

The logo features the word "Florida" in blue, "VPK" in large, colorful letters (V in red, P in yellow, K in blue) with a green underline, and "Eligibility Extended!" in red. The entire graphic is set against a white background with four colorful pushpins (red, green, blue, red) at the corners.

Florida VPK Eligibility Extended!

Florida parents whose children are born from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 in a calendar year will soon have a new option when it comes to enrolling their 4-year-old in the state's free, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK). They can enroll their children that year or wait until the following year when their child is 5 thanks to the education bill signed by Governor Rick Scott.

Effective July 1, 2016, four-year-old children with birthdays from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 will be eligible to enroll in VPK that year or postpone it to the next. Four-year-olds with birthdays from Sept. 2 through Feb. 1 are eligible to enroll in VPK the following program year.

The extension is intended to allow parents of younger 4-year-olds to postpone the year their child begins VPK, in turn enabling the child to begin kindergarten and start first grade as a slightly older, more mature student. Children may participate in the VPK Program one time only. Children in Florida are not required to attend either the state's prekindergarten or kindergarten programs, but are required to attend school the year they turn 6 by Feb. 1. See attached for more details.

