



# Fiscal Year 2022 Voluntary Prekindergarten and School Readiness Plus: Application Overview and Demonstration

Presented January 5 and 7, 2021

1. Application timeline.
2. Voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) and school readiness plus (SRP) program overview.
3. Funding overview for fiscal year (FY) 2022.
4. Application ranking and funding allocation process.
5. Program design considerations.
6. Application process.
7. Demonstration of the application and *Prekindergarten Site Worksheet*.

# Webinar Details

- Please type questions into the chat box.
- The slides from this presentation are posted on the [VPK/SRP webpage](#).
- Additional guidance including a recorded demonstration of the Prekindergarten Site Worksheet is posted to the [VPK/SRP webpage](#).
- Email [MDE.VPK@state.mn.us](mailto:MDE.VPK@state.mn.us) with questions or to request the recording of this webinar.

# Application Timeline

# Application Timeline

Action	Date
Application opens	Tuesday, January 5, 2021
Application Overview Webinars	Tuesday, January 5: 1-2 p.m. Thursday, January 7: 1-2 p.m.
Open Office Hours Webinars	Wednesday, January 13: 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, January 19: 12-1 p.m. Wednesday, January 27: 9-10 a.m.
Final questions received*	Wednesday, January 27
<b>Applications due</b>	<b>Monday, February 1 at 4 p.m.</b>
Notification of eligibility	By Monday, March 1
Funding notification	After Spring Legislative Session

\*Questions will be collected every Thursday and posted on the [VPK/SRP webpage](#) in an updated Q&A every Monday during the application period.

# VPK/SRP Program Overview

**Purpose:** Prepare children for success as they enter kindergarten the following year.

**Aligns with:**

- Governor Walz's One Minnesota Plan
- World's Best Work Force Legislation

# Program Requirements

- View the Implementation Webinar Series on the [VPK/SRP Resources for Funded Programs webpage](#). Recordings include:
  - Funding Overview
  - Program Requirements – Eligibility, Logistics, and Outreach
  - Program Requirements for Measuring Impact – Curriculum, Assessment, and Teacher Evaluation
  - Program Design and Mixed Delivery
  - Meal Service and Breakfast Invoicing Process
- The application contains the *Statement of Assurances* which must be signed to confirm programs will meet all statutory requirements.



# Funding Overview

# Current Status of VPK/SRP Funding for FY22: Programs Initially Funded in FY17

1. Funding for VPK programs initially funded in **FY17** will be renewed for their original number of seats at the original sites (74 districts and charter schools at 104 sites for 3,160 seats). Note: Allocations may change pending current kindergarten enrollment numbers.
2. District and charter schools must file an application to receive ongoing funding or to be considered for additional funds, should some become available during the spring legislative session.
3. It is important that one site worksheets be filed for each site that received funding in FY17. If numbers have shifted between these and currently funded sites, this will be addressed using the amendment process after allocation notices have been sent.

# Current Status of VPK/SRP Funding for FY22: Programs Initially Funded in FY18, FY19, FY20, FY21

1. Funding for VPK/SRP programs initially funded in **FY18, FY19, FY20, or FY21** is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2020-21 school year unless action is taken by the legislature. Preschool funding decisions will be made during the spring 2021 legislative session.
2. All districts and charter schools interested in **renewal, expansion, or new** funding must submit a *Prekindergarten Site Worksheet* for each site where funding is desired to be considered for funding, should it be made available.

# VPK/SRP Funding Overview

- VPK and SRP funds are generated through Fund 01 general education revenue including formula driven calculations.
- Student enrollment data must be entered into MARSS to generate funding.
- Districts receive metered payments beginning August 30.

# Funding Overview

- There is no aid entitlement cap.
- Enrollment generated by VPK/SRP will be added to the district/charter existing student data for calculating revenues and aids.
  - This includes General Education, Q Comp (starting FY20), school breakfast, school lunch, Charter School Lease, and Achievement & Integration aids.
- FY22 Compensatory will be recalculated to include current year VPK/SRP enrollment for first year sites.
  - Reminder: Preschool funding decisions will be made during the spring 2021 legislative session.
- FY22 Q-Comp will not be adjusted to include current year VPK/SRP enrollment.

# Average Daily Membership (ADM)

- VPK/SRP seats are funded based on Average Daily Membership (ADM) and pupil units.
  - ADM = ratio of instructional hours to 850 hours.
  - Pupil units = ADM with a weighting factor applied.
- VPK/SRP funds are capped at a maximum of 0.6 ADM (510+ hours).
- Pupil weighting factor = 1.0, so the calculated pupil units will be the same as the ADM.
  - Students enrolled in programs that provide the minimum of 350 hours of instruction will be counted as 0.41 pupil unit.
  - Students in programs that provide 425 hours will be counted as 0.5 pupil unit.
  - Students in programs that provide 510 or more hours will be counted as 0.6 pupil unit.
  - **Note:** The number of total planned program hours should be entered on the Prekindergarten Site Worksheet even if it is more than 510 hours.

# Application Ranking and Funding Allocation

# Funding Allocation

The percentage of participant seats for each region is determined by a legislative formula and is calculated using state kindergarten enrollment:

Funding Allocation	Minneapolis-St. Paul	Metro Suburbs	Non-Metro	Charter	Total
% of FY20 K	8.85%	40.48%	42.27%	8.40%	100.00%
FY22 Estimated Allocation based on 3,160 seats	280	1,279	1,336	265	3,160
FY22 Estimated Allocation based on 7,160 seats	635	2,898	3,026	601	7,160



# Application Ranking

All applications meeting program requirements will be rank-ordered based on three criteria:

1. Free and reduced-price meal concentration of students in kindergarten at the site\* as of October 1 of the previous fiscal year;
2. Proximity of site to Three- or Four-Star Parent Aware rated programs; and
3. Whether the district has implemented a mixed delivery program partnership for all or part of the requested seats.

\*If a school site contracts with a community-based provider or Head Start, or establish an early childhood center, they will use the free and reduced-price lunch concentration of students in kindergarten at the school site the program is near as long as those eligible children are prioritized and guaranteed services at the mixed delivery site or early education center.

# Application Ranking, Continued

- **Step 1:** Calculate Poverty Concentration (not the same as Compensatory) =
  - $(\# \text{ FY21 Free K} + \# \text{ FY21 Reduced K}) / \text{Total FY21 K Enrollment} \times 100$
- **Step 2:** Calculate Bonus Points:
  - 5 points for school sites with no Three- or Four-Star Parent Aware rated child care or Head Start within 10 miles of the school site.
  - 5 points for school sites with no Three- or Four-Star Parent Aware rated child care or Head Start within 20 miles of the school site.
  - 5 points if working in partnership with a mixed delivery site (Head Start, child care center, family child care or community organization).
- **Step 3:** Add Poverty Concentration + Bonus Points = Individual Site Ranking
- Note: A spreadsheet of FY21 application rankings is posted on the [VPK/SRP webpage](#).

# Program Design Considerations

# General Guidelines for Program Design

- Use the requirements of VPK and SRP to impact quality and frame program design for all learners in your district.
- Any child “touched” by VPK or SRP funding is included in the curriculum, assessment, and data collection requirements of that classroom.
- Layering, braiding, and blending of funding streams provides opportunities to maximize program options for children and families.
- Consider using mixed delivery partnerships to best serve the families in your community.

- Programs are required to offer **at least** 350 instructional hours per year.
- Full-day programming is recommended for greater student outcomes.
- When designing your calendar, consider:
  - The experience you want your children to have.
  - The needs of the families in your district.
  - Adding additional days above 350 hours in case of snow days/school closures.

# Braiding and Blending

- VPK/SRP funds a maximum of 0.6 ADM, or 510 hours.
- If your program is more than 510 hours, consider braiding these with other funding sources to cover the costs above and beyond the hours funded by VPK/SRP.
  - Early Learning Scholarships (Pathway I and II)
  - School Readiness
  - General Funds
  - Title Funds
  - Compensatory
  - Child Care Assistance Program
  - Private/Foundation
  - Other
- In the *Prekindergarten Site Worksheet*, enter the total number of instructional hours that you will be implementing VPK/SRP standards, even if it is above 510 hours.
- NOTE: Given COVID-19 and changing schedules, opportunities to adjust FY22 calendars will be offered after funding decisions are made.

# Renewal Program Considerations

For programs applying to renew currently-funded seats:

- You may reduce the number of participants/requested seats.
- If you increase the number of participants/seats, it will appear as an expansion.
- You may change the calendar (hours or days) to reach the maximum 0.6 ADM allowed per pupil unit.

# Consider Collaborating with a Mixed Delivery Partner

- A mixed delivery partnership is defined as a district or charter school contracting with a Head Start, child care center, family child care program or community-based organization for delivery of a VPK/SRP program.
- The district/charter school must have one signed *Statement of Assurances* from each mixed delivery partner site that is noted in the application.
- The district must have a signed contract with their partner site before the first date of program implementation.
- The district or charter school is responsible to make sure that all program requirements are met by the mixed delivery partner.
- The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will provide materials to help facilitate partnerships.



# Implementing a Mixed Delivery Model



Mixed delivery partnerships help create cohesive community early learning systems by aligning instructional practices and professionals while creating programs that meet family needs.

# Mixed Delivery System Key Attributes

- Assures parent choice of high-quality early learning and care programs.
- Creates continuity and pathways for children's transitions between program types.
- Encourages joint professional development between program types.
- Aligns curriculum, assessment, and instruction practices between program types.
- Supports continuous program improvement through responsive data-driven decision-making practices.

# Application Process

# Application Structure

- Districts and charter schools submit one online application.
  - The application captures renewal, new, or expansion applications.
- *Prekindergarten Site Worksheet:*
  - Programs will download the spreadsheet template within the online application.
  - Programs will complete and upload one *Prekindergarten Site Worksheet* for each site. Programs will upload the completed attachments to their online application:
- *Statement of Assurances:*
  - Must be signed by the **Superintendent** or **Executive Director** and the VPK/SRP Program Coordinator.
  - Programs have two options for submitting the *Statement of Assurances*: 1) download, print, sign, scan, and upload the document, or 2) programs may sign electronically within the online application instead of uploading.

# Automatic Parent Aware Four-Star Rating

- VPK-funded programs and their partners are eligible for an Automatic Four-Star Parent Aware Rating because VPK statute meets or exceeds the Parent Aware Indicators.
- Parent Aware Ratings are valid for two years. All VPK programs that opted in to the Automatic Rating were rated as part of last year's FY21 VPK Application.
  - VPK programs will re-rate as part of the FY23 VPK Application in January 2022.
- If sites/partnerships change during the two-year rating (closing or opening a site, changing the address or name of a site), please contact [ParentAware.MDE@state.mn.us](mailto:ParentAware.MDE@state.mn.us) to request an addendum.
  - Note: If sites are not included in your Rating, they are not eligible for Early Learning Scholarships (Pathway I and Pathway II).

# Demonstration Application and Prekindergarten Site Worksheet

# Application Recap, Reminders, and Resources

# Application Form Tips and Reminders

- Start only one application per program.
- Use the **Save and continue later** feature in the top right corner.
- MDE will not provide a PDF of the application. Enter placeholder information to view the questions, submit, and return to edit your responses.
- When you **submit** your application, you will receive a confirmation email with a PDF of your responses and a unique link to edit.
  - Use your unique link to edit and resubmit as many times as needed before the deadline. You will receive a confirmation email each time you submit.
- If you cannot find your link, email [MDE.VPK@state.mn.us](mailto:MDE.VPK@state.mn.us).



# Recap – Who Should Apply?

- **Renewal:** All districts and charter schools funded for VPK/SRP in FY17, FY18, FY19, FY20, FY21 must submit an application to remain funded.\*
- **Expansion:** Currently funded sites may request additional seats that will be calculated as additional or expansion seats.
- **New:** Districts should submit applications for currently unfunded sites to be considered for new funding.

\*Renewal for districts funded in FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 is pending depending on spring 2021 legislative decisions regarding prekindergarten funding.

# Recap – Application Process

1. Fill out the online application.
2. Complete and upload a *Prekindergarten Site Worksheet* for each site.
3. Sign the *Statement of Assurances* following directions within the application.
4. Edit your responses until February 1, 2021.
5. Submit by **February 1, 2021 at 4 p.m.**

# Contact Information

- View the [VPK/SRP webpage](#) for application guidance materials and weekly Q&A postings.
- View the [VPK/SRP Resources for Funded Programs](#) page for overview webinars and implementation guidance.
- Email questions to: [MDE.VPK@state.mn.us](mailto:MDE.VPK@state.mn.us).
  - Responses will be posted every Monday on the VPK/SRP webpage.

Thank you!