

Research Notes

Subject: VPK vs. Non-VPK Kindergarten Black Students 2008-2009
 Requested by Dr. Julie Janssen, Superintendent, Pinellas County School Board
 Date: September 2009

VPK vs. Non-VPK Kindergarten Black Students 2008-2009

- The sample of randomly selected students included 74 Black Kindergarten students who **did not** attend VPK, and 74 Black Kindergarten students who **did** attend VPK in the 2007-2008 school year.
- Black Kindergarten students were split into two groups; those who attended VPK and those who did not attend. The performance of these students were evaluated during fall of 2008 school year, and average student scores were calculated for the following:
 - FLKRS (Kindergarten Readiness)- Echos overall score
 - FLKRS (Kindergarten Readiness)- DIBELS Letter Naming score
 - FLKRS (Kindergarten Readiness)- DIBELS Initial Sound score
- ***In each assessment, the average score of Black students who attended VPK were higher than the average score of Black students who did not attend VPK.***

| Average Score of Kindergarten Black Students No VPK vs. VPK | | | |
|---|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Echos | DIBELS Letter Naming | DIBELS Initial Sounds |
| No VPK | 25.59 | 15.91 | 6.09 |
| VPK | 26.10 | 25.03 | 8.22 |

DIBELS scores produced the largest differences between the groups:

- Average Letter Naming scores categorized Black students who **did not** attend VPK in the Low risk category (at grade level), while the average score for Black students who **did** attend VPK were considered Above Average (at or above the 60th percentile).
- Average Initial Sound scores categorized Black students who **did not** attend VPK in the Moderate risk category (moderately below grade level and in need of additional intervention), while the average score for Black students who **did** attend VPK were considered Low risk (at grade level).
- The following DIBELS risk level Kindergarten chart exert was obtained from the Florida Center for Reading Research.

| DIBELS Fall Kindergarten Risk Levels | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| | Score | Risk |
| Letter Naming | 0-1 | High |
| | 2-7 | Moderate |
| | 8-16 | Low |
| | 17 + | Above Average |
| Initial Sound | 0-3 | High |
| | 4-7 | Moderate |
| | 8-11 | Low |
| | 12+ | Above Average |

