

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

DONNA G. CALLAWAY

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

PHOEBE RAULERSON

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

LINDA K. TAYLOR

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



January 31, 2008

MEMORANDUM #07-39

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning

SUBJECT: English Language Learners in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Classroom Learning Module

Having the skills and competencies related to maintaining a high quality, culturally sensitive educational environment is essential for providers and teachers of Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Programs. To facilitate this, the Department of Education (DOE) has developed a self-paced training titled *English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom*. *English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom* is **now** available at no cost and accessible at www.flvpkonline.org/ELL/.

English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom is an online learning module that was developed based upon the recommendations of many VPK teachers, directors, owners, and early childhood educators across the state. The ideas presented in this learning module are designed to provide a better understanding of the characteristics and language learning experiences of colleagues, staff, children and families who are English language learners. This learning module is organized into the following five sections: *Introduction*, *Who Are English Language Learners?*, *Culturally and Linguistically Supportive Classroom Environments*, *Working with Young English Language Learners and Resources*. Each section of the learning module features a drop-down box with the Florida VPK Education Standards which are relevant to that specific section. This will help teachers link the activities planned for English language learners with the expectations of a high-quality VPK Education Program. **All** early childhood educators are encouraged to participate in the training.

Interested Persons
January 31, 2008
Page Two

If you have any questions regarding the content of the *English Language Learners in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Classroom* Learning Module, please contact Erika Hall, Program Specialist, Office of Early Learning, at (850) 245-0445 or via email at Erika.Hall@fldoe.org.

SG/eh

cc: Executive Directors, Early Learning Coalitions
District Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction
District English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Contacts
District Prekindergarten Contacts
Brittany Birken, Deputy Director, AWI, Office of Early Learning
Debby Russo, Director, DCF, Child Care Program
Lisa Saavedra