

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

IN RE: WAIVING STRICT
ADHERENCE TO THE FLORIDA
EDUCATION CODE, AS SPECIFIED
HEREIN, PURSUANT TO
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-
52, MADE NECESSARY BY THE
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY

DOE ORDER NO. 2020-EO-04

EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order No. 20-52, declaring a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency; and,

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-52, Section 4, paragraph B authorizes State agencies to “suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency: and,

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida entered EO 20-112 outlining Phase 1 of a safe, smart, step-by-step plan for Florida’s recovery, establishing a path to reopen Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the summer voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) program is an important tool to help families transition students to kindergarten.

NOW THEREFORE, I find that it is necessary to suspend the statutes and rules with respect to the Summer VPK program, as set forth below, in order to respond to and to mitigate the impacts of the emergency and to promote the health, safety and welfare of persons connected with Florida's educational system:

- a. The provisions of Sections 1002.61(2)(a) and 1002.71(2)(b), F.S., requiring 300 hours of instruction are suspended for the 2020 Summer VPK program for public schools and private prekindergarten providers. The 2020 Summer VPK program shall constitute a minimum of 200-hours of instruction.
- b. Section 1002.55(3)(g), F.S., is modified for the 2020 Summer VPK program to authorize a private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in educational leadership issued by the department to satisfy the requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under Section 1002.57, F.S.
- c. All assessments for the 2020 Summer VPK program are cancelled.

The effective date of this Order shall correspond with the effective dates of Executive Order No. 20-52, and any extensions thereto. However, except where a date is specifically provided, these waivers automatically terminate in 120 days unless extended by a subsequent order.

DONE AND ORDERED this 10th day of June, 2020, in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



Richard Corcoran
Commissioner of Education