

SUMMARY OF VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN SERVICES IN LAKE, MARION, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

Fall, 2015

League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area AAUW Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch

The survey was divided into seven sections. The survey and the complete report will be available on the LWV website, www.lwvtri.org. An abbreviated summary of the survey results is given below.

1. CHILDREN

- A. Lake County 3,506 eligible children; 2,466 served (70%)
- B. Marion County 3,581 eligible children; 2,917 served (81%)
- C. Sumter County 532 eligible children, 491 served (92%)
- D. Lake County uses the figures from the FL Legislature's estimating conference to set per-child allocations; Marion and Sumter Counties do not

2. FACILITIES

- A. Public schools, private-licensed providers, faith-based providers, family child-care homes.
- B. Application includes completed facility form, teacher form, and schedule form
- C. Monitored 2 times/year by ELC for facility, teacher, curriculum, and scheduling
 - Coalitions assist in corrective action plans, if needed
 - Compliance issues regarding staff are forwarded to DCF for further action

3. TEACHING STAFF

- A. Lake County 388 lead teachers, assistants, and substitutes
- B. Marion County 404 lead teachers, assistants, and substitutes
- C. Sumter County 38 lead teachers and assistants
- D. Teacher Requirements:
 - Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
 - Preparation in emergent literacy – knowledge of how to teach skills that are important to the development of reading and writing
 - Knowledge of Florida Developmental Standards for 4-Year-Olds
 - Level II Background Screening
 - Affidavit of Good Moral Character
- E. Assistant teachers:
 - Level II Background Screening
 - Affidavit of Good Moral Character
- F. Public Schools programs have additional degree and certification requirements

4. CHILD ASSESSMENT

- A. 2 times per year – 30 days after enrollment; 30 days prior to program end
- B. 2 assessments – 1 for learning domains; 1 for social development
- C. Interim assessment if program is probationary
- D. Probationary data for 2012-13 (most recent available):
 - Lake County 7 of 77 programs on probation (9%)

- Marion County 13 of 113 programs on probation (11.5%)
 - Sumter County 1 of 19 programs on probation (5%)
- E. Major reasons for probationary status are staff turn-over and misunderstandings of how to use the curriculum.

5. CURRICULA

- A. Programs may select curricula from state-approved list or design their own
- B. Probationary programs must select from approved list

6. FUNDING

- A. Base allocation = \$2,437 for the school year and \$2,080 for the summer session in all 3 counties
- B. Providers: difference between allocated state funding and actual costs are made up with private parent fees, school readiness wrap funding, and available scholarships from parent organizations
- C. A Provider may not charge a fee for the 3 hour VPK portion of a child's participation; there are private parent fees for other than VPK services

7. INFRASTRUCTURE (relates to each coalition's board and volunteer opportunities)

- A. Board
 - Florida Statutes allows 15-30 members; serve maximum of 2 consecutive 4-year terms
 - Lake County – 18 members; meet bi-monthly
 - Marion County – 21 members; meet bi-monthly
 - Sumter County – part of multi-county coalition – Nature Coast Early Learning Coalition; 4 members from Sumter County; meet bi-monthly
- B. Volunteer Programs
 - Lake County – participate in variety of community and outreach events
 - Marion County – complete Level II background screening; chosen from the College of Central Florida and Career Source
 - Sumter County – does not use volunteers