

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to early learning and early grade  
3           success; amending s. 20.055, F.S.; conforming  
4           provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
5           20.15, F.S.; deleting the Office of Early Learning  
6           from within the Office of Independent Education and  
7           Parental Choice of the Department of Education;  
8           establishing the Division of Early Learning within the  
9           department; amending s. 39.202, F.S.; conforming  
10          provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
11          39.604, F.S.; revising approved child care or early  
12          education settings for the placement of certain  
13          children; conforming a cross-reference to changes made  
14          by the act; amending ss. 212.08, 216.136, 383.14,  
15          391.308, and 402.26, F.S.; conforming provisions and  
16          cross-references to changes made by the act;  
17          transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 402.281,  
18          F.S.; revising the requirements of the Gold Seal  
19          Quality Care program; requiring the State Board of  
20          Education to adopt specified rules; revising  
21          accrediting association requirements; providing  
22          requirements for accrediting associations; requiring  
23          the department to adopt a specified process; providing  
24          requirements for such process; deleting a requirement  
25          for the department to consult certain entities for

26 | specified purposes; providing requirements for certain  
27 | providers to maintain Gold Seal Quality Care status;  
28 | providing exemptions to certain ad valorem taxes;  
29 | providing rate differentials to certain providers;  
30 | providing for a type two transfer of the Gold Seal  
31 | Quality Care program in the Department of Children and  
32 | Families to the Department of Education; providing for  
33 | the continuation of certain contracts and interagency  
34 | agreements; amending s. 402.315, F.S.; conforming a  
35 | cross-reference to changes made by the act; amending  
36 | s. 402.56, F.S.; revising the membership of the  
37 | Children and Youth Cabinet; amending ss. 411.227,  
38 | 414.295, 1000.01, 1000.02, 1000.03, 1000.04, 1000.21,  
39 | 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.10, and 1001.11, F.S.;  
40 | conforming provisions and cross-references to changes  
41 | made by the act; repealing s. 1001.213, F.S., relating  
42 | to the Office of Early Learning; amending ss.  
43 | 1001.215, 1001.23, 1001.70, 1001.706, 1002.22,  
44 | 1002.32, 1002.34, and 1002.36 F.S.; conforming  
45 | provisions and cross-references to changes made by the  
46 | act; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; revising the  
47 | requirements for certain program provider profiles;  
48 | removing a requirement that certain providers comply  
49 | with a specified federal law; requiring certain  
50 | providers to comply with a specified state law;

51 requiring students enrolled in the Voluntary  
52 Prekindergarten Education Program to participate in a  
53 specified screening and progress monitoring program;  
54 amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; authorizing certain child  
55 development programs operating on a military  
56 installment to be private prekindergarten providers  
57 within the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
58 Program; providing that a private prekindergarten  
59 provider is ineligible for participation in the  
60 program under certain circumstances; revising  
61 requirements a prekindergarten instructor must meet;  
62 revising requirements for specified courses for  
63 prekindergarten instructors; providing that a private  
64 school administrator who holds a specified certificate  
65 meets certain credential requirements; providing  
66 liability insurance requirements for child development  
67 programs operating on a military installment  
68 participating in the program; requiring early learning  
69 coalitions to verify private prekindergarten provider  
70 compliance with specified provisions; requiring such  
71 coalitions to remove a providers eligibility under  
72 specified circumstances; amending s. 1002.57, F.S.;  
73 revising the minimum standards for a credential for  
74 certain prekindergarten directors; amending s.  
75 1002.59, F.S.; revising requirements for emergent

76 literacy and performance standards training courses  
77 for prekindergarten instructors; requiring the  
78 department to make certain courses available; amending  
79 s. 1002.61, F.S.; authorizing certain child  
80 development programs operating on a military  
81 installment to be private prekindergarten providers  
82 within the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
83 Program; revising the criteria for a teacher to  
84 receive priority for the summer program in school  
85 district; requiring a child development program  
86 operating on a military installment to comply with  
87 specified criteria; requiring early learning  
88 coalitions to verify specified information; providing  
89 for the removal of a program provider from eligibility  
90 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.63,  
91 F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to verify  
92 specified information; providing for the removal of  
93 public school program providers from the program under  
94 certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.;  
95 revising the performance standards for the Voluntary  
96 Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring the  
97 department to review and revise performance standards  
98 on a specified schedule; revising curriculum  
99 requirements for the program; requiring the department  
100 to adopt procedures for the review and approval of

101 |       curricula for the program; deleting a required  
102 |       preassessment and postassessment for the program;  
103 |       creating s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring providers of the  
104 |       Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
105 |       participate in a specified screening and progress  
106 |       monitoring program; providing specified uses for the  
107 |       results of such program; requiring certain portions of  
108 |       the screening and progress monitoring program to be  
109 |       administered by individuals who meet specified  
110 |       criteria; requiring the results of specified  
111 |       assessments to be reported to the parents of  
112 |       participating students; providing requirements for  
113 |       such assessments; providing department duties and  
114 |       responsibilities relating to such assessments;  
115 |       providing requirements for a specified methodology  
116 |       used to calculate the results of such assessments;  
117 |       requiring the department to establish a designation  
118 |       system for program providers; providing for the  
119 |       adoption of a minimum performance metric or  
120 |       designation for program participation; providing  
121 |       procedures for a provider whose score or designation  
122 |       falls below the minimum requirement; providing for the  
123 |       revocation of program eligibility for a provider;  
124 |       providing procedures for requalification; authorizing  
125 |       the department to grant good cause exemptions to

126 providers under certain circumstances; providing  
127 department and provider requirements for such  
128 exemptions; requiring annual meeting of  
129 representatives from specified entities; repealing s.  
130 1002.69, F.S., relating to Statewide kindergarten  
131 screening and readiness rates; amending ss. 1002.71  
132 and 1002.72, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
133 made by the act; amending s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring  
134 the department to adopt a statewide provider contract;  
135 requiring such contract to be published on the  
136 department's website; providing requirements for such  
137 contract; prohibiting providers from offering services  
138 during an appeal of termination from the program;  
139 providing applicability; requiring the department to  
140 adopt specified procedures relating to the Voluntary  
141 Prekindergarten Education Program; providing duties of  
142 the department relating to such program; repealing s.  
143 1002.75, F.S., relating to the powers and duties of  
144 the Office of Early Learning; amending s. 1002.79,  
145 F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-references to  
146 changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.81, F.S.;  
147 revising definitions; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.;  
148 providing duties of the department relating to early  
149 learning; authorizing an alternative model for the  
150 calculation of prevailing market rate; exempting

151 certain child development programs operating on a  
152 military installment from specified inspection  
153 requirements; requiring the department to monitor  
154 specified standards and benchmarks for certain  
155 purposes; revising the age range used for specified  
156 standards; requiring the department to provide  
157 specified technical support; revising requirements for  
158 a specified assessment program; requiring the  
159 department to adopt requirements to make certain  
160 contracted slots available to serve specified  
161 populations; requiring the department adopt certain  
162 standards and outcome measures including specified  
163 surveys; requiring the department to adopt procedures  
164 for the merging of early learning coalitions; revising  
165 the requirements for a specified report; amending s.  
166 1002.83, F.S.; revising the number of authorized early  
167 learning coalitions; revising the number of and  
168 requirements for members of an early learning  
169 coalition; revising requirements for such coalitions;  
170 amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; revising early learning  
171 coalition responsibilities and duties; revising  
172 requirements for the waiver of specified copayments;  
173 authorizing the adoption of a certain alternative  
174 payment schedule; amending s. 1002.85, F.S.; revising  
175 the requirements for school readiness program plans;

176 amending s. 1002.88, F.S.; authorizing certain child  
177 development programs operating on military  
178 instillations to participate in the school readiness  
179 program; revising requirements to deliver such  
180 program; providing that a specified annual inspection  
181 for a child development program participating in the  
182 school readiness program meets certain provider  
183 requirements; providing requirements for a child  
184 development program to meet certain liability  
185 requirements; amending s. 1002.89, F.S.; conforming  
186 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
187 1002.895, F.S.; requiring the department to adopt  
188 certain procedures until a specified event; amending  
189 s. 1002.91, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
190 made by the act; amending s. 1002.92, F.S.; revising  
191 the requirements for specified services child care  
192 resources and referral agencies must provide; amending  
193 s. 1002.93, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
194 made by the act; repealing s. 1002.94, F.S., relating  
195 to the Child Care Executive Partnership Program;  
196 amending ss. 1002.95, 1002.96, 1002.97, 1002.995, and  
197 1007.01, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-  
198 references to changes made by the act; creating s.  
199 1008.2125, F.S.; creating the coordinated screening  
200 and progress monitoring program within the department



201 for specified purposes; requiring the Commissioner of  
202 Education to design such program; providing  
203 requirements for the administration of such program  
204 and the use of results from the program; providing  
205 requirements for the commissioner; creating the  
206 Council for Early Grade Success; providing duties of  
207 the council; providing membership of the council;  
208 requiring the council to elect a chair and a vice  
209 chair; providing requirements for such appointments;  
210 providing for per diem for members of the council;  
211 providing meeting requirements for the council;  
212 providing for a quorum of the council; amending s.  
213 1008.25, F.S.; authorizing certain students who  
214 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
215 Program to receive intensive reading interventions  
216 using specified funds; amending ss. 1008.31, 1008.32,  
217 and 1008.33, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
218 made by the act; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising  
219 the research-based reading instruction allocation to  
220 authorize the use of such funds for certain intensive  
221 reading interventions for certain students; revising  
222 the requirements for specified reading instruction and  
223 interventions; defining the term "evidence-based";  
224 providing an effective date.  
225

226 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

227 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of  
 228 section 20.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

229 20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

230 (1) As used in this section, the term:

231 (a) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Cabinet officer,  
 232 or a secretary or executive director as those terms are defined  
 233 in s. 20.03, the chair of the Public Service Commission, the  
 234 Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial  
 235 Services Commission, the Director of the Office of Financial  
 236 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the board of  
 237 directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~  
 238 ~~executive director of the Office of Early Learning,~~ and the  
 239 Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

240 (d) "State agency" means each department created pursuant  
 241 to this chapter and the Executive Office of the Governor, the  
 242 Department of Military Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife  
 243 Conservation Commission, the Office of Insurance Regulation of  
 244 the Financial Services Commission, the Office of Financial  
 245 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the Public  
 246 Service Commission, the Board of Governors of the State  
 247 University System, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~  
 248 ~~Office of Early Learning,~~ and the state courts system.

249 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (3) of  
 250 section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs

251 (d) through (k), respectively, present paragraph (i) of  
 252 subsection (3) and subsection (5) are amended, and a new  
 253 paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to  
 254 read:

255 20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a  
 256 Department of Education.

257 (3) DIVISIONS.—The following divisions of the Department  
 258 of Education are established:

259 (c) Division of Early Learning.

260 (j)~~(i)~~ The Office of Independent Education and Parental  
 261 Choice, which must include ~~the following offices:~~

262 ~~1. The Office of Early Learning, which shall be~~  
 263 ~~administered by an executive director who is fully accountable~~  
 264 ~~to the Commissioner of Education. The executive director shall,~~  
 265 ~~pursuant to s. 1001.213, administer the early learning programs,~~  
 266 ~~including the school readiness program and the Voluntary~~  
 267 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.~~

268 ~~2.~~ the Office of K-12 School Choice, which shall be  
 269 administered by an executive director who is fully accountable  
 270 to the Commissioner of Education.

271 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The State Board of Education and  
 272 the Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such  
 273 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary  
 274 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and  
 275 effectiveness of education for students in Early Learning-20 ~~K-~~

276 | ~~to~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of  
 277 | Education.

278 | Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 279 | 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280 | 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of  
 281 | child abuse or neglect.—

282 | (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such  
 283 | records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information  
 284 | with respect to, the reporter which shall be released only as  
 285 | provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the  
 286 | following persons, officials, and agencies:

287 | (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of  
 288 | the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons  
 289 | with Disabilities, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~  
 290 | ~~Learning~~, or county agencies responsible for carrying out:

- 291 | 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 292 | 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 293 | 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 294 | 4. Healthy Start services;
- 295 | 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,  
 296 | child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393,  
 297 | family day care homes, providers who receive school readiness  
 298 | funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to  
 299 | provide for the care and welfare of children;
- 300 | 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential

301 group homes; or

302 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided  
303 by certified domestic violence centers working at the  
304 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

305

306 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice  
307 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant  
308 to chapters 984 and 985.

309 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
310 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

311 39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;  
312 child care; early education; preschool.—

313 (5) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY.—Just as educational stability  
314 is important for school-age children, it is also important to  
315 minimize disruptions to secure attachments and stable  
316 relationships with supportive caregivers of children from birth  
317 to school age and to ensure that these attachments are not  
318 disrupted due to placement in out-of-home care or subsequent  
319 changes in out-of-home placement.

320 (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him  
321 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education  
322 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must  
323 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and  
324 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been  
325 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such

326 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal  
327 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, a  
328 ~~provider participating in a quality rating system~~, a licensed  
329 child care provider, a public school provider, or a license-  
330 exempt child care provider, including religious-exempt and  
331 registered providers, and nonpublic schools.

332 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section  
333 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

334 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and  
335 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the  
336 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the  
337 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following  
338 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this  
339 chapter.

340 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

341 (m) Educational materials purchased by certain child care  
342 facilities.—Educational materials, such as glue, paper, paints,  
343 crayons, unique craft items, scissors, books, ~~and~~ educational  
344 toys, purchased by a child care facility that meets the  
345 standards delineated in s. 402.305, is licensed under s.  
346 402.308, holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation  
347 pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, and provides basic health  
348 insurance to all employees are exempt from the taxes imposed by  
349 this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "basic  
350 health insurance" shall be defined and promulgated in rules

351 developed jointly by the Department of Education ~~Children and~~  
352 ~~Families~~, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the  
353 Financial Services Commission.

354 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section  
355 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

356 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and  
357 principals.—

358 (8) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.—

359 (b) The Division ~~Office~~ of Early Learning shall provide  
360 information on needs and waiting lists for school readiness  
361 programs, and information on the needs for the Voluntary  
362 Prekindergarten Education Program, as requested by the Early  
363 Learning Programs Estimating Conference or individual conference  
364 principals in a timely manner.

365 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
366 (b) of subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are  
367 amended to read:

368 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary  
369 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

370 (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—To help ensure access to the  
371 maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health  
372 shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for  
373 metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result  
374 in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening  
375 programs accepted by current medical practice become available

376 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department  
377 shall also promote the identification and screening of all  
378 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk  
379 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family  
380 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-  
381 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant  
382 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,  
383 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited  
384 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and  
385 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and  
386 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately  
387 following the birth of the child by the attending health care  
388 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,  
389 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health  
390 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and  
391 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

392 (b) Postnatal screening.—A risk factor analysis using the  
393 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be  
394 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the  
395 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of  
396 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for  
397 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk  
398 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that  
399 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,  
400 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or



401 | paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures  
402 | for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,  
403 | referral, and care coordination services, reporting  
404 | requirements, management information, and maintenance of a  
405 | computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which  
406 | ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the  
407 | provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.  
408 | 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting  
409 | information and maintaining a confidential registry must include  
410 | a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the  
411 | state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with  
412 | existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The  
413 | department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the  
414 | screening information registry is integrated with the  
415 | department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-  
416 | line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests  
417 | and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health  
418 | Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at  
419 | such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department  
420 | after consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening  
421 | Advisory Council and the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~  
422 | ~~Learning~~.

423 | (2) RULES.—

424 | (b) After consultation with the Department of Education  
425 | ~~Office of Early Learning~~, the department shall adopt and enforce

426 rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for  
427 environmental risk factors that place children and their  
428 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other  
429 negative outcomes.

430 Section 8. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section  
431 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

432 391.308 Early Steps Program.—The department shall  
433 implement and administer part C of the federal Individuals with  
434 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which shall be known as the  
435 "Early Steps Program."

436 (2) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department shall:

437 (h) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, with  
438 the Medicaid program, the Department of Education program  
439 pursuant to part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
440 Education Act, and programs providing child screening such as  
441 the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, ~~the Office~~  
442 ~~of Early Learning~~, Healthy Start, and the Help Me Grow program.

443 1. Coordination with the Medicaid program shall be  
444 developed and maintained through written agreements with the  
445 Agency for Health Care Administration and Medicaid managed care  
446 organizations as well as through active and ongoing  
447 communication with these organizations. The department shall  
448 assist local program offices to negotiate agreements with  
449 Medicaid managed care organizations in the service areas of the  
450 local program offices. Such agreements may be formal or

451 informal.

452 2. Coordination with education programs pursuant to part B  
 453 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall  
 454 be developed and maintained through written agreements with the  
 455 Department of Education. The department shall assist local  
 456 program offices to negotiate agreements with school districts in  
 457 the service areas of the local program offices.

458 Section 9. Subsection (6) of section 402.26, Florida  
 459 Statutes, is amended to read:

460 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

461 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~  
 462 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~  
 463 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~  
 464 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~  
 465 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~  
 466 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~  
 467 ~~196.198.~~

468 Section 10. Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is  
 469 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.945, Florida Statutes,  
 470 and amended to read:

471 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

472 (1) (a) There is established within the Department of  
 473 Education the Gold Seal Quality Care Program.

474 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,  
 475 or family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting

476 association approved by the Department of Education under  
 477 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon  
 478 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal  
 479 Quality Care" designation.

480 (2) The State Board of Education ~~department~~ shall adopt  
 481 rules establishing Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation  
 482 standards using nationally recognized accrediting standards and  
 483 input from accrediting associations ~~based on the applicable~~  
 484 ~~accrediting standards of the National Association for the~~  
 485 ~~Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of~~  
 486 ~~Family Child Care, and the National Early Childhood Program~~  
 487 ~~Accreditation Commission.~~

488 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of  
 489 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
 490 program, an accrediting association must apply to the department  
 491 and demonstrate that it:

- 492 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.
- 493 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or  
 494 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state  
 495 board ~~department~~ under subsection (2).
- 496 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of  
 497 State.
- 498 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation  
 499 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:  
 500 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care

501 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.  
502 However, accreditation may not be granted to a child care  
503 facility, large family child care home, or family day care home  
504 before the site is operational and is attended by children.

505 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and  
506 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom  
507 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

508 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to  
509 ensure inter-rater reliability.

510 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring  
511 each accredited child care facility, large family child care  
512 home, and family day care home to file an annual report with the  
513 accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing  
514 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family  
515 child care homes, and family day care homes.

516 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to  
517 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-  
518 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by  
519 the accrediting association.

520 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite  
521 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

522 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation  
523 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of  
524 facilities.

525 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the

526 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a  
527 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including  
528 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and  
529 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if  
530 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

531 (b) The Department of Education shall establish a process  
532 that verifies that the accrediting association meets the  
533 provisions of paragraph (a), which must include an auditing  
534 program and any other procedures that may reasonably determine  
535 an accrediting association's compliance with this section. If an  
536 accrediting association is not in compliance and fails to cure  
537 its deficiencies within 30 days, the department shall recommend  
538 to the state board termination of the accrediting association's  
539 participation as an accrediting association in the program for a  
540 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years. If an  
541 accrediting association is removed from being an approved  
542 accrediting association, each child care provider accredited by  
543 that association shall have up to 1 year to obtain a new  
544 accreditation from a department approved accreditation  
545 association.

546 (c) If an accrediting association has granted  
547 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care  
548 home, or family day care under fraudulent terms or failed to  
549 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall  
550 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under

551 subsection (6).

552 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~  
553 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~  
554 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~  
555 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~  
556 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~  
557 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~  
558 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~  
559 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~  
560 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

561 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a  
562 Gold Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large  
563 family child care home, or family day care home must meet the  
564 following additional criteria:

565 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I  
566 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and  
567 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
568 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
569 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the  
570 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
571 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

572 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or  
573 more class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department  
574 of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its  
575 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care

576 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within  
577 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the  
578 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
579 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

580 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for  
581 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the  
582 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and  
583 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of  
584 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
585 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
586 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to  
587 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be  
588 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal  
589 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III  
590 violations for a period of 1 year.

591 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of  
592 Education determines through a formal process that a provider  
593 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class  
594 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state  
595 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care  
596 status. The state board's determination regarding such  
597 provider's status is final.

598 (5) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a  
599 child care facility exempt from licensing under s. 402.316 which  
600 achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section shall be



601 considered an educational institution for the purpose of  
602 qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s. 196.198.

603 (6) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a  
604 child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316  
605 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section and  
606 which participates in the school readiness program shall receive  
607 a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for each enrolled  
608 school readiness child by care level and unit of child care.

609 (7)~~(5)~~ The state board ~~Department of Children and Families~~  
610 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide  
611 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting  
612 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
613 program and~~,~~ conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal  
614 Quality Care providers, ~~and classifying violations.~~

615 Section 11. Type two transfer from the Department of  
616 Children and Families.-

617 (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,  
618 personnel, associated administrative support positions,  
619 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative  
620 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of  
621 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the  
622 Gold Seal Quality Care program within the Department of Children  
623 and Families are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined  
624 in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Department of  
625 Education.

626        (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing  
 627 before July 1, 2021, between the Department of Children and  
 628 Families, or an entity or agent of the department, and any other  
 629 agency, entity, or person relating to the Gold Seal Quality Care  
 630 program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for  
 631 the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the  
 632 successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or  
 633 functions relative to the contract or agreement.

634        Section 12. Subsection (5) of section 402.315, Florida  
 635 Statutes, is amended to read:

636        402.315 Funding; license fees.—

637        (5) All moneys collected by the department for child care  
 638 licensing shall be held in a trust fund of the department to be  
 639 reallocated to the department during the following fiscal year  
 640 to fund child care licensing activities, including the Gold Seal  
 641 Quality Care program created pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~.

642        Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
 643 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

644        402.56 Children's cabinet; organization; responsibilities;  
 645 annual report.—

646        (4) MEMBERS.—The cabinet shall consist of 16 members  
 647 including the Governor and the following persons:

- 648        (a)1. The Secretary of Children and Families;  
 649        2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;  
 650        3. The director of the Agency for Persons with

651 Disabilities;

652 4. A representative from the Division ~~The director of the~~  
 653 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;

654 5. The State Surgeon General;

655 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;

656 7. The Commissioner of Education;

657 8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;

658 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child  
 659 Protection;

660 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the  
 661 Governor; and

662 11. Five members who represent children and youth advocacy  
 663 organizations and who are not service providers, appointed by  
 664 the Governor.

665 Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)  
 666 of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of  
 667 section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

668 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning  
 669 Gateway system consists of the following components:

670 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED  
 671 ACCESS.—

672 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the  
 673 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies  
 674 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,  
 675 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,

676 and the service system that is available. The information should  
677 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should  
678 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers  
679 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should  
680 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a  
681 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such  
682 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child  
683 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide  
684 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in  
685 developing and distributing educational materials and  
686 information.

687 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of  
688 children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide  
689 information to public and private preschool programs, child care  
690 providers, pediatricians, parents, and local businesses and  
691 organizations. These strategies should include information on  
692 the school readiness performance standards adopted by the  
693 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

694 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of  
695 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate  
696 training materials and brochures to parents and public and  
697 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local  
698 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in  
699 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain  
700 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades

701 K-3.

702 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

703 (a) In coordination with ~~the Office of Early Learning,~~ the  
 704 Department of Education~~,~~ and the Florida Pediatric Society, and  
 705 using information learned from the local demonstration projects,  
 706 the Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish  
 707 guidelines for screening children from birth through age 9. The  
 708 guidelines should incorporate recent research on the indicators  
 709 most likely to predict early learning problems, mild  
 710 developmental delays, child-specific precursors of school  
 711 failure, and other related developmental indicators in the  
 712 domains of cognition; communication; attention; perception;  
 713 behavior; and social, emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

714 (3) EARLY EDUCATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.—

715 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the  
 716 Department of Children and Families and~~,~~ the Department of  
 717 Education, ~~and the Office of Early Learning,~~ shall identify the  
 718 elements of an effective research-based curriculum for early  
 719 care and education programs.

720 Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 414.295, Florida  
 721 Statutes, is amended to read:

722 414.295 Temporary cash assistance programs; public records  
 723 exemption.—

724 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash  
 725 assistance program participant, a participant's family, or a

726 participant's family or household member, except for information  
 727 identifying a parent who does not live in the same home as the  
 728 child, which is held by the department, ~~the Office of Early~~  
 729 ~~Learning~~, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Health,  
 730 the Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, or a  
 731 local workforce development board or local committee created  
 732 pursuant to s. 445.007 is confidential and exempt from s.  
 733 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such  
 734 confidential and exempt information may be released for purposes  
 735 directly connected with:

736 (a) The administration of the temporary assistance for  
 737 needy families plan under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act,  
 738 as amended, by the department, ~~the Office of Early Learning~~,  
 739 CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Military Affairs,  
 740 the Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the  
 741 Department of Education, a local workforce development board or  
 742 local committee created pursuant to s. 445.007, or a school  
 743 district.

744 (b) The administration of the state's plan or program  
 745 approved under Title IV-B, Title IV-D, or Title IV-E of the  
 746 Social Security Act, as amended, or under Title I, Title X,  
 747 Title XIV, Title XVI, Title XIX, Title XX, or Title XXI of the  
 748 Social Security Act, as amended.

749 (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or  
 750 administrative proceeding conducted in connection with the

751 administration of any of the plans or programs specified in  
752 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a federal, state, or local  
753 governmental entity, upon request by that entity, if such  
754 request is made pursuant to the proper exercise of that entity's  
755 duties and responsibilities.

756 (d) The administration of any other state, federal, or  
757 federally assisted program that provides assistance or services  
758 on the basis of need, in cash or in kind, directly to a  
759 participant.

760 (e) An audit or similar activity, such as a review of  
761 expenditure reports or financial review, conducted in connection  
762 with the administration of plans or programs specified in  
763 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a governmental entity  
764 authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.

765 (f) The administration of the reemployment assistance  
766 program.

767 (g) The reporting to the appropriate agency or official of  
768 information about known or suspected instances of physical or  
769 mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent  
770 treatment or maltreatment of a child or elderly person receiving  
771 assistance, if circumstances indicate that the health or welfare  
772 of the child or elderly person is threatened.

773 (h) The administration of services to elderly persons  
774 under ss. 430.601-430.606.

775 Section 16. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended

776 | to read:

777 |       1000.01 The Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
778 | system; technical provisions.—

779 |       (1) NAME.—Chapters 1000 through 1013 shall be known and  
780 | cited as the "Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code."

781 |       (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of the Florida  
782 | Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code shall be liberally  
783 | construed to the end that its objectives may be effected. It is  
784 | the legislative intent that if any section, subsection,  
785 | sentence, clause, or provision of the Florida Early Learning-20  
786 | ~~K-20~~ Education Code is held invalid, the remainder of the code  
787 | shall not be affected.

788 |       (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Florida Early Learning-20  
789 | ~~K-20~~ Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of  
790 | schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and  
791 | services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the  
792 | opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida  
793 | Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system is established to  
794 | accomplish this purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be  
795 | construed to require the provision of free public education  
796 | beyond grade 12.

797 |       (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS INCLUDED.—As  
798 | required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the Florida  
799 | Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall include the  
800 | uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public K-12



801 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of instruction,  
 802 beginning with kindergarten, and shall also provide such  
 803 instruction for students with disabilities, gifted students,  
 804 limited English proficient students, and students in Department  
 805 of Juvenile Justice programs as may be required by law. The  
 806 funds for support and maintenance of the uniform system of free  
 807 public K-12 schools shall be derived from state, district,  
 808 federal, and other lawful sources or combinations of sources,  
 809 including any fees charged nonresidents as provided by law.

810 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of Subsection (1) and subsection  
 811 (2) of section 1000.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

812 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida  
 813 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

814 (1) It is the policy of the Legislature:

815 (a) To achieve within existing resources a seamless  
 816 academic educational system that fosters an integrated continuum  
 817 of early learning ~~kindergarten~~ through graduate school education  
 818 for Florida's students.

819 (2) The guiding principles for Florida's Early Learning-20  
 820 ~~K-20~~ education system are:

821 (a) A coordinated, seamless system for early learning  
 822 ~~kindergarten~~ through graduate school education.

823 (b) A system that is student-centered in every facet.

824 (c) A system that maximizes education access and allows  
 825 the opportunity for a high quality education for all Floridians.

826 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports academic  
827 excellence.

828 (e) A system that provides for local operational  
829 flexibility while promoting accountability for student  
830 achievement and improvement.

831 Section 18. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is amended  
832 to read:

833 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida Early  
834 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

835 (1) Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system  
836 shall be a decentralized system without excess layers of  
837 bureaucracy. Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system  
838 shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a common  
839 set of data definitions.

840 (2) (a) The Legislature shall establish education policy,  
841 enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate education  
842 resources.

843 (b) With the exception of matters relating to the State  
844 University System, the State Board of Education shall oversee  
845 the enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision  
846 of direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,  
847 and strong incentives and disincentives to force accountability  
848 for results.

849 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement  
850 of all state university laws and rules and regulations and the

851 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,  
852 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and  
853 disincentives to force accountability for results.

854 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the  
855 state and local educational authorities. The state retains  
856 responsibility for establishing a system of public education  
857 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient operation  
858 of an Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ system of public education and  
859 adequate educational opportunities for all individuals. Local  
860 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully  
861 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to efficiently  
862 use the resources available to them to assist the state in  
863 allowing adequate educational opportunities.

864 (4) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
865 education system is to allow its students to increase their  
866 proficiency by allowing them the opportunity to expand their  
867 knowledge and skills through rigorous and relevant learning  
868 opportunities, in accordance with the mission statement and  
869 accountability requirements of s. 1008.31.

870 (5) The priorities of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
871 education system include:

872 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including  
873 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for  
874 postsecondary education without remediation.—All students  
875 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,

876 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter  
877 postsecondary education without remediation.

878 (b) Student performance.—Students demonstrate that they  
879 meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels  
880 of their education.

881 (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become  
882 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive  
883 contributions to their communities.

884 (d) Alignment of standards and resources.—Academic  
885 standards for every level of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
886 education system are aligned, and education financial resources  
887 are aligned with student performance expectations at each level  
888 of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

889 (e) Educational leadership.—The quality of educational  
890 leadership at all levels of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education is  
891 improved.

892 (f) Workforce education.—Workforce education is  
893 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new global  
894 economy.

895 (g) Parental, student, family, educational institution,  
896 and community involvement.—Parents, students, families,  
897 educational institutions, and communities are collaborative  
898 partners in education, and each plays an important role in the  
899 success of individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida  
900 cannot be the guarantor of each individual student's success.

901 The goals of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system  
902 are not guarantees that each individual student will succeed or  
903 that each individual school will perform at the level indicated  
904 in the goals.

905 (h) Comprehensive Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ career and  
906 education planning.—It is essential that Florida's Early  
907 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system better prepare all students at  
908 every level for the transition from school to postsecondary  
909 education or work by providing information regarding:

910 1. Career opportunities, educational requirements  
911 associated with each career, educational institutions that  
912 prepare students to enter each career, and student financial aid  
913 available to pursue postsecondary instruction required to enter  
914 each career.

915 2. How to make informed decisions about the program of  
916 study that best addresses the students' interests and abilities  
917 while preparing them to enter postsecondary education or the  
918 workforce.

919 3. Recommended coursework and programs that prepare  
920 students for success in their areas of interest and ability.

921  
922 This information shall be provided to students and parents  
923 through websites, handbooks, manuals, or other regularly  
924 provided communications.

925 Section 19. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended

926 to read:

927       1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education  
928 within the Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—  
929 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system provides for  
930 the delivery of early learning and public education through  
931 publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College  
932 System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary  
933 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and  
934 other educational services as provided or authorized by the  
935 Constitution and laws of the state.

936       (1) EARLY LEARNING.—Early learning includes the Voluntary  
937 Prekindergarten Education Program and the school readiness  
938 program.

939       (2)~~(1)~~ PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.—The public K-12 schools  
940 include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;  
941 elementary, middle, and high school grades and special classes;  
942 virtual instruction programs; workforce education; career  
943 centers; adult, part-time, and evening schools, courses, or  
944 classes, as authorized by law to be operated under the control  
945 of district school boards; and lab schools operated under the  
946 control of state universities.

947       (3)~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—  
948 Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce  
949 education; Florida College System institutions; state  
950 universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary

951 educational institutions that are authorized and established by  
952 law.

953 (4)~~(3)~~ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.—The  
954 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of the  
955 delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20  
956 ~~K-20~~ education system.

957 (5)~~(4)~~ THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.—The Florida Virtual  
958 School is a component of the delivery of public education within  
959 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

960 Section 20. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended  
961 to read:

962 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida  
963 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code:

964 (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that  
965 provides the means by which students proceed toward their  
966 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner  
967 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade level,  
968 from elementary to middle to high school, to and through  
969 postsecondary education, and when transferring from one  
970 educational institution or program to another.

971 (2) "Commissioner" is the Commissioner of Education.

972 (3) "Florida College System institution" except as  
973 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following  
974 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida  
975 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other

976 affiliates of the institution:

977 (a) Eastern Florida State College, which serves Brevard  
978 County.

979 (b) Broward College, which serves Broward County.

980 (c) College of Central Florida, which serves Citrus, Levy,  
981 and Marion Counties.

982 (d) Chipola College, which serves Calhoun, Holmes,  
983 Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties.

984 (e) Daytona State College, which serves Flagler and  
985 Volusia Counties.

986 (f) Florida SouthWestern State College, which serves  
987 Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.

988 (g) Florida State College at Jacksonville, which serves  
989 Duval and Nassau Counties.

990 (h) The College of the Florida Keys, which serves Monroe  
991 County.

992 (i) Gulf Coast State College, which serves Bay, Franklin,  
993 and Gulf Counties.

994 (j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves  
995 Hillsborough County.

996 (k) Indian River State College, which serves Indian River,  
997 Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties.

998 (l) Florida Gateway College, which serves Baker, Columbia,  
999 Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties.

1000 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and



1001 Sumter Counties.

1002       (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which

1003 serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

1004       (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.

1005       (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,

1006 Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.

1007       (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa

1008 and Walton Counties.

1009       (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach

1010 County.

1011       (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando

1012 and Pasco Counties.

1013       (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and

1014 Santa Rosa Counties.

1015       (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.

1016       (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,

1017 Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

1018       (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.

1019       (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford

1020 Counties.

1021       (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves

1022 Seminole County.

1023       (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,

1024 Hardee, and Highlands Counties.

1025       (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,

1026 Leon, and Wakulla Counties.

1027 (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola

1028 Counties.

1029 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.

1030 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any

1031 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to

1032 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a

1033 student in place of the parent.

1034 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically

1035 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch

1036 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

1037 (a) The University of Florida.

1038 (b) The Florida State University.

1039 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

1040 (d) The University of South Florida.

1041 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.

1042 (f) The University of West Florida.

1043 (g) The University of Central Florida.

1044 (h) The University of North Florida.

1045 (i) The Florida International University.

1046 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.

1047 (k) New College of Florida.

1048 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.

1049 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the

1050 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.

1051 1003.41.

1052 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the  
1053 State University System.

1054 Section 21. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of  
1055 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended  
1056 to read:

1057 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

1058 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing  
1059 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for  
1060 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level  
1061 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to  
1062 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law  
1063 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state  
1064 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the  
1065 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it  
1066 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the  
1067 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of  
1068 the department.

1069 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

1070 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and Legislature,  
1071 as provided in s. 216.023, a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
1072 education budget that estimates the expenditure requirements for  
1073 the Board of Governors, as provided in s. 1001.706, the State  
1074 Board of Education, including the Department of Education and  
1075 the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,

1076 institutions, agencies, and services under the general  
 1077 supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.  
 1078 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal  
 1079 year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget  
 1080 request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program  
 1081 recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of  
 1082 Education which will require increases in state funding for more  
 1083 than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1084 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the  
 1085 implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology  
 1086 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

1087 Section 22. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,  
 1088 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1089 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

1090 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education  
 1091 shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all  
 1092 school districts, early learning coalitions, and public  
 1093 postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State  
 1094 University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.  
 1095 1008.32.

1096 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.—The State Board of  
 1097 Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors regarding  
 1098 the State University System, shall continue to collect and  
 1099 maintain, at a minimum, the management information databases for  
 1100 state universities, and all other components of the public Early

1101 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on  
1102 June 30, 2002.

1103 Section 23. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l)  
1104 of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10,  
1105 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1106 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and  
1107 duties.—

1108 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational  
1109 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational  
1110 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full  
1111 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing  
1112 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning ~~K-20~~  
1113 education system, except for the State University System.

1114 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following  
1115 general powers and duties:

1116 (g) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or  
1117 before October 1 of each year, recommendations for a coordinated  
1118 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education budget that estimates the  
1119 expenditures for the Board of Governors, the State Board of  
1120 Education, including the Department of Education and the  
1121 Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards, institutions,  
1122 agencies, and services under the general supervision of the  
1123 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education for the  
1124 ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State Board  
1125 of Education that will require increases in state funding for

1126 | more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1127 |       (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly  
1128 | materials relating to the state's education system, including  
1129 | the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness  
1130 | program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1131 |       (1) To prepare and publish annually reports giving  
1132 | statistics and other useful information pertaining to the  
1133 | state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,  
1134 | and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1135 |       (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the  
1136 | commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means  
1137 | of communication with early learning coalitions, local school  
1138 | districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite  
1139 | offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of  
1140 | Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and  
1141 | assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite  
1142 | office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after  
1143 | considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and  
1144 | clients.

1145 |       Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection  
1146 | (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1147 |       1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

1148 |       (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently  
1149 | perform the following duties:

1150 |       (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the

1151 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the  
 1152 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State  
 1153 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,  
 1154 and early learning programs.

1155 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an  
 1156 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for  
 1157 educational management in accordance with the requirements of  
 1158 chapter 1008.

1159 Section 25. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is  
 1160 repealed.

1161 Section 26. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida  
 1162 Statutes, is amended to read:

1163 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in  
 1164 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The  
 1165 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and  
 1166 shall:

1167 (7) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to  
 1168 school districts' implementation of the ~~K-12~~ comprehensive  
 1169 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

1170 Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida  
 1171 Statutes, is amended to read:

1172 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of  
 1173 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law  
 1174 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department  
 1175 shall:

1176 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~  
 1177 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

1178 Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida  
 1179 Statutes, is amended to read:

1180 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University  
 1181 System.—

1182 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority  
 1183 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its  
 1184 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an  
 1185 Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ education system that provides  
 1186 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for  
 1187 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State  
 1188 Constitution and state law.

1189 Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
 1190 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1191 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

1192 (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—

1193 (b) The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative  
 1194 budget requests for the State University System, including a  
 1195 request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State  
 1196 Board of Education for inclusion in the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
 1197 legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide  
 1198 the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats,  
 1199 and instruction for the development of individual university  
 1200 budget requests.



1201 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 1202 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1203 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;  
 1204 rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—

1205 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1206 (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,  
 1207 institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education  
 1208 system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~  
 1209 ~~(4)~~.

1210 Section 31. Subsections (3) and (10) of section 1002.32,  
 1211 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1212 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

1213 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the  
 1214 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,  
 1215 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,  
 1216 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school  
 1217 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.  
 1218 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an  
 1219 appropriate education for its students.

1220 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,  
 1221 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a  
 1222 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such  
 1223 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state  
 1224 university campus, while also providing an education in  
 1225 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide

1226 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where  
1227 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade  
1228 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State  
1229 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement  
1230 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1231 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
1232 lab school may be generated by the college of education and  
1233 other colleges within the university with which the school is  
1234 affiliated.

1235 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
1236 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.  
1237 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education  
1238 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the  
1239 affiliated college.

1240 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
1241 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the  
1242 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the  
1243 Legislature.

1244 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab  
1245 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals  
1246 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.  
1247 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education  
1248 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the  
1249 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1250 (10) EXCEPTIONS TO LAW.—To encourage innovative practices

1251 and facilitate the mission of the lab schools, in addition to  
 1252 the exceptions to law specified in s. 1001.23(1) ~~s. 1001.23(2)~~,  
 1253 the following exceptions shall be permitted for lab schools:

1254 (a) The methods and requirements of the following statutes  
 1255 shall be held in abeyance: ss. 316.75; 1001.30; 1001.31;  
 1256 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361; 1001.362;  
 1257 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38; 1001.39;  
 1258 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.453; 1001.46;  
 1259 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;  
 1260 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(2); 1006.21(3), (4); 1006.23;  
 1261 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43; 1010.44;  
 1262 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50; 1010.51;  
 1263 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3), (5);  
 1264 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71; 1011.72;  
 1265 1011.73; and 1011.74.

1266 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(18), s. 1001.42 shall  
 1267 be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards in s.  
 1268 1001.42(18) shall mean the president of the university or the  
 1269 president's designee.

1270 Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section  
 1271 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1272 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

1273 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1274 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-  
 1275 20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to

1276 students with disabilities.

1277 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida  
 1278 Statutes, is amended to read:

1279 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1280 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and  
 1281 the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported  
 1282 residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually  
 1283 impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is  
 1284 a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's  
 1285 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system and shall be funded  
 1286 through the Department of Education. The school shall provide  
 1287 educational programs and support services appropriate to meet  
 1288 the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of  
 1289 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who  
 1290 meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the  
 1291 school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state  
 1292 agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach  
 1293 basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and  
 1294 to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida  
 1295 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the  
 1296 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant  
 1297 Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1298 Section 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4), subsection  
 1299 (5), and paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section 1002.53,  
 1300 Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (d) is added to

1301 subsection (6) of that section, to read:

1302 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
 1303 eligibility and enrollment.—

1304 (4)

1305 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed  
 1306 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be  
 1307 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth  
 1308 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in  
 1309 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the  
 1310 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public  
 1311 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments  
 1312 for the program be made to the provider or school. The  
 1313 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative  
 1314 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a  
 1315 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1316 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent  
 1317 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 1318 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider  
 1319 and public school delivering the program within the county where  
 1320 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to  
 1321 parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance  
 1322 with s. 1002.92(3) ~~Office of Early Learning~~. ~~The profiles must~~  
 1323 ~~include, at a minimum, the following information about each~~  
 1324 ~~provider and school:~~

1325 (a) ~~The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~

1326 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and~~

1327 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~  
1328 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~  
1329 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~  
1330 ~~screening.~~

1331 (6)

1332 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public school  
1333 must comply with the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 in  
1334 accordance with chapter 760 ~~antidiscrimination requirements of~~  
1335 ~~42 U.S.C. s. 2000d~~, regardless of whether the provider or school  
1336 receives federal financial assistance. A private prekindergarten  
1337 provider or public school may not discriminate against a parent  
1338 or child, including the refusal to admit a child for enrollment  
1339 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, in violation  
1340 of chapter 760 ~~these antidiscrimination requirements.~~

1341 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the  
1342 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or  
1343 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and  
1344 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.

1345 Section 35. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),  
1346 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph  
1347 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are  
1348 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1349 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
1350 private prekindergarten providers.—

1351 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
1352 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
1353 following requirements:

1354 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child  
1355 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home  
1356 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed  
1357 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under  
1358 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from  
1359 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is  
1360 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
1361 military installation that is certified by the United States  
1362 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that  
1363 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A  
1364 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program  
1365 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1366 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1367 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a  
1368 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,  
1369 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be  
1370 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,  
1371 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central  
1372 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States  
1373 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association  
1374 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation  
1375 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements

1376 | under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at  
1377 | least one onsite visit to the provider or school before  
1378 | accreditation is granted;

1379 |         2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under  
1380 | s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1381 |         3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.  
1382 | 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary  
1383 | Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early  
1384 | learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the  
1385 | requirements of the program under this part, including, but not  
1386 | limited to, the requirements for credentials and background  
1387 | screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)  
1388 | and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),  
1389 | prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a  
1390 | developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1391 |         (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
1392 | each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one  
1393 | prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following  
1394 | requirements:

1395 |             1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,  
1396 | one of the following credentials:

1397 |             a. A child development associate credential issued by the  
1398 | National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional  
1399 | Recognition; or

1400 |             b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and



1401 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential  
 1402 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1403  
 1404 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under  
 1405 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures  
 1406 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1407 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
 1408 complete three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses that  
 1409 include developmentally appropriate and experiential learning  
 1410 practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance  
 1411 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as  
 1412 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.  
 1413 1002.59. The prekindergarten instructor must complete an  
 1414 emergent literacy training course at least once every 5 years  
 1415 after initially completing the three emergent literacy training  
 1416 courses. The courses in this subparagraph must be recognized as  
 1417 part of the informal early learning and career pathway  
 1418 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). The  
 1419 requirement for completion of the standards training course  
 1420 shall take effect July 1, 2022. ~~2014,~~ The courses must ~~and the~~  
 1421 ~~course shall~~ be available online or in person.

1422 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a  
 1423 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed  
 1424 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a  
 1425 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute

1426 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1427 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1428 screening requirements in chapter 435. The department ~~Office of~~  
1429 ~~Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph  
1430 which shall include required qualifications of substitute  
1431 instructors and the circumstances and time limits for which a  
1432 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute  
1433 instructor.

1434 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a  
1435 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director  
1436 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting  
1437 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A  
1438 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in  
1439 educational leadership issued by the department satisfies the  
1440 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.  
1441 1002.57. Successful completion of a child care facility director  
1442 credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) before the establishment of  
1443 the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July  
1444 1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a  
1445 prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.

1446 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register  
1447 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the  
1448 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1449 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the  
1450 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~

1451 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple  
1452 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's  
1453 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition  
1454 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

1455 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain  
1456 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with  
1457 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,  
1458 including coverage for transportation of children if  
1459 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A  
1460 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that  
1461 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a  
1462 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department  
1463 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.  
1464 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder  
1465 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the  
1466 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written  
1467 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general  
1468 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in  
1469 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider  
1470 contract with the coalition.

1471 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private  
1472 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision  
1473 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to  
1474 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage  
1475 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise

1476 established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the  
1477 coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding  
1478 paragraph (j), for a child development program that is  
1479 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
1480 military installation that is certified by the United States  
1481 Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability  
1482 coverage by affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort  
1483 Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

1484 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum  
1485 credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may  
1486 hold one of the following educational credentials:

1487 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood  
1488 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool  
1489 education, or family and consumer science;

1490 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,  
1491 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach  
1492 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of  
1493 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if  
1494 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school  
1495 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1496 (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1497 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,  
1498 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child  
1499 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or  
1500 providing child care services for children any age from birth

1501 through 8 years of age; or

1502 (e) An educational credential approved by the department  
 1503 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential  
 1504 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria  
 1505 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials  
 1506 under this paragraph.

1507 (5)

1508 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of law~~, if a  
 1509 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I  
 1510 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program  
 1511 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition  
 1512 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1513 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each  
 1514 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary  
 1515 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county  
 1516 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private  
 1517 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this  
 1518 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the  
 1519 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility  
 1520 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part  
 1521 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1522 Section 36. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of  
 1523 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 1524 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,  
 1525 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that

1526 | section, to read:

1527 |       1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1528 |       (1) The department ~~office~~, in consultation with the  
 1529 | Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum  
 1530 | standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of  
 1531 | private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary  
 1532 | Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass  
 1533 | requirements for education and onsite experience.

1534 |       (2) The educational requirements must include training in  
 1535 | the following:

1536 |           (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-  
 1537 | level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1538 |       Section 37. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 1539 | to read:

1540 |       1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards  
 1541 | training courses.—

1542 |       (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards  
 1543 | for ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for  
 1544 | prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock  
 1545 | hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to  
 1546 | address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students  
 1547 | in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral  
 1548 | communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and  
 1549 | phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension  
 1550 | development. Each course must also provide resources containing

1551 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other  
1552 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary  
1553 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an  
1554 emergent literacy training course approved under this section  
1555 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy  
1556 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6),  
1557 and 402.3131(5).

1558 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards  
1559 for ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards  
1560 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of  
1561 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in  
1562 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of  
1563 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1564 (3) The department shall make available online  
1565 professional development and training courses comprised of at  
1566 least 8 clock hours that support prekindergarten instructors in  
1567 increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

1568 Section 38. Subsections (6) through (8) of section  
1569 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7)  
1570 through (9), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1),  
1571 paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and present  
1572 subsections (6) and (8) are amended, and new subsections (6) and  
1573 (10) are added to that section, to read:

1574 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public  
1575 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

1576 (1)

1577 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the

1578 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or

1579 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a

1580 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private

1581 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is

1582 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a

1583 military installation that is certified by the United States

1584 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten

1585 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1586 (3)

1587 (b) Each public school delivering the summer

1588 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider

1589 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the

1590 school district may execute a single agreement with the early

1591 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1592 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),

1593 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must

1594 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one

1595 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds

1596 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)

1597 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"

1598 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate

1599 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the

1600 district school board to instruct students in the summer



1601 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for  
1602 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall  
1603 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in  
1604 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy  
1605 and performance standards courses, as provided for in s.  
1606 1002.55(3)(c)2.

1607 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a  
1608 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
1609 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
1610 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private  
1611 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1612 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider  
1613 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a  
1614 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned  
1615 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1616 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1617 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1618 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not  
1619 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in  
1620 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of  
1621 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
1622 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include  
1623 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the  
1624 circumstances and time limits for which a public school or  
1625 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute

1626 instructor.

1627 (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer  
1628 prekindergarten program must also register with the early  
1629 learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office~~  
1630 ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1631 Education Program in accordance with this part.

1632 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that  
1633 each private prekindergarten provider and public school  
1634 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1635 within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies  
1636 with this part.

1637 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1638 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in  
1639 misconduct, the department shall require the early learning  
1640 coalition to remove the provider or school from eligibility to  
1641 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
1642 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2  
1643 years but no more than 5 years.

1644 Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and  
1645 subsections (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes,  
1646 are amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to  
1647 read:

1648 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
1649 public schools.—

1650 (3)

1651 (b) Each public school delivering the school-year  
1652 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider  
1653 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the  
1654 school district may execute a single agreement with the early  
1655 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1656 (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a  
1657 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed  
1658 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a  
1659 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1660 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1661 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1662 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not  
1663 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in  
1664 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of  
1665 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
1666 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include  
1667 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the  
1668 circumstances and time limits for which a public school  
1669 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1670 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year  
1671 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning  
1672 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~  
1673 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1674 Program in accordance with this part.

1675 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that

1676 each public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1677 Education Program within the coalition's service area complies  
1678 with this part.

1679 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with  
1680 this part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require  
1681 the early learning coalition to remove the school from  
1682 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1683 Program and receive state funds under this part for a period of  
1684 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1685 Section 40. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1686 to read:

1687 1002.67 Performance standards and; ~~curricula and~~  
1688 ~~accountability.~~—

1689 (1) (a) The department ~~office~~ shall develop and adopt  
1690 performance standards for students in the Voluntary  
1691 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards  
1692 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the  
1693 development of:

1694 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under  
1695 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

1696 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,  
1697 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological  
1698 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

1699 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.  
1700

1701 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~  
1702 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~  
1703 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~  
1704 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

1705 (b) At least every 3 years, the department ~~office~~ shall  
1706 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance  
1707 standards established under s. 1002.67 ~~for the statewide~~  
1708 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align  
1709 the standards to the standards established by the state board  
1710 for student performance on the statewide assessments  
1711 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1712 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
1713 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or  
1714 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1715 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school  
1716 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4) (c).~~

1717 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
1718 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and  
1719 must:

1720 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and  
1721 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1722 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in  
1723 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department  
1724 under subsection (1); and

1725 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated

1726 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening  
1727 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 Prepare  
1728 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~  
1729 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

1730 (c) The department office shall adopt procedures for the  
1731 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private  
1732 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on  
1733 probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~. The department  
1734 ~~office~~ shall administer the review and approval process and  
1735 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.  
1736 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph  
1737 (b).

1738 ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~  
1739 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~  
1740 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~  
1741 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~  
1742 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

1743 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~  
1744 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~  
1745 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~  
1746 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1747 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~  
1748 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~  
1749 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1750 ~~(4)(a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~

1751 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~  
1752 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~  
1753 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~  
1754 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~  
1755 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1756 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1757 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~  
1758 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~  
1759 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~  
1760 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~  
1761 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~  
1762 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1763 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~  
1764 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~  
1765 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
1766 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~  
1767 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~  
1768 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~  
1769 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~  
1770 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~  
1771 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~  
1772 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~  
1773 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~  
1774 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~  
1775 ~~office.~~

1776 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1777 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~  
1778 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~  
1779 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~  
1780 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~  
1781 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~  
1782 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~  
1783 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~  
1784 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~  
1785 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
1786 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1787 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1788 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~  
1789 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
1790 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~  
1791 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~  
1792 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~  
1793 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~  
1794 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~  
1795 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1796 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~  
1797 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~  
1798 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~  
1799 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~  
1800 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~



1801 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~  
1802 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~  
1803 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1804 Section 41. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created  
1805 to read:

1806 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1807 accountability.—

1808 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each  
1809 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating  
1810 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must  
1811 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
1812 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated  
1813 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used  
1814 by the department to identify student learning gains, index  
1815 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative  
1816 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and  
1817 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten  
1818 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1819 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress  
1820 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals  
1821 meeting requirements adopted by the department under s.  
1822 1008.2125.

1823 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
1824 school must provide a student's performance results from the  
1825 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's

1826 parents within 7 days after the administration of such  
1827 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1828 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each  
1829 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the  
1830 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in  
1831 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education  
1832 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of  
1833 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,  
1834 classroom organization, and instructional support for children  
1835 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and  
1836 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1837 shall receive from the department the results of the program  
1838 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the  
1839 observation. Each early learning coalition shall be responsible  
1840 for the administration of the program assessments which must be  
1841 conducted by individuals qualified to conduct program  
1842 assessments under s. 1002.82(2)(n).

1843 (3)(a) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department  
1844 shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private  
1845 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary  
1846 Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning gains and  
1847 the percentage of students who are assessed as ready for  
1848 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school  
1849 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use  
1850 before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in

1851 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-  
1852 2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide  
1853 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private  
1854 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1855 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a  
1856 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results  
1857 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-  
1858 2022 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or  
1859 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1860 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for  
1861 the 2020-2021 program year is subject to the probation  
1862 requirements of subsection (5).

1863 (b) For the 2022-2023 program year, the department shall  
1864 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider  
1865 based on the program assessment under subsection (2).

1866 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, the  
1867 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each  
1868 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's  
1869 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the  
1870 following:

1871 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection  
1872 (3), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1873 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability  
1874 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results  
1875 described in subsection (1).

1876 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes  
1877 described in subsection (1).

1878 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's  
1879 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who  
1880 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten  
1881 provider's or public school's program.

1882 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance  
1883 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or  
1884 public school site.

1885 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent  
1886 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent  
1887 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early  
1888 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability  
1889 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a  
1890 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the  
1891 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following  
1892 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"  
1893 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable  
1894 terminology determined by the State Board of Education which may  
1895 not include letter grades. The independent expert may not be a  
1896 direct stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the  
1897 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1898 Program or public school system within the last 5 years.

1899 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall  
1900 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten

1901 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.  
1902 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15  
1903 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent  
1904 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program  
1905 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or  
1906 public school may not receive a differential payment if it  
1907 receives a designation of proficient or lower. Before the  
1908 adoption of the methodology, the department and the independent  
1909 expert shall confer with the Council for Early Grade Success  
1910 under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the State  
1911 Board of Education for the final recommendations on the  
1912 designation system and differential payments.

1913 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually  
1914 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
1915 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in  
1916 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph  
1917 (d). Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year, each private  
1918 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a  
1919 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-  
1920 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by  
1921 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
1922 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer  
1923 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all  
1924 participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
1925 schools.

1926 (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1927 that is designated proficient, highly proficient, or excellent  
1928 demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of  
1929 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1930 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early  
1931 learning provider performance profiles required under s.  
1932 1002.92 (3) .

1933 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten  
1934 provider's program assessment composite score for its  
1935 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program  
1936 assessment composite score for contracting established by the  
1937 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2) (n), the private  
1938 prekindergarten provider or public school may not participate in  
1939 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the  
1940 consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school  
1941 or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite  
1942 score for contracting. A public school or private  
1943 prekindergarten provider may request one program assessment per  
1944 program year in order to requalify for participation in the  
1945 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, provided that the  
1946 public school or private prekindergarten provider is not  
1947 excluded from participation under ss. 1002.55(6),  
1948 1002.61(10) (b), 1002.63(9) (b), or paragraph (5) (b) of this  
1949 section. If a public school or private prekindergarten provider  
1950 would like an additional program assessment completed within the

1951 same program year the public school or private prekindergarten  
1952 provider shall be responsible for the cost of the program  
1953 assessment.

1954 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public  
1955 school's performance metric or designation falls below the  
1956 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning  
1957 coalition shall:

1958 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval  
1959 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and  
1960 implement the plan.

1961 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1962 3. Require the provider or school to take certain  
1963 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved  
1964 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development  
1965 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional  
1966 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,  
1967 instructional support, language development, phonological  
1968 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

1969 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1970 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions  
1971 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets  
1972 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the  
1973 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs  
1974 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's  
1975 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten

1976 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more  
 1977 than 5 years.

1978 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
 1979 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet  
 1980 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted  
 1981 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall  
 1982 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or  
 1983 school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 1984 Education Program and receive state funds for the program for a  
 1985 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1986 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private  
 1987 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
 1988 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently  
 1989 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and  
 1990 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an  
 1991 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the  
 1992 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state  
 1993 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,  
 1994 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or  
 1995 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1996 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public  
 1997 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such  
 1998 an exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner  
 1999 and within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must  
 2000 include the following:



2001           1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or  
 2002 public school which documents the achievement and progress of  
 2003 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or  
 2004 assessments.

2005           2. Data from the program assessment required under  
 2006 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices  
 2007 as recognized by the tool developer.

2008           3. Data from the early learning coalition or district  
 2009 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and  
 2010 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting  
 2011 association, as applicable, relating to the private  
 2012 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with  
 2013 state and local health and safety standards.

2014           (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good  
 2015 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not  
 2016 limited to, all of the following:

2017           1. Child demographic data that evidences a private  
 2018 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically  
 2019 significant population of children with special needs who have  
 2020 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward  
 2021 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education  
 2022 plans.

2023           2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary  
 2024 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten  
 2025 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has

2026 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening  
2027 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

2028 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which  
2029 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the  
2030 tool developer.

2031 4. Verification that local and state health and safety  
2032 requirements are met.

2033 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any  
2034 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any  
2035 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as  
2036 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,  
2037 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request  
2038 for the exemption.

2039 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
2040 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its  
2041 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required  
2042 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the  
2043 minimum performance metric.

2044 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private  
2045 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
2046 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all  
2047 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall  
2048 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption  
2049 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the  
2050 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary

2051 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for  
2052 the program.

2053 (g) The department shall report the number of private  
2054 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a  
2055 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part  
2056 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(7).

2057 (7) Representatives from each school district and  
2058 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to  
2059 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary  
2060 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2061 Section 42. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is  
2062 repealed.

2063 Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection  
2064 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of  
2065 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida  
2066 Statutes, are amended to read:

2067 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

2068 (3)

2069 (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated  
2070 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The  
2071 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall reallocate funds among  
2072 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student  
2073 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall  
2074 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a  
2075 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal

2076 | year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent  
 2077 | fiscal year.

2078 | (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2079 | (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs  
 2080 | listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent  
 2081 | of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under  
 2082 | subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the  
 2083 | funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw  
 2084 | from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the  
 2085 | programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of  
 2086 | the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time  
 2087 | equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and  
 2088 | reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued  
 2089 | in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~  
 2090 | uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2091 | (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the  
 2092 | prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw  
 2093 | from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the  
 2094 | child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer  
 2095 | programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time  
 2096 | equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is  
 2097 | reenrolled.

2098 |  
 2099 | A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program  
 2100 | under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten

2101 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from  
2102 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good  
2103 cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~  
2104 ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a  
2105 good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under  
2106 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a  
2107 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship  
2108 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under  
2109 paragraph (b).

2110 (5)

2111 (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt  
2112 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers  
2113 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2114 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance  
2115 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment  
2116 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the  
2117 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the  
2118 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The  
2119 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds  
2120 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning  
2121 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private  
2122 prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2123 (6)

2124 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district  
2125 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each

2126 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
 2127 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior  
 2128 month's certified student attendance.

2129 2. The parent must submit the verification of the  
 2130 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or  
 2131 public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~  
 2132 ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the  
 2133 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in  
 2134 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to  
 2135 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in  
 2136 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the  
 2137 program be made to the provider or school:

2138 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE  
 2139 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2140 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,  
 2141 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 2142 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I  
 2143 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver  
 2144 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid  
 2145 to the provider or school for my child.

2146 ...(Signature of Parent)...

2147 ...(Date)...

2148 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school  
 2149 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each  
 2150 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning

2151 coalition, and each public school must permit the school  
2152 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal  
2153 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
2154 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school  
2155 districts to review the original signed forms against the  
2156 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall  
2157 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,  
2158 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early  
2159 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the  
2160 review procedures.

2161 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,  
2162 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the  
2163 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance  
2164 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private  
2165 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance  
2166 policy must include at least the following provisions:

2167 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata  
2168 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2169 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on  
2170 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a  
2171 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

2172 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may  
2173 not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's  
2174 first day of attendance or after a student's last day of  
2175 attendance.

2176  
2177 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding  
2178 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten  
2179 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its  
2180 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2181 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require  
2182 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum  
2183 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the  
2184 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative  
2185 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent  
2186 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic  
2187 submission of forms, including those required for child  
2188 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and  
2189 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school  
2190 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system  
2191 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early  
2192 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In  
2193 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate  
2194 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative  
2195 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend  
2196 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to  
2197 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under  
2198 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition  
2199 under this subsection may be used only for administering the  
2200 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used



2201 for the school readiness program or other programs.

2202 Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida  
 2203 Statutes, is amended to read:

2204 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary  
 2205 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2206 (1) (a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary  
 2207 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning  
 2208 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a  
 2209 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are  
 2210 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
 2211 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such  
 2212 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher  
 2213 observations, and personal identifying information of an  
 2214 enrolled child and his or her parent.

2215 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child  
 2216 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held  
 2217 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~  
 2218 ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
 2219 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this  
 2220 exemption.

2221 Section 45. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2222 to read:

2223 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;  
 2224 accountability requirements.—

2225 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard

2226 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary  
2227 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized  
2228 attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a  
2229 copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.  
2230 The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a  
2231 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for  
2232 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a  
2233 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the  
2234 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide  
2235 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process  
2236 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,  
2237 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any  
2238 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or  
2239 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~  
2240 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
2241 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

2242 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:

2243 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials  
2244 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

2245 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early  
2246 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and  
2247 1002.59.

2248 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers  
2249 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the  
2250 minimum performance metric or designation as required by s.

2251 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development  
2252 opportunities developed or supported by the department.

2253 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2254 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,  
2255 but not limited to, procedures for:

2256 1. Enrolling students in and determining the eligibility  
2257 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2258 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children  
2259 by public schools and private providers that meet specified  
2260 requirements.

2261 2. Providing parents with profiles of private  
2262 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2263 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and  
2264 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,  
2265 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2266 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten  
2267 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61  
2268 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility  
2269 whenever possible.

2270 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten  
2271 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools  
2272 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or  
2273 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2274 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public  
2275 schools under s. 1002.71.

2276        7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and  
 2277 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2278        8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the  
 2279 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2280        9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private  
 2281 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with  
 2282 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.  
 2283 1002.71.

2284        (3) The department shall administer the accountability  
 2285 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
 2286 at the state level.

2287        (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the  
 2288 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 2289 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2290        (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten  
 2291 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2292        (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public  
 2293 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.  
 2294 1002.68.

2295        (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public  
 2296 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the  
 2297 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time  
 2298 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a  
 2299 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I  
 2300 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program

2301 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition  
2302 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the  
2303 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2304 Education Program.

2305 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility  
2306 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2307 under s. 1002.66.

2308 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers  
2309 under s. 1002.66.

2310 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~  
2311 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~  
2312 ~~1002.69.~~

2313 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~  
2314 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
2315 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
2316 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~  
2317 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
2318 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
2319 ~~department.~~

2320 (f)(e) Approving Approval of specialized instructional  
2321 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2322 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~  
2323 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2324 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or  
2325 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.

2326 | 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69(7)~~.

2327 |       (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the  
 2328 | distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.  
 2329 | 1002.71.

2330 |       (6)~~(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not  
 2331 | impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or  
 2332 | public school that does not deliver the Voluntary  
 2333 | Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under  
 2334 | this part.

2335 |       Section 46. Sections 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is  
 2336 | repealed.

2337 |       Section 47. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2338 | to read:

2339 |       1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education  
 2340 | ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)  
 2341 | and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring  
 2342 | duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2343 |       Section 48. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2344 | to read:

2345 |       1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of  
 2346 | 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2347 |       (1) "At-risk child" means:

2348 |       (a) A child from a family under investigation by the  
 2349 | Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's  
 2350 | office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2351 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the  
2352 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider  
2353 and who is from a family that is actively participating and  
2354 complying in department-prescribed activities, including  
2355 education, health services, or work.

2356 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the  
2357 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service  
2358 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2359 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or  
2360 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after  
2361 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and  
2362 Families or its contracted provider.

2363 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a  
2364 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a  
2365 certified domestic violence center.

2366 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered  
2367 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families  
2368 certified homeless shelter.

2369 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care  
2370 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,  
2371 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,  
2372 including reasonable travel time.

2373 (3) "Department" means the Department of Education.

2374 (4) "Direct enhancement services" means services for  
2375 families and children that are in addition to payments for the

2376 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct  
 2377 enhancement services for families and children may include  
 2378 supports for providers, parent training and involvement  
 2379 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique  
 2380 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement  
 2381 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be  
 2382 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~or~~  
 2383 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2384 (5) "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary or  
 2385 permanent, of a child from participation in the school readiness  
 2386 program. Removal of a child from the school readiness program  
 2387 may be based on the following events: a reduction in available  
 2388 school readiness program funding, participant's failure to meet  
 2389 eligibility or program participation requirements, fraud, or a  
 2390 change in local service priorities.

2391 (6) "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived from  
 2392 work, professional service, or self-employment. The term  
 2393 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash  
 2394 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

2395 (7) "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family  
 2396 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty  
 2397 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family  
 2398 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural  
 2399 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer  
 2400 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according



2401 to weather conditions and market stability.

2402 (8) "Family income" means the combined gross income,  
2403 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by  
2404 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older  
2405 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.  
2406 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled  
2407 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or  
2408 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22  
2409 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high  
2410 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special  
2411 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also  
2412 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing  
2413 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the  
2414 associated utilities expenses.

2415 (9) "Family or household members" means spouses, former  
2416 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are  
2417 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have  
2418 been married, and other persons who are currently residing  
2419 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2420 (10) "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not more  
2421 than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education  
2422 services within a 24-hour period.

2423 (11) "Market rate" means the price that a child care or  
2424 early childhood education provider charges for full-time or  
2425 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early

2426 childhood education services.

2427 ~~(12) "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the~~  
 2428 ~~Department of Education.~~

2429 ~~(12)~~~~(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child  
 2430 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour  
 2431 period.

2432 ~~(13)~~~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the  
 2433 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency  
 2434 distribution ~~average~~ of the market rate by program care level  
 2435 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which  
 2436 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

2437 (14) "Single point of entry" means an integrated  
 2438 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her  
 2439 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary  
 2440 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations  
 2441 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or  
 2442 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a  
 2443 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for  
 2444 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2445 (15) "Unearned income" means income other than earned  
 2446 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 2447 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
- 2448 (b) Social security benefits.
- 2449 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
- 2450 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.

2451 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation  
 2452 benefits.

2453 (f) Veterans' benefits.

2454 (g) Retirement benefits.

2455 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.

2456 (16) "Working family" means:

2457 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom  
 2458 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or  
 2459 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2460 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom  
 2461 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or  
 2462 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours  
 2463 per week; or

2464 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with  
 2465 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to  
 2466 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician  
 2467 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is  
 2468 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at  
 2469 least 20 hours per week.

2470 Section 49. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 2471 to read:

2472 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;  
 2473 powers and duties.—

2474 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and  
 2475 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts

2476 98 and 99, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ is designated  
2477 as the lead agency and must comply with lead agency  
2478 responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department ~~office~~  
2479 may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the  
2480 Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss. 411.223 and  
2481 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for implementation of the  
2482 school readiness program. Section 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply  
2483 to the school readiness program.

2484 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2485 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered  
2486 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2487 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to  
2488 choose from a variety of child care categories, including  
2489 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to  
2490 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development  
2491 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health  
2492 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and  
2493 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or  
2494 excluded in any of these categories.

2495 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and  
2496 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual  
2497 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,  
2498 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of  
2499 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,  
2500 including:

2501           1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for  
 2502 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides  
 2503 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,  
 2504 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.  
 2505 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

- 2506           a. Direct services to children.
- 2507           b. Administrative costs.
- 2508           c. Quality activities.
- 2509           d. Nondirect services.

2510           2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to  
 2511 perform data matches on children participating in the school  
 2512 readiness program and their families in order to verify the  
 2513 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2514           (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of  
 2515 the prevailing average market rate or an alternative model that  
 2516 has been approved by the Administration for Children and  
 2517 Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c).

2518           (e) Review each early learning coalition's school  
 2519 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval  
 2520 of the plan and any amendments submitted.

2521           (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to  
 2522 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of  
 2523 this effort, the department office:

2524           1. Shall adopt specific program support services that  
 2525 address the state's school readiness program, including:

2526 |           a. Statewide data information program requirements that  
 2527 | include:  
 2528 |           (I) Eligibility requirements.  
 2529 |           (II) Financial reports.  
 2530 |           (III) Program accountability measures.  
 2531 |           (IV) Child progress reports.  
 2532 |        b. Child care resource and referral services.  
 2533 |        c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.  
 2534 |        2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on  
 2535 | additional support services to complement the school readiness  
 2536 | program, including:  
 2537 |        ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~  
 2538 |        a.b. Warm-Line services.  
 2539 |        b.e. Anti-fraud plans.  
 2540 |        ~~d. School readiness program standards.~~  
 2541 |        ~~e. Child screening and assessments.~~  
 2542 |        c.f. Training and support for parental involvement in  
 2543 | children's early education.  
 2544 |        d.g. Family literacy activities and services.  
 2545 |        (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning  
 2546 | coalitions.  
 2547 |        (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,  
 2548 | coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the  
 2549 | Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to  
 2550 | avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety

2551 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child  
2552 care training and credentialing.

2553 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local  
2554 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of  
2555 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of  
2556 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify  
2557 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist  
2558 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a  
2559 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for  
2560 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety  
2561 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the  
2562 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A  
2563 child development program that is accredited by a national  
2564 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is  
2565 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted  
2566 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2567 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the Develop  
2568 ~~and adopt~~ standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the  
2569 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children  
2570 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for  
2571 children from birth to kindergarten entry ~~5 years of age~~ in the  
2572 school readiness program must be aligned with the performance  
2573 standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2574 Education Program and must address the following domains:

2575 1. Approaches to learning.

- 2576 |           2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2577 |           3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2578 |           4. Physical development.
- 2579 |           5. Self-regulation.
- 2580 |           (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are
- 2581 | valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at
- 2582 | least three times a year. The assessments must:
- 2583 |           1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~riterion-~~
- 2584 | ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across
- 2585 | the core domains of early childhood development and that can be
- 2586 | used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.
- 2587 |           2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted
- 2588 | pursuant to paragraph (j).
- 2589 |           3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children
- 2590 | with disabilities and English language learners and be
- 2591 | administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the
- 2592 | developer's instructions.
- 2593 |           4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by
- 2594 | the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary
- 2595 | Prekindergarten Education Program.
- 2596 |           5. Provide data in a format for use in the single
- 2597 | statewide information system to meet the requirements of
- 2598 | paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.
- 2599 |           (1) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the
- 2600 | performance standards for the school readiness program and



2601 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's  
2602 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2603 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning  
2604 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard  
2605 statewide provider contract adopted by the department to be used  
2606 with each school readiness program provider, with standardized  
2607 attachments by provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall  
2608 publish a copy of the standard statewide provider contract on  
2609 its website. The standard statewide contract shall include, at a  
2610 minimum, contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the  
2611 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R.  
2612 parts 98 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable;  
2613 program assessment requirements; and provisions for provider  
2614 probation, termination for cause, and emergency termination for  
2615 those actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate  
2616 and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the  
2617 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also  
2618 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency  
2619 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to  
2620 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that  
2621 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and  
2622 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also  
2623 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established  
2624 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the  
2625 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting

2626 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)  
2627 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to  
2628 paragraph (n).

2629 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness  
2630 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child  
2631 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,  
2632 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and  
2633 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The  
2634 implementation of the program assessment must ~~also~~ include the  
2635 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of  
2636 Education:

2637 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program  
2638 assessment composite score threshold for contracting purposes  
2639 and program improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum  
2640 program assessment composite score required for the Voluntary  
2641 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be  
2642 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score  
2643 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The  
2644 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program  
2645 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent  
2646 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

2647 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of  
2648 program assessment, and exemptions.

2649 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential  
2650 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the

2651 department office under paragraph (n). The differential payment  
2652 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and  
2653 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5  
2654 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to  
2655 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide  
2656 information system in the domains of language and executive  
2657 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to  
2658 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment  
2659 score adopted threshold for contracting purposes are ineligible  
2660 for such payment.

2661 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt  
2662 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to  
2663 make available contracted slots to serve children at the  
2664 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children  
2665 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty  
2666 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted  
2667 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of  
2668 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.  
2669 1002.85(2)(j).

2670 (q) ~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system  
2671 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the  
2672 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,  
2673 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining  
2674 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and  
2675 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early

2676 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.  
2677 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

2678 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her  
2679 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

2680 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level  
2681 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality  
2682 improvement and investment decisions.

2683 (r)~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to  
2684 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures  
2685 adopted in state board rule for early learning coalitions to use  
2686 when monitoring the compliance of school readiness program  
2687 providers with the terms of the standard statewide provider  
2688 contract.

2689 (s)~~(r)~~ At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic  
2690 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early  
2691 learning coalition in administering the school readiness  
2692 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program  
2693 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program  
2694 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2695 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must  
2696 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's  
2697 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2698 (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal  
2699 Education Programs within the department ~~of Education~~ to  
2700 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to

2701 the populations served by the bureau.

2702 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to  
 2703 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and  
 2704 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,  
 2705 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are  
 2706 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other  
 2707 special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2708 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day  
 2709 care homes of the availability of this service through the child  
 2710 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2711 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line  
 2712 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning  
 2713 coalition service area.

2714 (v)~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the  
 2715 supply and improve the quality of child care services for  
 2716 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who  
 2717 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in  
 2718 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant  
 2719 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2720 (w)~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training  
 2721 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child  
 2722 development standards, health and safety requirements, and  
 2723 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include  
 2724 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the  
 2725 integration of early learning professional development pathways

2726 established in s. 1002.995.

2727 ~~(x)(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness  
2728 plans for school readiness program providers.

2729 ~~(y)(\*)~~ Establish group sizes.

2730 ~~(z)(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not  
2731 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.  
2732 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program  
2733 providers.

2734 ~~(aa)(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including  
2735 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance  
2736 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2737 (3)(a) The department shall adopt performance standards  
2738 and outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a  
2739 minimum, include the development of objective and statistically  
2740 valid customer service surveys by a state university of other  
2741 independent researcher with specific expertise in customer  
2742 service survey development. The survey shall be deployed  
2743 beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023 and be distributed to:

2744 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the  
2745 completion of a referral inquiry.

2746 2. Parents, annually, at the time of eligibility  
2747 determination.

2748 3. Child care providers that participate in the school  
2749 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2750 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider

2751 contract.

2752 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2753 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a

2754 statistically significant sample size of completed surveys and

2755 calculated annually for each early learning coalition and

2756 included in the department's annual report under subsection (7).

2757 If an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey

2758 results are below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a

2759 1-year corrective action plan that outlines the specific steps

2760 the coalition shall take to improve the results of the customer

2761 service surveys, including, but not limited to, technical

2762 assistance, staff professional development, or coaching. If,

2763 after being placed on corrective action, an early learning

2764 coalition's customer satisfaction survey results do not improve

2765 above the 60 percent threshold, the department may contract out

2766 or merge the coalition.

2767 (4)(3) If the ~~department office~~ determines during the

2768 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring

2769 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an

2770 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its

2771 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and

2772 outcome measures adopted by the ~~department or the terms of a~~

2773 customer service corrective action plan ~~office~~, or has not

2774 effectively administered the school readiness program or

2775 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the ~~department~~

2776 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer  
2777 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a  
2778 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and  
2779 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or  
2780 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or  
2781 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is  
2782 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board  
2783 ~~office~~.

2784 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for merging  
2785 early learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements  
2786 of subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for  
2787 the consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes  
2788 duplication of programs and services due to the merger, and for  
2789 the early termination of the terms of the coalition members  
2790 which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2791 (6) ~~(4)~~ The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to  
2792 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head  
2793 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness  
2794 program.

2795 (7) ~~(5)~~ By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~  
2796 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities  
2797 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary  
2798 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the  
2799 following:

2800 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout



2801 the state, including the school readiness program and the  
2802 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2803 1. The total and average number of children served in the  
2804 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility  
2805 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of  
2806 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2807 Program.

2808 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,  
2809 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of  
2810 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
2811 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2812 3. A description of the department's ~~office's~~ and each  
2813 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and  
2814 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~  
2815 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2816 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to  
2817 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2818 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early  
2819 learning programs.

2820 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and  
2821 the reason for disenrollment.

2822 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2823 8. The number of school readiness program providers who  
2824 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph  
2825 (2)(n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum

2826 program assessment composite score ~~threshold~~ for contracting  
2827 established under paragraph (2)(n); and the number of providers  
2828 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the  
2829 program assessment under paragraph (2)(n).

2830 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the  
2831 reasons for revocation.

2832 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the  
2833 single statewide information system established in subsection  
2834 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child  
2835 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2836 (8)(a) ~~(6)(a)~~ Parental choice of child care providers,  
2837 including private and faith-based providers, shall be  
2838 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with  
2839 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2840 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment  
2841 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45  
2842 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2843 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with  
2844 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment  
2845 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,  
2846 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment  
2847 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the  
2848 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must  
2849 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized  
2850 representative of the provider.

2851 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash  
2852 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for  
2853 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or  
2854 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of  
2855 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2856 (9)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does  
2857 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,  
2858 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional  
2859 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the  
2860 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2861 Section 50. Subsections (5) through (14) of section  
2862 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)  
2863 through (15), respectively, subsections (1) and (3), paragraphs  
2864 (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present subsections  
2865 (5), (11), and (13) are amended, and a new subsection (5) is  
2866 added to that section, to read:

2867 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2868 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions  
2869 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services  
2870 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67  
2871 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for  
2872 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program  
2873 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2874 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other  
2875 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the

2876 ~~same~~ qualifications of a ~~as~~ private sector business member  
2877 members appointed by the coalition under subsection (6) ~~(5)~~. In  
2878 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of  
2879 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early  
2880 learning coalition board membership.

2881 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
2882 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
2883 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
2884 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
2885 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
2886 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of  
2887 such members may serve as a voting member:

2888 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare  
2889 board chair or executive director from each county, if  
2890 applicable.

2891 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care  
2892 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing  
2893 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2894 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2895 (5) If members of the board are found to be  
2896 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition  
2897 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate  
2898 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership  
2899 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

2900 (6) ~~(5)~~ The early learning coalition may appoint additional

2901 ~~Including the members who appointed by the Governor under~~  
2902 ~~subsection (3), more than one third of the members of each early~~  
2903 ~~learning coalition~~ must be private sector business members,  
2904 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of  
2905 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial  
2906 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary  
2907 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this  
2908 chapter or the school readiness program. ~~To meet this~~  
2909 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~  
2910 ~~members.~~ The department office shall establish criteria for  
2911 appointing private sector business members. These criteria must  
2912 include standards for determining whether a member or relative  
2913 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery  
2914 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school  
2915 readiness program.

2916 (12) ~~(11)~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish  
2917 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must  
2918 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4  
2919 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~  
2920 ~~pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may serve a maximum of  
2921 two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed  
2922 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

2923 (14) ~~(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an  
2924 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive  
2925 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the

2926 department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the  
2927 commissioner by August 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~  
2928 ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~  
2929 ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~  
2930 ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~  
2931 ~~adopted by the office.~~

2932 Section 51. Subsections (7) through (20) of section  
2933 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)  
2934 through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and  
2935 present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)  
2936 of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added  
2937 to that section, to read:

2938 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
2939 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2940 (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program  
2941 of school readiness program services in accordance with this  
2942 part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which  
2943 enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of  
2944 children to achieve the performance standards.

2945 (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible  
2946 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program  
2947 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
2948 ~~office~~.

2949 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the  
2950 department ~~office~~ pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.

2951 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical  
2952 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and  
2953 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,  
2954 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care  
2955 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve  
2956 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2957 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that  
2958 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by  
2959 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the  
2960 performance standards adopted by the department.

2961 (8)~~(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87  
2962 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child  
2963 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must  
2964 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school  
2965 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by  
2966 the department ~~office~~.

2967 (9)~~(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides  
2968 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families  
2969 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~  
2970 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~  
2971 ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child  
2972 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's  
2973 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose  
2974 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits  
2975 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in

2976 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency  
2977 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the  
2978 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in  
2979 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may  
2980 not transfer school readiness program services to another school  
2981 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted  
2982 documentation from the current school readiness program provider  
2983 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has  
2984 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2985 (16)~~(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in  
2986 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental  
2987 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.  
2988 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring  
2989 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to  
2990 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial  
2991 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local  
2992 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers  
2993 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored  
2994 biennially.

2995 (17)~~(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all  
2996 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The  
2997 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
2998 ~~average~~ market rate or an alternative model that has been  
2999 approved by the Administration for Children and Families  
3000 pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 98.45(c), include the projected number of



3001 children to be served, and be submitted for approval by the  
 3002 department ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be  
 3003 reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a  
 3004 family day care home.

3005 (18)~~(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the  
 3006 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and  
 3007 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school  
 3008 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 3009 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~  
 3010 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

3011 (19)~~(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual  
 3012 report to the department ~~office~~. The report shall conform to the  
 3013 format adopted by the department ~~office~~ and must include:

3014 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,  
 3015 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~  
 3016 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues  
 3017 available to the coalition.

3018 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including  
 3019 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality  
 3020 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for  
 3021 children.

3022 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related  
 3023 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,  
 3024 the total number of contracted staff and the related  
 3025 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

3026 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness  
3027 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility  
3028 priority category, reported as the number of children served  
3029 during the month, the average participation throughout the  
3030 month, and the number of children served during the month.

3031 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the  
3032 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

3033 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

3034 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by  
3035 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program  
3036 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or  
3037 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

3038 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

3039 (i) The total number of children served in each provider  
3040 facility.

3041 (21) (a) ~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,  
3042 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting  
3043 with one or more of the following persons or business entities  
3044 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned  
3045 by the following persons:

3046 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.  
3047 1002.83(3);

3048 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient  
3049 entity;

3050 3. A coalition employee; or

3051           4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c), of any  
 3052 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~  
 3053 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

3054           (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the  
 3055 approval of the department ~~office~~. Such contracts, as well as  
 3056 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the  
 3057 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the  
 3058 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of  
 3059 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who  
 3060 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit  
 3061 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under  
 3062 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~  
 3063 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~  
 3064 ~~112.3143(1)(c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~  
 3065 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the  
 3066 department ~~office~~ but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of  
 3067 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be  
 3068 reported to the department ~~office~~ within 30 days after approval.  
 3069 If a contract cannot be approved by the department ~~office~~, a  
 3070 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be  
 3071 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to  
 3072 the disapproved contract.

3073           Section 52. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 3074 to read:

3075           1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

3076           (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing  
3077 the standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3078 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified  
3079 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in  
3080 this part.

3081           (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a  
3082 school readiness program plan to the department ~~office~~ before  
3083 the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its  
3084 school readiness program plan until it receives approval from  
3085 the department ~~office~~. A coalition may not implement any  
3086 revision to its school readiness program plan until the  
3087 coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from  
3088 the department ~~office~~. If the department ~~office~~ rejects a plan  
3089 or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its  
3090 previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not  
3091 limited to:

3092           (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership  
3093 and business organization, and the coalition's articles of  
3094 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a  
3095 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation  
3096 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract  
3097 with a fiscal agent.

3098           (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care  
3099 level.

3100           (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the

3101 requirements of this part, including:

3102       1. Single point of entry.

3103       2. Uniform waiting list.

3104       3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local

3105 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

3106       4. Parent access and choice.

3107       5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver

3108 or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~

3109 ~~1002.84(8)~~.

3110       6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as

3111 applicable.

3112       7. Payment rate schedule.

3113       8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the

3114 results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

3115       (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality

3116 activities and services, including, but not limited to:

3117           1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.

3118           2. Infant and toddler early learning.

3119           3. Inclusive early learning programs.

3120           4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching

3121 practices and increase child outcomes.

3122       (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures

3123 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level

3124 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all

3125 estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a

3126 listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted  
 3127 subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or  
 3128 hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan  
 3129 outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed  
 3130 capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3131 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the  
 3132 department ~~office~~, of all revenues and expenditures during the  
 3133 previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be  
 3134 identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~  
 3135 categories: state and federal funds and, ~~local matching funds,~~  
 3136 ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

3137 (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those  
 3138 governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal  
 3139 property, maintenance of records, information technology  
 3140 security, and disbursement controls.

3141 (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school  
 3142 readiness program providers, including in response to a parental  
 3143 complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.  
 3144 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool  
 3145 adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to be  
 3146 high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial  
 3147 findings of violations of law shall be monitored more  
 3148 frequently.

3149 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and  
 3150 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness

3151 program plan from the local community.

3152 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or  
3153 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider  
3154 capacity using available community data.

3155 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as  
3156 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by  
3157 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on  
3158 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3159 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the  
3160 standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3161 program plans on its website.

3162 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall collect and report data on  
3163 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall  
3164 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress  
3165 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the  
3166 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the  
3167 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of  
3168 children served compared to total number of children under the  
3169 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,  
3170 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance  
3171 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and  
3172 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary  
3173 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness  
3174 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department ~~office~~  
3175 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness

3176 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be  
 3177 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,  
 3178 and results of the report must be included in the annual report  
 3179 under s. 1002.82.

3180 Section 53. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),  
 3181 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section  
 3182 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is  
 3183 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3184 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;  
 3185 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3186 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness  
 3187 program, a school readiness program provider must:

3188 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a  
 3189 family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a  
 3190 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a  
 3191 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.  
 3192 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from  
 3193 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school  
 3194 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development  
 3195 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and  
 3196 operates on a military installation that is certified by the  
 3197 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care  
 3198 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and  
 3199 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States  
 3200 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.



3201 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license  
3202 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program  
3203 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3204 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-  
3205 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child  
3206 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant  
3207 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to  
3208 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an  
3209 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with  
3210 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to  
3211 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and  
3212 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3213 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and  
3214 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate  
3215 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness  
3216 program.

3217 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.  
3218 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as  
3219 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

3220 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care  
3221 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the  
3222 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this  
3223 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this  
3224 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the  
3225 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist

3226 adopted by the department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in  
3227 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit  
3228 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3229 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a  
3230 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
3231 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
3232 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual  
3233 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense  
3234 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3235 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.  
3236 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of  
3237 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the  
3238 department ~~office~~.

3239 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the  
3240 department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

3241 (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,  
3242 maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition  
3243 with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,  
3244 including coverage for transportation of children if school  
3245 readiness program children are transported by the provider. A  
3246 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that  
3247 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a  
3248 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department  
3249 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.  
3250 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder

3251 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the  
 3252 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written  
 3253 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general  
 3254 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in  
 3255 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider  
 3256 contract with the coalition.

3257 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply  
 3258 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's  
 3259 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an  
 3260 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the  
 3261 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy  
 3262 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence  
 3263 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The  
 3264 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as  
 3265 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a  
 3266 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An  
 3267 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of  
 3268 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or  
 3269 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by  
 3270 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the  
 3271 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

3272 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is  
 3273 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.  
 3274 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional  
 3275 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to

3276 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall  
3277 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.  
3278 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program  
3279 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates  
3280 on a military installation that is certified by the United  
3281 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate  
3282 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the  
3283 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3284 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract  
3285 adopted by the department ~~office~~.

3286 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has  
3287 been granted under s. 1002.84(9).

3288 (3) The department ~~office~~ and the coalitions may not:

3289 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or  
3290 early childhood education provider that does not deliver  
3291 services under the school readiness program or receive state or  
3292 federal funds under this part;

3293 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program  
3294 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or  
3295 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or  
3296 part V of this chapter; or

3297 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or  
3298 postassessment.

3299 Section 54. Subsections (3) through (7) of section  
3300 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)

3301 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present  
 3302 subsections (3) and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3303 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3304 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~  
 3305 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~  
 3306 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3307 (2)~~(3)~~ All instructions to early learning coalitions for  
 3308 administering this section shall emanate from the department  
 3309 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3310 (5)~~(6)~~ Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for  
 3311 the efficient and effective administration of the school  
 3312 readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being  
 3313 direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5  
 3314 percent of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~  
 3315 may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent  
 3316 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be  
 3317 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative  
 3318 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3319 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.  
 3320 98.54 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.52~~, which shall include monitoring  
 3321 providers using the standard methodology adopted under s.  
 3322 1002.82 to improve compliance with state and federal regulations  
 3323 and law pursuant to the requirements of the statewide provider  
 3324 contract adopted under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3325 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as

3326 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.51~~, which shall  
3327 be limited to the following:

3328 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
3329 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
3330 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
3331 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified  
3332 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3333 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to  
3334 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist  
3335 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program  
3336 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care  
3337 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate  
3338 curricula and related classroom resources that support  
3339 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued  
3340 professional development and training. Any grants awarded  
3341 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and  
3342 287.058.

3343 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial  
3344 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and  
3345 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child  
3346 development research and best practices, developmentally  
3347 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child  
3348 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
3349 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the  
3350 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,

3351 prevention, and reporting.

3352 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the  
 3353 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding  
 3354 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
 3355 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for  
 3356 infant and toddler care.

3357 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and  
 3358 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as  
 3359 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3360 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and  
 3361 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings  
 3362 to school readiness program children.

3363 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office  
 3364 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not  
 3365 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are  
 3366 required to administer the school readiness program. Such  
 3367 services include, but are not limited to:

3368 1. Assisting families to complete the required application  
 3369 and eligibility documentation.

3370 2. Determining child and family eligibility.

3371 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.

3372 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.

3373 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care  
 3374 information system.

3375

3376 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does  
 3377 not include payments to school readiness program providers for  
 3378 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.  
 3379 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or  
 3380 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3381 Section 55. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
 3382 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,  
 3383 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3384 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness  
 3385 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3386 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for  
 3387 the adoption of a market rate schedule until an alternative  
 3388 model that has been approved by the Administration for Children  
 3389 and Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c) is available for  
 3390 adoption. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-  
 3391 county rates:

3392 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum  
 3393 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality  
 3394 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting  
 3395 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
 3396 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3397 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not  
 3398 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3399 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3400 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not



3401 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality  
3402 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its  
3403 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
3404 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.  
3405 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure  
3406 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from  
3407 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal  
3408 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home  
3409 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed  
3410 or registered under s. 402.313.

3411 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an  
3412 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.  
3413 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
3414 ~~average~~ market rate and ~~include~~ the projected number of  
3415 children to be served by each county ~~and~~ be submitted for  
3416 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care  
3417 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of  
3418 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3419 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more  
3420 qualified entities to administer this section and provide  
3421 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3422 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing  
3423 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market  
3424 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by  
3425 program care level and provider type in a predetermined

3426 | geographic market, and the publication of the market rate  
 3427 | schedule.

3428 | Section 56. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 3429 | to read:

3430 | 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;  
 3431 | penalties.—

3432 | (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an  
 3433 | intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a  
 3434 | person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or  
 3435 | misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that  
 3436 | person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the  
 3437 | commission of such an act. The term includes any act that  
 3438 | constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3439 | (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,  
 3440 | the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning  
 3441 | coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness  
 3442 | program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
 3443 | determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own  
 3444 | inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~  
 3445 | has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has  
 3446 | engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall  
 3447 | investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred  
 3448 | due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the  
 3449 | department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic  
 3450 | benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who

3451 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the  
3452 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits  
3453 authorizations to recipients.

3454 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the  
3455 department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the  
3456 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for  
3457 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable  
3458 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the  
3459 department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of  
3460 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3461 (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a  
3462 provider from participation in the school readiness program or  
3463 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has  
3464 reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed  
3465 fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due  
3466 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply  
3467 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the  
3468 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider  
3469 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation  
3470 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,  
3471 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent  
3472 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3473 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary  
3474 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,  
3475 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,

3476 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of  
3477 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or  
3478 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been  
3479 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3480 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance  
3481 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall  
3482 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that  
3483 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition  
3484 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,  
3485 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider  
3486 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3487 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance  
3488 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3489 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise  
3490 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation  
3491 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate  
3492 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,  
3493 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems  
3494 appropriate.

3495 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a  
3496 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3497 Education Program provider who is on the United States  
3498 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In  
3499 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that  
3500 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the

3501 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified  
 3502 List.

3503 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-  
 3504 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of  
 3505 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and  
 3506 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary  
 3507 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan  
 3508 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~  
 3509 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,  
 3510 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud  
 3511 plan must include, at a minimum:

3512 (a) A written description or chart outlining the  
 3513 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are  
 3514 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible  
 3515 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3516 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting  
 3517 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3518 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the  
 3519 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to  
 3520 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3521 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for  
 3522 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent  
 3523 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3524 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the  
 3525 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department

3526 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness  
 3527 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a  
 3528 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes  
 3529 has committed fraud.

3530 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in  
 3531 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.  
 3532 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3533 Section 57. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),  
 3534 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida  
 3535 Statutes, are amended to read:

3536 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
 3537 referral.—

3538 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the  
 3539 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care  
 3540 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides  
 3541 referrals to families for child care and information on  
 3542 available community resources. Preference shall be given to  
 3543 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and  
 3544 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply  
 3545 with the requirements to offer the resource information  
 3546 component or does not want to offer that service, the early  
 3547 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency  
 3548 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement  
 3549 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3550 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency

3551 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or  
3552 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3553 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral  
3554 services offered through child care resource and referral  
3555 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at  
3556 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents  
3557 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff  
3558 training requirements.

3559 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall  
3560 provide the following services:

3561 (a) Identification of existing public and private child  
3562 care and early childhood education services, including child  
3563 care services by public and private employers, and the  
3564 development of an early learning provider performance profile ~~a~~  
3565 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide  
3566 information system developed by the department ~~office~~ under s.  
3567 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include  
3568 family day care, public and private child care programs, the  
3569 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the  
3570 school readiness program, special education programs for  
3571 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for  
3572 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-  
3573 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and  
3574 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~  
3575 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The

3576 early learning provider performance profile ~~resource file~~ shall  
3577 include, but not be limited to:

- 3578 1. Type of program.
- 3579 2. Hours of service.
- 3580 3. Ages of children served.
- 3581 4. Number of children served.
- 3582 5. Program information.
- 3583 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 3584 7. Availability of transportation.
- 3585 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if  
3586 applicable.
- 3587 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 3588 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3589 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68  
3590 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,  
3591 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,  
3592 if applicable.
- 3593 11. The school readiness program assessment composite  
3594 score and program assessment care level composite score results  
3595 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and  
3596 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.
- 3597 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,  
3598 if applicable.
- 3599 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a  
3600 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the



3601 curriculum, if applicable.

3602 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment  
3603 under s. 1002.82.

3604 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for  
3605 service tabulated through the internal referral process through  
3606 the single statewide information system. The following  
3607 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the  
3608 child care resource and referral network:

3609 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource  
3610 information and referral network component by type of service  
3611 requested.

3612 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3613 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3614 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and  
3615 swing shift.

3616 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3617 6. Customer service survey data required under s.

3618 1002.82(3) ~~Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~  
3619 ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

3620 (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent  
3621 education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,  
3622 or social services programs that support families with children,  
3623 and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~  
3624 ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~  
3625 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

3626           1. ~~Information on initiating new child care services,~~  
 3627 zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in  
 3628 finding such information from other sources.

3629           2. ~~Information and resources which help existing child~~  
 3630 care services providers to maximize their ability to serve  
 3631 children and parents in their community.

3632           3. ~~Information and incentives that may help existing or~~  
 3633 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~  
 3634 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~  
 3635 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~  
 3636 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~  
 3637 ~~businesses.~~

3638           Section 58. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida  
 3639 Statutes, is amended to read:

3640           1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3641           (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning  
 3642 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation  
 3643 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are  
 3644 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to  
 3645 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the  
 3646 provision of transportation services as required by this  
 3647 section.

3648           Section 59. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is  
 3649 repealed.

3650           Section 60. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended

3651 to read:

3652 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)  
3653 scholarship program.—

3654 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the  
3655 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
3656 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational  
3657 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood  
3658 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care  
3659 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and  
3660 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child  
3661 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the  
3662 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood  
3663 education.

3664 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3665 as necessary to administer this section.

3666 Section 61. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,  
3667 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3668 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3669 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department  
3670 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants  
3671 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs  
3672 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The  
3673 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds  
3674 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been  
3675 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3676 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for  
3677 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the  
3678 administration of the collaboration grants program under this  
3679 section.

3680 Section 62. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection  
3681 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3682 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness  
3683 program.—

3684 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the  
3685 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an  
3686 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are  
3687 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
3688 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records  
3689 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher  
3690 observations, and personal identifying information.

3691 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3692 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early  
3693 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of  
3694 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department  
3695 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness  
3696 program.

3697  
3698 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school  
3699 readiness program records in order to carry out their official  
3700 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit

3701 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school  
3702 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than  
3703 those authorized to receive the records.

3704 Section 63. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,  
3705 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3706 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards  
3707 and career pathways.—

3708 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3709 (a) Develop early learning professional development  
3710 training and course standards to be utilized for school  
3711 readiness program providers.

3712 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning  
3713 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications  
3714 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized  
3715 professional development that:

3716 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.

3717 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core  
3718 competencies.

3719 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based  
3720 stackable credentials and certifications.

3721 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten  
3722 readiness and early grade success.

3723 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3724 to administer this section.

3725 Section 64. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended

3726 | to read:

3727 |       1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of  
 3728 | the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;  
 3729 | Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3730 |       (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate  
 3731 | articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20  
 3732 | ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening  
 3733 | relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,  
 3734 | between public and private organizations, and between the  
 3735 | education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The  
 3736 | purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these  
 3737 | relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective  
 3738 | progression and transfer of students within the education system  
 3739 | and to allow students to proceed toward their educational  
 3740 | objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The  
 3741 | Legislature further intends that articulation policies and  
 3742 | budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of  
 3743 | the Department of Education and postsecondary educational  
 3744 | institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts  
 3745 | of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3746 |       (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the  
 3747 | State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall  
 3748 | collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from  
 3749 | statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner  
 3750 | of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System

3751 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The  
 3752 policies shall relate to:

3753 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one  
 3754 education system and the admissions requirements of another  
 3755 education system into which students typically transfer.

3756 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of  
 3757 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course  
 3758 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such  
 3759 institutions.

3760 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education  
 3761 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public  
 3762 postsecondary educational institutions.

3763 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3764 (e) Articulation agreements.

3765 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with  
 3766 the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish  
 3767 the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make  
 3768 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and  
 3769 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data  
 3770 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established  
 3771 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education  
 3772 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the  
 3773 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members  
 3774 each representing the State University System, the Florida  
 3775 College System, public career and technical education, K-12

3776 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member  
3777 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the  
3778 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide  
3779 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3780 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of  
3781 one education system and the admissions requirements of another  
3782 education system into which students typically transfer and make  
3783 recommendations for improvement.

3784 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements  
3785 between and among public schools, career and technical education  
3786 centers, Florida College System institutions, state  
3787 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3788 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high  
3789 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State  
3790 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3791 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement  
3792 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3793 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,  
3794 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit  
3795 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions  
3796 participating in the statewide course numbering system and  
3797 identify instances of student transfer and admissions  
3798 difficulties.

3799 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common  
3800 general education and common degree program prerequisite



3801 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified  
3802 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3803 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide  
3804 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
3805 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and  
3806 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,  
3807 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3808 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public  
3809 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide  
3810 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant  
3811 to s. 1006.735.

3812 Section 65. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is  
3813 created to read:

3814 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3815 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
3816 Program through grade 3.—

3817 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and  
3818 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary  
3819 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide  
3820 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate  
3821 grade-level standards and to provide information on their  
3822 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program  
3823 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3824 Education Program providers and school districts to improve  
3825 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning

3826 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and  
3827 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,  
3828 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure  
3829 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress  
3830 monitoring program must:

3831 (a) Measure student progress in the Voluntary  
3832 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the  
3833 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and  
3834 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.  
3835 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

3836 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary  
3837 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3838 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each  
3839 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on  
3840 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results that was  
3841 administered no later than the first 30 instructional days in  
3842 accordance with paragraph (2)(a). The methodology for  
3843 determining a student's readiness for kindergarten shall be  
3844 developed by the same independent expert identified in s.  
3845 1002.68(4)(d).

3846 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of  
3847 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
3848 through grade 3.

3849 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to  
3850 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.

3851 1008.25(4).

3852 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular  
3853 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state  
3854 levels.

3855 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and  
3856 development of educational programs and policies, and supports  
3857 for providers, schools, and districts.

3858 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a  
3859 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress  
3860 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics  
3861 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards  
3862 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The  
3863 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must  
3864 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures  
3865 equivalent levels of growth; be and adaptive and developmentally  
3866 appropriate, valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to  
3867 capture data on students who may be performing below grade or  
3868 developmental level and which may enable the identification of  
3869 early indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays;  
3870 accurately measure the core content in the applicable grade  
3871 level standards; document learning gains for the achievement of  
3872 these standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring  
3873 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction  
3874 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated  
3875 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all

3876 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
3877 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The  
3878 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be  
3879 implemented beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Voluntary  
3880 Prekindergarten Education Program providers and public schools  
3881 must participate in the screening and progress monitoring  
3882 system, as follows:

3883 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3884 program shall be administered to students occurring no later  
3885 than the first 30 instructional days of the program or school  
3886 year, midyear, and within the last 30 instructional days of the  
3887 program or school year, pursuant to state board rule. The state  
3888 board may adopt alternate timeframes to address nontraditional  
3889 school year calendars or summer programs to ensure  
3890 administration of the coordinated screening and progress  
3891 monitoring program is administered a minimum of 3 times within a  
3892 year or program.

3893 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress  
3894 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in  
3895 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and  
3896 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3897 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3898 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Council for  
3899 Early Grade Success, for implementing the coordinated screening  
3900 and progress monitoring program in consideration of timelines

3901 for implementing new early literacy and mathematics skills and  
3902 the English Language Arts and mathematics standards established  
3903 in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3904 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to  
3905 the Council for Early Grade Success.

3906 (4) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council defined  
3907 in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of Education to  
3908 oversee the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3909 program and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall  
3910 operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3911 (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the  
3912 implementation of, training for, administration of, and outcomes  
3913 from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program  
3914 to provide recommendations to the department that supports grade  
3915 3 students reading at or above grade level. The council, at a  
3916 minimum, shall:

3917 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the  
3918 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including  
3919 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria  
3920 before being published.

3921 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3922 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and  
3923 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated  
3924 screening and progress monitoring program.

3925 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a

3926 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under  
 3927 s. 1002.68.

3928 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.  
 3929 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a  
 3930 child's kindergarten readiness.

3931 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade  
 3932 level that a student would need to attain in order to  
 3933 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

3934 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of  
 3935 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for  
 3936 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
 3937 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department  
 3938 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read  
 3939 at or above grade level.

3940 (b) The council shall be composed of 17 members who are  
 3941 residents of the state and appointed as follows:

3942 1. Three members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

3943 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

3944 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.

3945 c. One representative that is an elementary school  
 3946 administrator.

3947 2. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate,  
 3948 as follows:

3949 a. One senator who serves at the pleasure of the President  
 3950 of the Senate.

- 3951        b. One representative of an urban school district.
- 3952        c. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.
- 3953        d. One representative of a faith-based early learning  
 3954 provider who offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 3955 Program.
- 3956        e. One representative who is a second grade teacher who  
 3957 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3958        f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in  
 3959 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments.
- 3960        3. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
 3961 Representatives, as follows:
- 3962        a. One member of the House of Representatives who serves  
 3963 at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House.
- 3964        b. One representative of a rural school district.
- 3965        c. One representative of an urban early learning  
 3966 coalition.
- 3967        d. One representative of an early learning provider who  
 3968 offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
- 3969        e. One member who is a kindergarten teacher who has at  
 3970 least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3971        f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in  
 3972 early learning, early grade success, or child assessment.
- 3973        4. The four representatives with subject matter expertise  
 3974 in sub-sub-paragraphs 2.f. and 3.f. may not be direct  
 3975 stakeholders within the early learning or public school systems.

3976           (5) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair, one of  
 3977 whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in early  
 3978 learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The vice  
 3979 chair must be a member appointed by the President of the Senate  
 3980 or the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is not one of  
 3981 the four members with subject matter expertise in early  
 3982 learning, early grade success, or child assessments appointed  
 3983 pursuant to sub-sub-paragraphs (4) (b)2.f. and (4) (b)3.f. Members  
 3984 of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled  
 3985 to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
 3986 112.061.

3987           (6) The council must meet at least biannually and may meet  
 3988 by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to  
 3989 reduce costs.

3990           (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3991           Section 66. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of  
 3992 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 3993 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of  
 3994 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection  
 3995 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection  
 3996 (5) of that section, to read:

3997           1008.25 Public school student progression; student  
 3998 support; reporting requirements.—

3999           (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

4000           (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student



4001 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills  
4002 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and  
4003 based upon the results of the administration of the final  
4004 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125  
4005 shall be referred to the local school district and may be  
4006 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before  
4007 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading  
4008 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's  
4009 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with  
4010 s. 1011.62(9).

4011 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

4012 (b) The district school board may only exempt students  
4013 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)  
4014 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4  
4015 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading  
4016 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic  
4017 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of  
4018 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist  
4019 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,  
4020 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and  
4021 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause  
4022 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving  
4023 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause  
4024 exemptions are limited to the following:

4025 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less

4026 | than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other  
4027 | Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a  
4028 | school in the United States.

4029 |         2. Students with disabilities whose individual education  
4030 | plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment  
4031 | program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of  
4032 | s. 1008.212.

4033 |         3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of  
4034 | performance on an alternative standardized reading or English  
4035 | Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of  
4036 | Education.

4037 |         4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio  
4038 | that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the  
4039 | statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

4040 |         5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,  
4041 | standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an  
4042 | individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects  
4043 | that the student has received intensive instruction in reading  
4044 | or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still  
4045 | demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in  
4046 | kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4047 |         6. Students who have received intensive reading  
4048 | intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a  
4049 | deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in  
4050 | kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2

4051 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4052 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE  
4053 STUDENTS.—

4054 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must  
4055 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the  
4056 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student  
4057 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must  
4058 include:

4059 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
4060 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
4061 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by  
4062 the school district.

4063 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading  
4064 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention  
4065 strategies under subparagraph 1.

4066 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading  
4067 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention  
4068 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

4069 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social  
4070 studies within the 90-minute block.

4071 b. Small group instruction.

4072 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4073 d. More frequent progress monitoring.

4074 e. Tutoring or mentoring.

4075 f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade

4076 students.

4077 g. Extended school day, week, or year.

4078 (b) Each school district shall:

4079 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student  
4080 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her  
4081 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion  
4082 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause  
4083 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must  
4084 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a  
4085 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be  
4086 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of  
4087 reading deficiency.

4088 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a  
4089 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can  
4090 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent  
4091 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,  
4092 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,  
4093 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.  
4094 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student  
4095 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative  
4096 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of  
4097 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the  
4098 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels  
4099 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning  
4100 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education

4101 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation  
4102 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate  
4103 grade 4 level reading skills.

4104 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph  
4105 (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~, including students participating in the school  
4106 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a  
4107 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's  
4108 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,  
4109 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4110 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive  
4111 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3  
4112 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade  
4113 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the  
4114 following:

4115 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of  
4116 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the  
4117 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core  
4118 subject areas through content-rich texts.

4119 b. Small group instruction.

4120 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4121 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
4122 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,  
4123 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language  
4124 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating  
4125 student reading achievement within the same school year.

4126 e. A read-at-home plan.

4127 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4128 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5)(c)  
 4129 ~~(5)(b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the  
 4130 parent of each student the progress of the student toward  
 4131 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in  
 4132 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.  
 4133 The district school board must report to the parent the  
 4134 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.  
 4135 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the  
 4136 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and  
 4137 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided  
 4138 under paragraph (5)(a), and other relevant information. Progress  
 4139 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format  
 4140 adopted by the district school board.

4141 Section 67. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 4142 to read:

4143 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
 4144 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,  
 4145 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4146 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the  
 4147 Legislature that:

4148 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to  
 4149 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20  
 4150 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following

4151 | questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4152 |       1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it  
4153 | invests in education?

4154 |       2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
4155 | education system educating its students?

4156 |       3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors  
4157 | promoting student achievement?

4158 |       4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education  
4159 | institutions performing their responsibility to educate their  
4160 | students as measured by how students are performing and how much  
4161 | they are learning?

4162 |       (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance  
4163 | accountability system be established as a single, unified  
4164 | accountability system with multiple components, including, but  
4165 | not limited to, student performance in public schools and school  
4166 | and district grades.

4167 |       (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system  
4168 | comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of  
4169 | 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with  
4170 | Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4171 |       (d) The early learning accountability system comply with  
4172 | the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the  
4173 | requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust  
4174 | Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4175 |       ~~(e)-(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of

4176 Governors of the State University System recommend to the  
4177 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature  
4178 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the  
4179 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with  
4180 information on what the public is receiving in return for the  
4181 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20  
4182 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4183 (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ The State Board of Education establish  
4184 performance measures and set performance standards for  
4185 individual public schools and Florida College System  
4186 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on  
4187 student achievement.

4188 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System  
4189 establish performance measures and set performance standards for  
4190 individual state universities, including actual completion  
4191 rates.

4192 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4193 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
4194 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all  
4195 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them  
4196 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through  
4197 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,  
4198 and communities.

4199 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific  
4200 standards and measures must be:



- 4201 1. Focused on student success.
- 4202 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4203 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4204 4. Measurable over time.
- 4205 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4206 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to
- 4207 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4208 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an  
 4209 accountability system that measures student progress toward the  
 4210 following goals:

- 4211 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence
- 4212 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4213 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured
- 4214 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted
- 4215 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4216 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured
- 4217 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4218 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of
- 4219 return on investment.
- 4220 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4221 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide  
 4222 data required to implement education performance accountability  
 4223 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education  
 4224 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality  
 4225 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to

4226 the department all data within the State University Database  
4227 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
4228 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such  
4229 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual  
4230 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college  
4231 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions  
4232 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the  
4233 educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data  
4234 elements identified by the commissioner.

4235 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational  
4236 institutions shall maintain information systems that will  
4237 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of  
4238 the State University System, and the Legislature with  
4239 information and reports necessary to address the specifications  
4240 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and  
4241 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June  
4242 30, 2001.

4243 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in  
4244 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education  
4245 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the  
4246 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format  
4247 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data  
4248 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer  
4249 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and  
4250 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each

4251 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph  
 4252 shall report the data to the department.

4253 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the  
 4254 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and  
 4255 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to  
 4256 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the  
 4257 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the  
 4258 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators  
 4259 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary  
 4260 educational institutions.

4261 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data  
 4262 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing  
 4263 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize  
 4264 paperwork.

4265 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 4266 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
 4267 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
 4268 warehouse.

4269 Section 68. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 4270 to read:

4271 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement  
 4272 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the  
 4273 performance of early learning coalitions, district school  
 4274 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of  
 4275 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school

4276 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees  
4277 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state  
4278 board rule.

4279 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board  
4280 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to  
4281 request and receive information, data, and reports from early  
4282 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College  
4283 System institutions. Early learning coalition chief executive  
4284 officers or executive directors, district school  
4285 superintendents, and Florida College System institution  
4286 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information  
4287 and data reported to the state board.

4288 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate  
4289 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and  
4290 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report  
4291 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education  
4292 which shall require the early learning coalition, district  
4293 school board, or Florida College System institution board of  
4294 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4295 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the  
4296 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General  
4297 that an early learning coalition, a district school board, or  
4298 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory  
4299 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of  
4300 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district

4301 school board, or Florida College System institution board of  
 4302 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4303 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school  
 4304 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees  
 4305 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of  
 4306 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4307 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an  
 4308 early learning coalition, a district school board, or Florida  
 4309 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or  
 4310 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the  
 4311 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to  
 4312 initiate any of the following actions:

4313 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning  
 4314 coalition, school district, or Florida College System  
 4315 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state  
 4316 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4317 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary  
 4318 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds  
 4319 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until  
 4320 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida  
 4321 College System institution complies with the law or state board  
 4322 rule.

4323 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,  
 4324 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive  
 4325 grants.

4326 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation  
4327 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4328 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a  
4329 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or  
4330 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4331 Section 69. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
4332 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4333 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4334 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a  
4335 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.  
4336 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the  
4337 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school  
4338 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the  
4339 accountability requirements of the state school system and may  
4340 impose state requirements on school districts in order to  
4341 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and  
4342 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early  
4343 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal  
4344 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility  
4345 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of  
4346 Education.

4347 Section 70. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida  
4348 Statutes, is amended to read:

4349 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
4350 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each

4351 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
4352 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
4353 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
4354 follows:

4355 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4356 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is  
4357 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students  
4358 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who  
4359 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
4360 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.  
4361 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the  
4362 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year  
4363 average of the state reading assessment data must use the  
4364 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour  
4365 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in  
4366 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the  
4367 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a  
4368 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English  
4369 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may  
4370 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional  
4371 student education centers may not be included in the 300  
4372 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this  
4373 additional hour shall include: research-based reading  
4374 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of  
4375 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated

4376 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,  
4377 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading  
4378 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop  
4379 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and  
4380 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided  
4381 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of  
4382 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text  
4383 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4384 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading  
4385 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district  
4386 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each  
4387 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount  
4388 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any  
4389 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school  
4390 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of  
4391 K-12 base funding.

4392 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to  
4393 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to  
4394 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who  
4395 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
4396 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
4397 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4398 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive  
4399 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing  
4400 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have



4401 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in  
4402 paragraph (a).

4403 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based reading  
4404 ~~intervention~~ teachers to provide intensive reading interventions  
4405 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during  
4406 the school day and in the required extra hour for students  
4407 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4408 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically  
4409 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on  
4410 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading  
4411 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas  
4412 based on student need.

4413 4. Professional development for school district teachers  
4414 in scientifically based reading instruction, including  
4415 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an  
4416 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school  
4417 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in  
4418 reading.

4419 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other  
4420 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading  
4421 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in  
4422 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading  
4423 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~  
4424 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the  
4425 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and

4426 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early  
4427 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
4428 Program under s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4429 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based  
4430 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~  
4431 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just  
4432 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4433 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in  
4434 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having  
4435 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as  
4436 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
4437 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial  
4438 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary  
4439 Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4440 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of  
4441 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~  
4442 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-  
4443 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by  
4444 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,  
4445 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan  
4446 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved  
4447 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a  
4448 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach  
4449 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may  
4450 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School

4451 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing  
4452 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading  
4453 intervention through innovative methods, including career  
4454 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from  
4455 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,  
4456 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through  
4457 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-  
4458 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher  
4459 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must  
4460 incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just  
4461 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than  
4462 July 1 annually, the department shall release the school  
4463 district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts  
4464 having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent  
4465 of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have  
4466 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold  
4467 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation  
4468 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The  
4469 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each  
4470 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting  
4471 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.  
4472 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its  
4473 findings to the Legislature.

4474         2. Each school district that has a school designated as  
4475 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified

4476 | in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the  
4477 | comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the  
4478 | comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and  
4479 | reading intervention strategies that will be used for the  
4480 | required additional hour of reading instruction. The term  
4481 | "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies  
4482 | frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also  
4483 | includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use  
4484 | of technology that targets specific reading skills and  
4485 | abilities.

4486

4487 | For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means  
4488 | demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving  
4489 | student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4490 | Section 71. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.