



Draper Notes

RESPONSE TO EDITOR OF THE ARCADIAN REGARDING CLOSURE OF DESOTO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER VPK PROGRAM

DATE: AUGUST 17, 2014, 1:51 PM

Ms. Hoffman:

I have spent several days talking with teachers and other individuals in this school district that confirm that Desoto did indeed comply with the testing requirement for VPK students for the years specified in your communication. These assessment terms are not new to anyone in elementary administration, instructional services, and most importantly, VPK and kindergarten teachers. I have attached a document outlining this requirement for your review.

Since most of the administrators at the elementary school levels and in instructional services have changed, I cannot attest as to how much effort was expended in requesting this data from the elementary schools. After talking with the Florida Office of Early Learning, it appears to be a last minute effort since the district requested and was granted a two week extension to submit the data.

In conclusion, from my discussions with individuals directly associated with the VPK and kindergarten assessments, the tests were administered and the data collected for the specified years.

D. Draper, PhD

From: arcadian.editor@gmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 5:10 PM

To: [Dan Draper](#)

My understanding is that the closure of the VPK at DECC was due to there not being three years worth of specified testing required by the state to show 70% of the students were kindergarten ready, and that subsequent follow-up testing had not been done to generate the data needed for the waiver. I was told during Tuesday's School Board meeting that the three years of concern were 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13. The position of the current administration is that these are deficiencies that occurred before the current administration took over, and the data required for

the waiver did not exist (or did not exist in the correct form), so there was no way they could have presented the information, through no fault of their own. I did not have a chance to independently confirm or refute that, but that is what was described during Tuesday's School Board meeting.

I'm curious if you know of anything contradictory or additional to that information.

On Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 3:16 PM, Dan Draper <ddraper1921@outlook.com> wrote:
Ms. Hoffman:

The attached information regarding the closure of the VPK Program sponsored by the School District of DeSoto County is forwarded for your review. The following are attached:

- A parent brochure that was approved for distribution to VPK parents on July 29, 2014.
- The results of my July 30, 2014, telephone call to the Florida Office of Early Learning in Tallahassee regarding the closure of the Desoto School District VPK Program.

D. Draper, PhD