

Hi June and Avisia---

I hope all is well as you begin to wrap up the school year on your end. I am writing to inform you and also ask for some guidance on our VPK program at the Northome School. Over the previous years, our school has partnered with Kootasca Headstart and we held a combination program of VPK and/or School Readiness, along with Headstart in our building. Yesterday we were informed by Kootasca that they are pulling out of our partnership and moving their Headstart seats out of the Northome School. If we would like to continue to offer services for PreK students, our school district will need to run the program on our own....So here come the questions....

1) Is there anything I need to do as far as our application is concerned? The most recent application and statement of assurances that I completed included a plan to partner with Kootasca. **We can note that the partnership status has changed, but this will now impact your application or renewal funding at Northome.**

2) If we are allowed to run our own VPK program, could you remind me what type of funding is available for us? I do know we receive an allotment of seats, but besides this revenue, is there anything else that we can tap into that would help support our program? **You can braid and blend VPK funding with Pathway Scholarships, School Readiness, Title, Compensatory or other available funds in your district. For students that don't meet program eligibility requirements, you can charge a fee. Here's the link to [Eligibility Requirements for Preschool Funding Streams](#) - 3/19/25**

3) Do we need an actual licensed teacher with a bachelors' degree to run our VPK program? **I've attached a copy of the Statement of Assurance that was submitted with your application. Here's the teacher language:**

*A voluntary prekindergarten program must have teachers knowledgeable in early childhood curriculum content, assessment, native and English language programs, and instruction according to Minnesota Statute 2024, section 122A.61 requiring teachers be licensed by September 1, 2028.*

4) If we are running a VPK program on our own, do we need to hold any additional licenses with MDE or MDH that are specific to a VPK classroom? **No.**