

VPK vs ACPS VPK

What is VPK?

- VPK legislation was signed into law in 2005.
- Created to prepare Florida's 4 year olds for kindergarten and to build a strong foundation for their continued educational success.
- Offered in both public and private schools/centers
- 540 hours = 3 hours for 180 school days

What is does ACPS VPK offer?

- Full school day services (1000+ hours) at no additional cost
- Inclusion classrooms
- Highly qualified early childhood staff
- Research-Based Curriculum
- The "school experience"
 - Electives/Specials
 - School events
 - Routines
 - Access to services

VPK Program Terms - 2 options for families

1

School Year Program

540 Hours

1 VPK Instructor

1 Assistant

Up to 20 students
per class



2

Summer Program

300 Hours

1 Teacher

(Summer VPK Teacher qualifications are much higher)

Up to 12 students per class

Per F.S. 1002.61(1)(a) School
Districts must provide a
Summer VPK Program





ACPS Offers a Full Day Program



540 hours

VPK Voucher Funds

3 hours per day



1060 hours

**Full school day with
Alachua County Public
Schools**

***School Year Program Term
(Aug-May)***





Kindergarten Readiness



1

Curriculum

Frog Street

Comprehensive, Researched-based curriculum that is aligned to both the federal and state standards



2

Standards

Florida Early Learning & Developmental Standards

3

Staff

1 Teacher & 1 Assistant
for each class;
Trained in Early Childhood Education



Florida Early Learning & Developmental Standards

- 
- ✓ Physical Development
 - ✓ Approaches to learning
 - ✓ Social & Emotional Development
 - ✓ Language & Literacy
 - ✓ Mathematical Thinking
 - ✓ Scientific Inquiry
 - ✓ Social studies
 - ✓ Creative Expression through arts

<http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/>

ACPS VPK Curriculum:

frogstreet



- Research-based
- 9 thematic units integrating literacy, math, science, social studies, social-emotional connections, STEAM, technology, assessment, and family engagement.
- Includes *Conscious Discipline* strategies to build a strong social-emotional foundation from which children can learn to solve conflicts and manage their emotions
- Mascot: Fanny Frog

<https://www.frogstreet.com/curriculum/pre-k/>

VPK Assessment: F.A.S.T



- The Coordinated Screening & Progress Monitoring Program is the statewide standardized program known as Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy implemented in all VPK Programs as required by s. 1002.68, F.S.
- Used to assess student achievement of the performance standard established in s. 1002.67(1)(a), F.S., in early literacy and mathematics.
- Aligned to FL Early Learning & Developmental Standards
- Computer-adaptive assessment

Assessment Timeline

Assessment 1	within 1st 30 days
Assessment 2	midyear
Assessment 3	within last 30 days



Results will be sent home to parents after each assessment.

Attendance Policy

- **Regular attendance is a requirement of this program and is also essential for your child's success in Kindergarten**
- **The Voluntary Pre-K Program is a state funded program which has attendance rules and regulations that both the provider and the parents/guardian(s) must follow.**
- **Students may be withdrawn if they miss 20% of school days/month**
- **Excused and unexcused absences are both considered an absence**
- **All students must be signed in and out each day by an adult**
- **All parents must sign an attendance contract at registration**
- **This applies to all VPK Provider**



ACPS

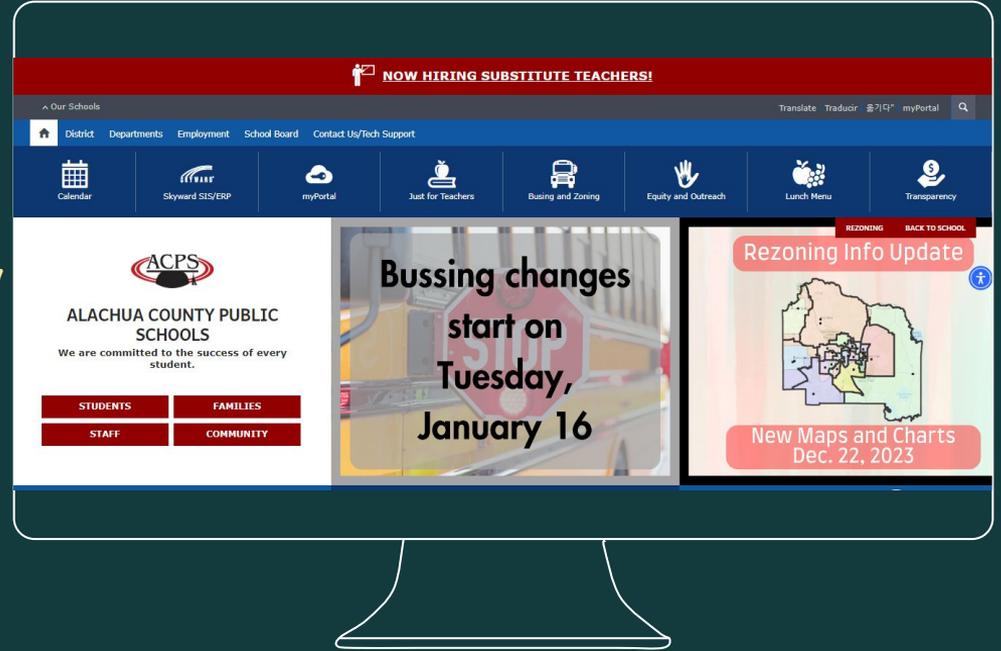
WEBSITE



www.sbac.edu

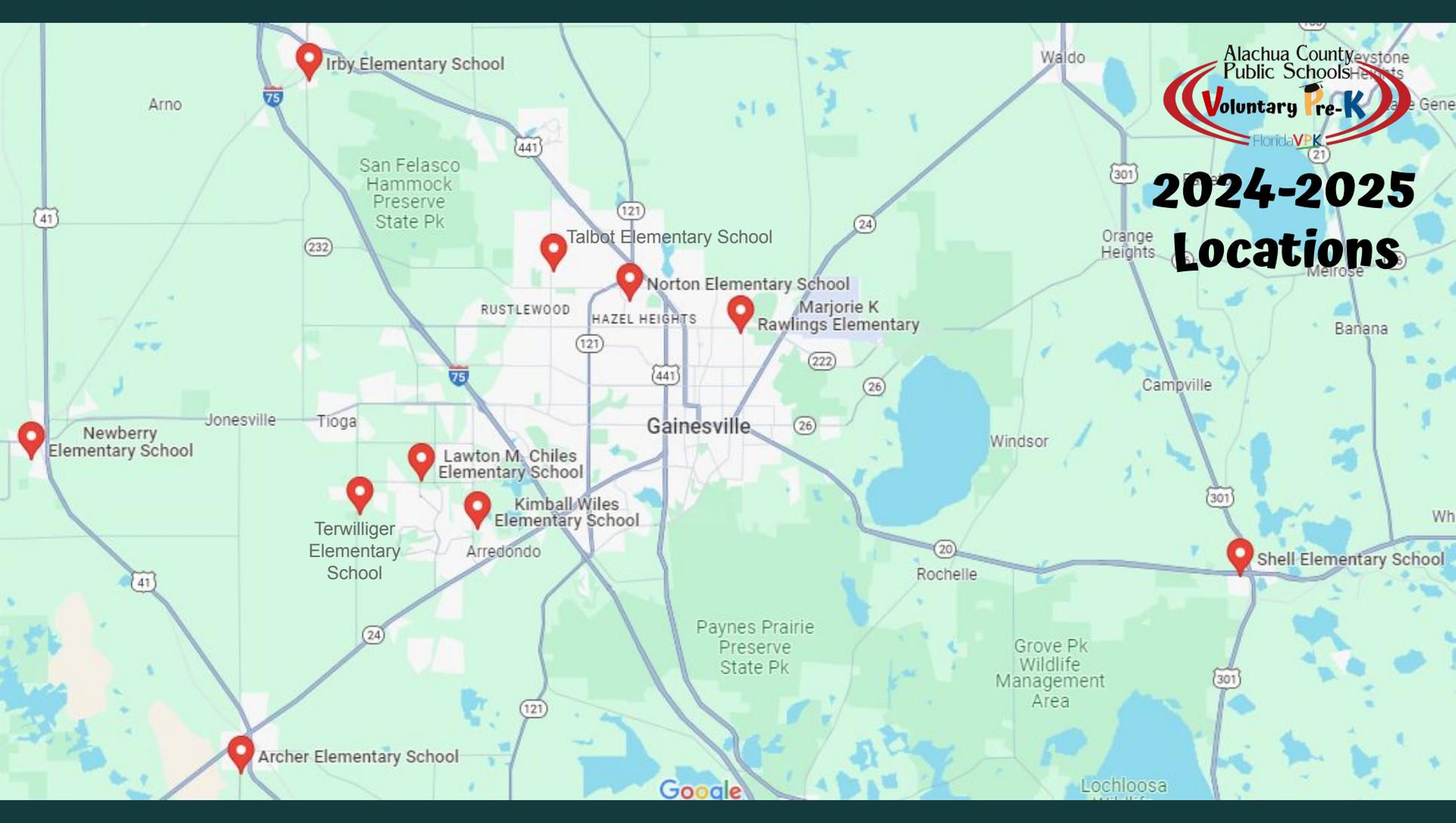


Click on School Calendar





2024-2025 Locations



Irby Elementary School

Talbot Elementary School

Norton Elementary School

Marjorie K Rawlings Elementary

Newberry Elementary School

Lawton M. Chiles Elementary School

Kimball Wiles Elementary School

Terwilliger Elementary School

Archer Elementary School

Shell Elementary School

VPK Eligibility Criteria

State of Florida Age Requirement:

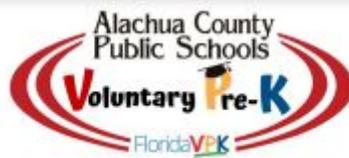
- ✓ Students must be at least 4 years old on or before September 1st of that school year
(Example: Must be 4 by September 1st, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year)

✗ No Income Requirement

Selection Criteria for the ACPS VPK Program:

1. Families can apply for the ACPS VPK Program by completing a short google form at www.tinyurl.com/ACPS-VPK 
2. All applications are time and date stamped
3. Applicants are accepted on a first come, first serve basis
4. Priority is given to zoned students
5. Families may apply for any location if they do not have VPK at their zoned school.

No Cost & Not Income Based



APPLY NOW FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR!



- Will your child will be 4 years old by September 1st, 2024?
- Is your family zoned to an Alachua County Public School VPK Location?



ACPS VPK OFFERS

- No cost VPK Program
- Full School Day
- Hands-on Learning
- Nurturing Environment
- Qualified Early Childhood Staff
- Engaging Research-Based Curriculum

* Space is limited at all VPK locations.*

DAYS & TIMES

- Monday-Friday 7:30am to 1:30pm
- Wednesday 12:30pm (early release day)

Times may vary slightly by location
VPK follows the ACPS School Calendar

LOCATIONS

- Archer Elementary
- Chiles Elementary
- Irby Elementary
- Newberry Elementary
- Norton Elementary
- Rawlings Elementary
- Shell Elementary
- Talbot Elementary
- Terwilliger Elementary
- Wiles Elementary

Student must attend their zoned school



2 STEPS TO APPLY

Step 1 To apply for the Alachua County Public Schools' VPK Program, submit an application online at: www.tinyurl.com/ACPS-VPK

Step 2 To apply for your child's VPK Voucher (Certificate of Eligibility) go to: <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com>



Important Dates:



VPK ADMINISTRATION OFFICE FEARNSIDE FAMILY SERVICES CENTER

3600 NE 15TH STREET,
GAINESVILLE, FL 32609

352-955-7676

WWW.SBAC.EDU/VPK

NEVESTRO@GM.SBAC.EDU
RICHARDSONJL@GM.SBAC.EDU

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
@ACPSPREK

If you need assistance with the VPK Application or have questions, contact the VPK Administrative Office. Se habla español.

JANUARY 1ST	State VPK Voucher Portal Opens (see link in step 2)
JANUARY 8TH	Application for ACPS VPK Program Opens (see link in step 1)
FEBRUARY 29TH	"On-Time" Application Deadline for early acceptance
MARCH 29TH	Placement Offers Begin (sent via email)
APRIL 12TH	Commitment Responses from Families Due
ON-GOING	Acceptance & Commitment process continues gear-round as spaces becomes available.



☆ www.tinyurl.com/ACPS-VPK



Alachua County Public Schools VPK Program Application

To apply for the Alachua County Public Schools' VPK Program, please read the following information and complete the form.

Para aplicar al Programa VPK de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Alachua, favor de leer el siguiente información y complete el formulario.

WELCOME TO FLORIDA'S EARLY LEARNING FAMILY PORTAL

You will find information here about Florida's early learning programs. You can also apply for School Readiness (child care assistance) and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education services online by clicking on an **Apply for** button below.



Resource & Referral

Florida's Child Care Resource and Referral Network or CCR&R helps families locate quality child care

School Readiness

Florida's School Readiness Program or SR offers financial assistance to eligible low-income families

VPK

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or VPK is a free educational program that

VPK Voucher (Certificate of Eligibility)



I. CHILD CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY *(Issued by Early Learning Coalition, through the Family Portal)*

1. VPK program year	2. Certificate number	3. Certificate issue date	4. Parent email address
5. Parent name		6. Primary contact number	7. Secondary contact number
8. Child's full name		9. Child's date of birth	10. County

II. ADMISSION BY PROVIDER OR SCHOOL *(Jointly Prepared by Provider or School AND Parent or Guardian)*

11. Name of provider or school	12. Telephone	
13. Address of VPK site	14. VPK class (optional)	15. Date child will begin attendance
The provider or school certifies that it admits the child (item 8) for enrollment in the VPK program and agrees to deliver the program for the child.		I certify that I choose the provider or school (item 11) to deliver the VPK program for my child and direct that program funds be paid to the provider or school for my child.
16. Signature of authorized representative for provider or school	17. Date	18. Parent signature
		19. Date

III. ENROLLMENT SUBMISSION AND CONFIRMATION *(Submitted by Provider or School)*

TO PROVIDER OR SCHOOL: Contact the coalition upon enrollment of the child for payment. The Early Learning Coalition may issue a confirmation number for payment (below).	TO CONTACT THE COALITION FOR PAYMENT:
	IS YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)

NOTICE TO PRIVATE PROVIDER OR PUBLIC SCHOOL: A private provider or public school must keep each original signed form for at least 5 years. A private provider must permit the early learning coalition, and a public school must permit the school district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal business hours. If required by the early learning coalition, a signed copy of this certificate must be forwarded to the coalition or a qualified contractor acting on behalf of the coalition.



★ What Happens After I Apply?



Applications Reviewed

Verifying Age and Zoning



Acceptance

If accepted, family will be contacted to begin school registration process.



Waitlist

If school has reached capacity, child will be added to the waitlist.





COVID RESPONSE UPDATES

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Education

VPK Home

HIPPY

Program Contacts

Parent Academy

VPK Program



ACPS VPK APPLICATION

Click the link below to complete an application for your child to attend the Alachua County Public Schools' VPK Program. We look forward to being a part of your child's educational journey.

www.tinyurl.com/ACPS-VPK



All About VPK

What is VPK?

The Florida Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program (VPK) is a no cost educational program provided by the state for 4 year old children that live in Florida.

Why should I put my child in a VPK Program?

Studies demonstrate that children who complete VPK or attend even a portion of VPK are far more prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

What are the benefits of attending VPK with the Alachua County Public School?

- **More Hours!** A typical school year VPK program will provide 3 hours per day (8am to 11am) for 180 school days for a total of 540 hours. The ACPS VPK Program will provide an entire school day (7:45am-1:52pm Monday-Friday with early release on Wednesdays at 12:37pm).
- **Kindergarten Readiness!** VPK is a school readiness program that aims at preparing children for kindergarten. By having your child attend their zoned elementary school for VPK they will be more prepared to transition to kindergarten and better understand how their school operates. This will help them become excited about kindergarten and be able to excel in the more structured school environment.

VPK Flyers

- [2022 Summer VPK Program Flyer](#)
- [2022-2023 VPK Program Flyer](#)
- [2022-2023 VPK Program Flyer - Español](#)
- [2021-2022 VPK Program Flyer](#)
- [2021-2022 VPK Program Flyer - Español](#)



HOW TO Apply for VPK **Let's Talk! Click Here to Contact Us!**

I'm concerned about my child's development...what can I do now?



Referral to FDLRS:
Florida Diagnostic Learning &
Resources System
352-671-6051 or 800-533-0326
<https://springs.fdlrs.org/>

Evaluations are conducted by
the ACPS Pre-K ESE
Multi-disciplinary team

PreK ESE Dept: 352-955-7671

If your child qualifies for an IEP
(Individual Education Plan) then
he/she may be eligible from
services from the ACPS Pre-K ESE
Program



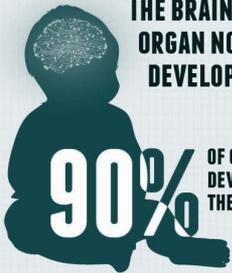


2,000 days

From birth to Kindergarten



High Quality Early Childhood
Education is the Key to Success
in Kindergarten and beyond!



THE BRAIN IS THE ONLY ORGAN NOT FULLY DEVELOPED AT BIRTH.

90% OF CRITICAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF LIFE.





**We look forward to partnering with
you as your child begins their
educational journey!**



352-955-7676



WWW.SBAC.EDU/VPK



**3600 NE 15th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609**



@ACPSPREK



Trisha Nieves, VPK Administrative Coordinator
nievestr@gm.sbac.edu



Jerri Richardson, VPK Program Services Coordinator
richardsonjl@gm.sbac.edu





Q & A

Parent Feedback & Discussion