**Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program**

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| **General Information**  State Legislation House Bill 1A     * Pre-K is not required * Pre-K is an optional program * Children are not required to attend.   Children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1 of the current year to participate. Parents have a choice of locations. Parents may choose an approved public school, private child care or a faith-based child care. Parents should choose the VPK provider carefully. The State Law has strict rules for withdrawing and relocating child. Parents have a choice of a free school-year program OR a free summer program. The free school-year program for Liberty Co District Schools is 540 hours. Parents, that wish their child to attend beyond the free hours the State provides, are responsible to pay for the additional services. The fee for the additional service is $50 a week.  Class size limit as mandated by State Statute: 20 children with 2 adults for the school year program and 12 children for each 1 adult during the summer program. Liberty District Schools have limited spaces for the school year program. A school year waiting list will be maintained. All children requesting the summer program MUST be served.  **SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM (540 hours**)  VPK is offered on the Hosford school campus and Liberty Early Center in Bristol. Full classes are limited to 20 children. Blended classes are limited to 11 VPK children.  **SUMMER PROGRAM (300 hours)**  All children requesting services, not served during the school year, must be served during the summer program. School sites will be chosen based on summer services offered and student need. Multiple classes may be clustered on various school campuses according to student population.    ELIGIBILITY:  Children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1 of the current year and live in Florida.   SCHOOL YEAR APPLICATION PROCESS:  Parent may apply online @ elcbigbend.org to receive a certificate of eligibility for VPK. General demographic information will be taken. Pre-K children are placed by District Pre-K Office. Class size ratios must be followed for VPK, therefore a wait list is maintained. Space is limited. Home zoned children are placed first. Out-of-zone children will be placed if space is available.  \*\*VPK program start/end times may vary by school site. |

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| Exceptional Student Education (ESE) is instruction specifically designed to meet the educational and developmental needs of children with disabilities or those who are experiencing developmental delays. Services for preschool children (ages 3 through 5) are provided free of charge through our public schools. Screenings and comprehensive evaluations are available through our Pre-K Evaluation Team.  Children ages 3 and 4 years old are served in this program.  An evaluation will be given to your child and if results show that your child qualifies for an exceptional student education program, a meeting is scheduled with the parents to make a formal determination of eligibility.  An Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is developed to address the identified learning need. Any child determined eligible for ESE Pre-K must be served. |