

Expanding and Enhancing Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Programs with Title I, Part A Funds

What is the purpose of Title I, Part A?

The purpose of Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

Are districts allowed to use Title I funds to set-up a VPK Classroom?

No. Districts must ensure that Title I funds are used to enhance or supplement State and local funds, and not supplant them. The supplement, not supplant requirement is intended to ensure that the Federal resources are spent to provide additional educational resources and supports that at-risk students need to succeed, instead of being used in the place of State and local funding. State and/or local funding must be used to set-up VPK classrooms.

Some ways districts may use Title I funds to expand or enhance VPK programs are:

- Expanding the VPK day or number of days to six (6) hours (It could be more than six hours)
 - Improving the quality of the VPK program
 - Enhancing Transition to Kindergarten activities
 - Implementing awareness activities that increase the number of children who are registered for kindergarten before the first day of school (e.g., Community Event at local mall in Indian River)
 - Adding staff (e.g., Regional Transition to Kindergarten Ambassadors in Miami-Dade) to facilitate the collaboration between elementary school administrators and preschool providers (e.g., VPK, Head Start, School Readiness) to ensure a smooth transition to kindergarten
 - Paying for substitutes so that kindergarten teachers may meet with preschool teachers to discuss children who are transitioning to kindergarten
 - Offering transition activities (e.g., literacy and math camps) during the summer for incoming kindergarteners
 - Engaging families in the transition to kindergarten by providing literacy and math materials (e.g., Transition to Kindergarten backpacks) **and** guidance on how to use them
- Note:** For additional ways to expand or enhance, including Title I preschool programs, please refer to [USED Non-Regulatory Guidance: Early Learning in the Every Student Succeeds Act, Expanding Opportunities to Support Our Youngest Learners.](#)

What can districts do to facilitate the use of Title I funds to expand and enhance VPK programs?

Districts should encourage ongoing collaboration between the Federal Programs and Early Learning to facilitate strong partnerships that expand and enhance opportunities for all children.