

**Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference
Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
Executive Summary
March 6, 2025**

The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference met on March 6, 2025, to adopt a revised forecast for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK). The new forecast incorporates final 2023-24 school year and 2024 summer data, reported 2024-25 school year enrollment, payment data through January 2025, and revised birth information.

Final FY 2023-24 enrollment data was 111 children over the estimate adopted in August, largely due to slightly higher participation in the Summer May/June program than previously anticipated. The gain to Fiscal Year FTE (139.37) was further boosted by those who were enrolled throughout the year completing more hours than expected. As FY 2023-24 concluded, total enrollment was 139,235.35 FTEs, a final decline of -2,146.47 (or -1.52 percent) from the prior year.

The changes relative to the prior forecast were all minor, further solidifying the picture of a program that is still struggling to return to its pre-pandemic high of 156,973.65 FTE. Additional year-over-year declines are expected in the current year (-2,013.16 FTEs) and the next year (-1,380.92 FTEs) before cohort-induced growth is seen in FY 2026-27 (8,965.67 FTEs). The new forecast produces a participation rate of 66.6% in FY 2024-25, which increases to 68.6% in the outermost year (FY 2029-30).

**Enrollment, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment, and Participation
in Statewide VPK Programs**

| | FY 2023-24 Actual | FY 2024-25 Forecast | FY 2025-26 Forecast | FY 2026-27 Forecast | FY 2027-28 Forecast | FY 2028-29 Forecast | FY 2029-30 Forecast |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| March 2025 | 139,235.35 | 137,222.19 | 135,841.27 | 144,806.94 | 144,286.90 | 145,323.86 | 147,085.54 |
| August 2024 | 139,095.98 | 137,367.52 | 135,971.73 | 144,953.51 | 144,329.35 | 145,125.85 | 147,080.60 |
| Difference | 139.37 | -145.33 | -130.46 | -146.57 | -42.45 | 198.01 | 4.94 |