Who Qualifies for VPK?

• Children who reside in Florida.
• Children who turn 4 by Sept. 1.
• There are no predetermined boundaries for enrollment.

*May only attend VPK ONE time (school year OR summer), the summer before kindergarten*
What are the hours of VPK program?

All VPK programs run throughout the regular school day.

- **VPK hours:** (the first 3.5 hours of the student school day)
- VPK with Extended Day - entire student school day
- Extended Learning Time fees begins on the first day of school for the PEEPS/VPK and VPK classrooms.
Registration Process

• Certificate of Eligibility
  – Parents will complete an online application process at elchc.org. (813) 515-2340
  • Requires upload of proof of residency and proof of birth.
  – The parents will have until **April 8** to provide the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to you.
• When the parent brings the COE to school, they will complete the school registration packet which includes:
  – Child’s current shot record and physical
  – Proof of residency and proof of birth
  – SER form (complete and collect)
  – Attendance Policy/Parent Agreement (check, sign, copy AND scan)
  – Financial Agreement of Understanding for VPK Families in PEEPS blended (sign agreement, copy AND scan)

MyPaymentPlus information (provided)
Why are there Fees?

- I thought VPK was free!
  - Only for the first 3.5 hours of the day
  - VPK School Year is for 540 hours
- If a family wants their child to stay for the school day- they must pay an Extended Day fee.
- Share “How to Create a MyPaymentPlus Account”
Why are There Fees?

• The fees for the additional hours beyond VPK are assigned on a sliding scale.
  – Those who qualify for **FREE** Lunch will be charged $10 per week.
  – Those who qualify for **REDUCED** Lunch will be charged $25 per week.
  – **All others** will be charged a fee of $75 per week.

**Note:** students qualifying for REDUCED LUNCH are provided with a free lunch, but it is still a distinct category that is assigned to some families and this category will be used for VPK rates.

• If you are a select Title I PREK VPK site, there will be no fees applied for any students.
How do I Pay for Extended Day?

- Families must complete a free/reduced lunch application - this sets their fee
- After they are registered for an account - the fee will show up under “VPK Extended”
- Do not pay under the meals plan
Fees?

- The fees will remain constant throughout the school year, regardless of the number of days in the week or absences.
- Families can pay weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly. However, money cannot be reimbursed if the student withdraws from the program.
What if the parent has applied for Free/Reduced Lunch, but has not yet heard if they qualify?

- All families must pay $75 (full rate) until they provide proof to the school that they qualify for a reduced rate.
- Free/reduced lunch applications must be updated annually.
- As soon as we know that they qualify, the family will begin paying the reduced fee, but they are not reimbursed for prior payments.
- If a parent has applied for FRL but has not heard, please assist them by checking in Ed Connect to see if their status has been posted.
- Encourage all families to complete the online application after July 1.
How is the money collected?

- It is expected that parents will make their weekly payments through the district’s online MyPaymentsPlus system.
- If a family is unable to pay the fee online, the fee can be paid using a cashier’s check or money order made out to the school. The bookkeeper at every school is trained on how to deposit the money into the VPK account.
- **One person** at each site is responsible for checking the weekly payments. If families have not paid by Tuesday, Letter 1 goes home. If they have not paid by Friday, Letter 2 goes home and a $5 late fee is attached to that week.