

## SCHOOLS

# 173 area pre-K programs show poor scores

The state rated 173 Miami-Dade and Broward County preschools that offer free pre-kindergarten with scores lower than last year's passing score, the state Department of Education said Monday.

State Board of Education members will set this year's passing rate at a meeting Tuesday. Companies that score below the minimum will be considered low-performing. They must improve over the next two years or



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Check your pre-K provider's score by clicking on Today's Extras

risk being excluded from the program.

Last year's passing score was 201 on a scale of 0 to 300. The numbers are based on how well students who attended pre-K last year performed on tests when they started kindergarten last fall.

Among the lowest South

Florida scores were A Small World Learning Center IV in Hialeah, with a score of 88; Precious Years Christian Preschool in Miami with a score of 108; and Baymar in Miami with a score of 116. In Broward, the poorest scorer was KinderCare in Pembroke Pines with a score of 125.

Twenty-six pre-K providers earned a perfect score of 300. A total of 1,287 companies in Broward and Miami-Dade were evaluated by the state. Some didn't get scores because too few students were tested.

Florida voters approved free prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds, regardless of their parents' income, in 2002, and the program started in 2005.

— NIRVI SHAH