

**Agency for Workforce Innovation**

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Governor

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Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment Shows Substantial Increase**  
*~ Enrollment totals already exceed last year's ~*

**TALLAHASSEE**— Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) Director Monesia T. Brown today announced that enrollment in Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program increased by 4,000 children in February. This year's VPK enrollment is currently 111,263, exceeding last program year's total by over 6,000 children.

"Each year our kickoff enrollment begins in August, so to have so many children enrolled in the program already is tremendous," said Monesia T. Brown, Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation. "The success of this program honors the people of Florida and demonstrates our commitment to their vision. This is their program and we are not going to let them down."

In its second year of operation, approximately 50 percent of Florida's eligible four-year-olds are receiving free early learning education through the VPK program. This number is expected to continue to increase as parents enroll their children in the summer VPK session.

A statewide survey conducted last year showed that parents of children enrolled in the VPK program are overwhelmingly satisfied with the program's implementation and benefits. Over 92 percent of parents surveyed statewide reported that they were satisfied with the program as a whole. A large percentage of parents – 88 percent – indicated that their children were learning progressively in reading and math. Parents also said they noticed improvement in their children's social skills since entering the program.

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) is the lead state agency for workforce and early learning services in the State of Florida. The Office of Early Learning, a division within the Agency, provides oversight of Florida's school readiness programs and is the lead entity for implementing the state's Voluntary Prekindergarten program. AWI directly administers Early Learning, Labor Market Statistics and Unemployment Compensation programs along with various workforce development programs.

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**Agency for Workforce Innovation**

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