

**The Western Association of Colleges and Schools**

visit [http://www.acswasc.org/directory\\_search.cfm](http://www.acswasc.org/directory_search.cfm).

**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](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>.