



In October, Rule 60BB-8.204 replaced the Uniform Attendance policy for VPK Providers. (OEL-PI-0020-05). The Rule is very generous as payment for excused absences can be made – regardless of the number of absences during the month – as long as correct documentation is provided. The two main changes to the rule address the number of allowable vacation days per program year and payment for startup days for newly enrolled children.

Below is a side by side comparison of the policy and the rule. Please print a copy of this e-mail and insert it into your current VPK Provider Manual. An updated VPK Provider Manual is scheduled to be distributed after the first of the year.

This funding applies to VPK students only – not School Readiness students.

The Office of Early Learning issued Rule 60BB-8.204, F.A.C., which replaces Uniform attendance policy for funding the VPK program (OEL-PI-0029-05).

Uniform attendance policy
OLD POLICY

- Provider payment for 5 days during start up period
- Provider paid for absences until child exceeds 15% of total instructional days.
- Provider not paid if absences exceed 15% (or 20% for extraordinary circumstances)

-Absences defined as extraordinary absences

60BB-8.204 F.A.C.
NEW POLICY

- Absences are not payable before child's first day of attendance
- Provider is paid for excused absences if documentation for all absences provided to contracting agency.
- Provider is paid for up to 3 unexcused absences per child per month
- No tracking of 15% or 20% for absences
- Payment is suspended if child does not attend for at least one instructional day during the calendar month. Payment resumes, including payment for absences accruing while payment is suspended, when child attends the program. If child does not resume attendance, no payment is made past the child's last day of attendance.
- No longer defined as extraordinary circumstances

-Absences for following reasons are excused:

- Illness or injury of the child or the child's family member which requires hospitalization or bed rest;
- Physician or dentist appointment;
- Infectious disease or parasitic infestation;
- Funeral service, memorial service, or bereavement upon the death of the child's family member;
- Life-threatening illness or injury of the child's family member;
- Compliance with a court order (e.g., visitation, subpoena);
- Special education or related services for the child's disability;
- Observance of a religious holiday or service, or because the child's or parent's religion forbids secular activity on the instructional day;
- Family vacation, not to exceed five excused absences per program year
- Extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the child and the child's parent.

-All absences documented by parent

-Parents may document (parent's note) seven or fewer excused absences per calendar month

(not addressed)

-Beyond seven absences, person other than parent must document reason for child's absence (i.e. letter from physician)

-Providers, instead of requesting payment for temporary closure, may revise class schedule to restore instructional days that the closure affects.