

ACT 166 Implementation Update

July 21, 2015

Transition to Universal PreK

[Act 166](#), signed into law in 2014, provides for universal access to publicly funded prekindergarten education. Following the development and adoption of administrative rules, this law will go into full effect in 2016.

About 1/3 of school districts have decided to move forward as early implementers of ACT166 in the 2015/16 school year.

The Comment Period on the ACT166 draft Administrative Rules has closed. We anticipate they will be ready for the State Board of Education in August and then the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules by October.

Guidance Related to Act 166

Guidance was developed to assist new and existing programs understand the aspects of Act 166, including financial impact, establishing or expanding a program, children with special needs, prequalification and more.

2 Implementation Guides

8 webinars

1 FAQ document

A third implementation guide focusing on the financial aspects of ACT166 is under development.

Implementing a PreK Program

All public and private prekindergarten education programs, including Head Start and public school operated programs, must meet specific requirements to operate a PreK program in Vermont.

Pre-Qualification of Programs~~

254 Approved Pre-Qualified Programs

104 Public Schools

150 Private Providers

17 "In-Process"

Public Schools: Establishing Programs, Expanding Programs, Establishing Regions

Prior approval from the Agencies of Education and Human Services must be received before a school district may establish or expand a school operated prekindergarten education program or create a prekindergarten education region. This new requirement applies to all school districts whether they choose to offer universal prekindergarten education starting in 2015 or 2016; it replaces the community needs assessment districts were required to complete under Act 62.

1 application to establish a school based pre-k program has been approved

4 applications to expand a pre-k program have been approved

5 applications to establish a pre-k region are in process