

## Message from the Early Learning Coalition

**This notice is about:**

- Important Deadline
- Free Resource(s)
- School Readiness, EHS, VPK or other Contract Compliance
- Compliance with State Requirement
- Professional Development Opportunity
- Informational



Pam Stewart  
Commissioner of Education

September 22, 2017

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** VPK Providers and Early Learning Coalitions  
**FROM:** Rodney J. MacKinnon  
**SUBJECT:** Hurricane Irma Closures of VPK Providers

**Rule 6M-8.204(5)(a), F.A.C.**

Hurricane Irma forced temporary closures due to emergency circumstances for most VPK providers across the state. Temporary closures caused by emergency circumstances are addressed in [Rule 6M-8.204 \(5\)\(a\), Florida Administrative Code, found here: https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?title=Office%20of%20Early%20Learning%20-6M-8.204\(5\)\(a\)F.A.C.%20Voluntary%20Prekindergarten%20Education%20Program&ID=6M-8.204](https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?title=Office%20of%20Early%20Learning%20-6M-8.204(5)(a)F.A.C.%20Voluntary%20Prekindergarten%20Education%20Program&ID=6M-8.204). If the closure was for more than five instructional days, the rule requires the VPK provider to revise their class schedule. If the closure meets the circumstances in the rule, up to five instructional days over the course of the VPK school year may be payable.

Please note that if the provider receives payment for five lost instructional days for temporary closure due to emergency circumstances at this time, they may not receive payment for any additional lost instructional days during the school year. Instead, they would need to modify to make up additional lost instructional days. Since circumstances have varied throughout the state, coalitions can address individual concerns, including how to code temporary closures and modifying the VPK class schedule.

Please contact the Office of Early Learning with any additional questions at [vpkquestions@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:vpkquestions@oel.myflorida.com) or 866-447-1159.



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