



Press Release

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Duval County Kindergarten Readiness Rates Are Above State Average

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. February 25, 2008 — The Early Learning Coalition of Duval announces the “Kindergarten Readiness Rates” for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Providers for the 2006-07 year. **Duval County VPK providers scored an average rate of 248, 4 points higher than the state’s average of 244.** “Kindergarten Readiness Rates” measure how well a private or public VPK provider prepared four-year-olds for kindergarten. Rates are calculated by the Florida Department of Education and are available at our website; www.elcofduval.org.

Over 8,500 children enrolled in VPK throughout 06-07. These “Kindergarten Readiness Rates” reflect the 340+ Duval County providers of VPK in 06-07. **The 340+ providers offering VPK in Duval County represent an 18% increase over the previous year** (compared to the 12% increase in the state). The Duval County School Board administered the screening to all public school kindergarten students.

Over 8000 children substantially completed the program in Duval County, representing 94% of all VPK attendees; while statewide only 75% substantially completed the program. 82% of all VPK Providers received a Readiness Rate in Duval County. The highest rate a provider could receive is 300 (100 percent for each of the three screening tools). Rates were calculated on the number of children who attended at least 70% of the provider's school-year or summer program and who were screened on any one of the three measures.

The screening instrument (Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener--*FLKRS*) measured how well the children could identify letter names and initial letter sounds as well as how they met the statewide VPK standards. The screening instrument was comprised of portions of the Early Childhood Observation System™--*ECHOS*™--which measures statewide VPK standards) and two sections of the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills™--*DIBELS*™--(which measures letter name/letter sound recognition).

“With the help of our community partners our Coalition continues to strive to give the children of Jacksonville a strong foundation when they enter school. Our investment in early childhood makes a big difference. Our children start school ready to learn and succeed.” said Susan Main, ELC of Duval, Executive Director.

To learn more about *Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten* or the Early Learning Coalition of Duval call (904) 208-2044 or visit www.elcofduval.org

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