



1 initiation grants to develop children first  
2 plans and block grant funding to implement such  
3 plans; providing for award of an incentive  
4 bonus; providing requirements for such plans;  
5 providing for parental choice and payment  
6 arrangements; providing for evaluation and  
7 performance measures; providing responsibility  
8 for implementation; providing for phase-out of  
9 the State Coordinating Council for Early  
10 Childhood Services; creating s. 411.02, F.S.;  
11 providing for a Children First Appropriation  
12 Allocation Conference; amending s. 216.136,  
13 F.S.; creating the School Readiness Program  
14 Estimating Conference; providing duties and  
15 principals; conforming provisions; amending and  
16 renumbering s. 230.2303, F.S., relating to the  
17 Florida First Start Program; revising  
18 provisions; providing for implementation  
19 pursuant to a children first plan developed by  
20 the Children First Coalition and approved by  
21 the Children First Partnership; amending and  
22 renumbering s. 230.2305, F.S., relating to the  
23 prekindergarten early intervention program;  
24 revising provisions; providing for  
25 administration by a district school board or  
26 other Children First Coalition provider;  
27 providing Children First Coalition  
28 responsibility for programs; providing for  
29 oversight by the Children First Partnership and  
30 Children First Coalition and specifying duties;  
31 creating s. 411.05, F.S.; requiring the

1 Department of Education to adopt the school  
2 readiness screening instruments developed by  
3 the Children First Partnership and to require  
4 their use by the school districts; creating s.  
5 411.06, F.S.; recognizing the nationwide  
6 Parents as Teachers Program; establishing the  
7 Florida Parents as Teachers Program under the  
8 jurisdiction of the Children First Partnership;  
9 providing program requirements; amending and  
10 renumbering s. 402.281, F.S., relating to the  
11 Gold Seal Quality Care program; providing  
12 duties of the Children First Partnership;  
13 amending s. 411.202, F.S.; revising  
14 definitions; amending s. 411.203, F.S.;  
15 revising provisions relating to a continuum of  
16 comprehensive services; amending ss. 411.24 and  
17 411.242, F.S., to conform; amending and  
18 renumbering s. 402.305, F.S., relating to  
19 licensing standards for child care facilities;  
20 providing duties of the Children First  
21 Partnership; removing provisions relating to a  
22 child care technical review panel; amending and  
23 renumbering s. 402.3052, F.S., relating to  
24 child development associate training grants;  
25 providing for consultation with the Children  
26 First Partnership; amending s. 20.19, F.S.,  
27 relating to the Department of Children and  
28 Family Services; requiring cooperation with the  
29 Children First Partnership and Children First  
30 Coalitions; amending s. 229.591, F.S., relating  
31 to the school improvement and education

1 accountability system; conforming school  
2 readiness goals; amending s. 288.9620, F.S.,  
3 relating to the workforce development board;  
4 providing for a report to the Children First  
5 Partnership; amending ss. 232.01, 383.14, and  
6 397.901, F.S., to conform; amending ss.  
7 414.027, 414.028, 414.055, and 414.22, F.S.,  
8 relating to the WAGES Program; providing for  
9 coordination with the Children First  
10 Partnership and Children First Coalitions;  
11 amending s. 446.601, F.S., relating to the  
12 "Workforce Florida Act of 1996"; providing for  
13 coordination with the Children First  
14 Partnership and Children First Coalitions;  
15 amending s. 624.91, F.S., relating to the  
16 "Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Act";  
17 providing a goal to work cooperatively with the  
18 Children First Partnership; repealing s.  
19 228.061(1), F.S., relating to preschool  
20 programs, s. 230.2306, F.S., relating to  
21 prekindergarten children service needs  
22 assessments and accommodation efforts by school  
23 districts, s. 391.304, F.S., relating to  
24 coordination of the developmental evaluation  
25 and intervention program, s. 402.26, F.S.,  
26 relating to legislative intent with respect to  
27 child care, s. 402.28, F.S., relating to Child  
28 Care Plus facilities, s. 411.201, F.S., the  
29 short title for the Florida Prevention, Early  
30 Assistance, and Early Childhood Act, s.  
31 411.204, F.S., relating to program evaluation

1 under the act, s. 411.205, F.S., relating to  
2 rules, s. 411.22, F.S., relating to legislative  
3 intent with respect to prevention and early  
4 assistance, s. 411.221, F.S., relating to  
5 preparation of the prevention and early  
6 assistance strategic plan, s. 411.223, F.S.,  
7 relating to uniform standards for preventive  
8 health care, s. 411.224, F.S., relating to the  
9 family support planning process, and ss.  
10 411.23, 411.231, and 411.232, F.S., the  
11 Children's Early Investment Act, effective July  
12 1, 1998; repealing s. 402.47, F.S., relating to  
13 foster grandparent and retired senior volunteer  
14 services to high-risk and handicapped children,  
15 s. 411.222, F.S., relating to the Offices of  
16 Prevention, Early Assistance, and Child  
17 Development and the State Coordinating Council  
18 for Early Childhood Services and their duties,  
19 and s. 411.3015(9), F.S., relating to  
20 collaborative agreements and plans with respect  
21 to subsidized child care programs, effective  
22 July 1, 1999; renumbering ss. 402.301,  
23 402.3015, 402.302, 402.3025, 402.3026,  
24 402.3051, 402.3055, 402.3057, 402.3058,  
25 402.306, 402.307, 402.308, 402,309, 402.310,  
26 402.311, 402.312, 402.3125, 402.313, 402.3135,  
27 402.314, 402.3145, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318,  
28 402.319, and 402.45, F.S.; requiring amendment  
29 recommendations regarding s. 411.301, F.S.,  
30 relating to legislative intent with respect to  
31 child care facilities, s. 411.3015, F.S.,

1 relating to the subsidized child care program,  
2 s. 411.302, F.S., relating to definitions, s.  
3 411.3025, F.S., relating to public and  
4 nonpublic schools in relation to child care  
5 requirements, s. 411.3026, F.S., relating to  
6 establishment of full-service schools, s.  
7 411.305, F.S., relating to licensing standards  
8 for child care facilities, s. 411.3051, F.S.,  
9 relating to child care market rate  
10 reimbursement and grants, s. 411.3052, F.S.,  
11 relating to the child development associate  
12 training grants program, s. 411.3055, F.S.,  
13 relating to child care personnel requirements,  
14 s. 411.306, F.S., relating to designation of  
15 the licensing agency and dissemination of  
16 information, s. 411.307, F.S., relating to  
17 approval of the licensing agency, s. 411.308,  
18 F.S., relating to issuance of a license, s.  
19 411.309, F.S., relating to provisional  
20 licenses, s. 411.310, F.S., relating to  
21 disciplinary actions, s. 411.311, F.S.,  
22 relating to inspection of facilities, s.  
23 411.312, F.S., relating to injunctive relief,  
24 s. 411.3125, F.S., relating to display and  
25 appearance of license, s. 411.313, F.S.,  
26 relating to family day care homes, s. 411.3135,  
27 F.S., relating to the subsidized child care  
28 case management program, s. 411.314, F.S.,  
29 relating to supportive services, s. 411.3145,  
30 F.S., relating to the subsidized child care  
31 transportation program, s. 411.315, F.S.,

1 relating to funding and license fees, s.  
2 411.316, F.S., relating to exemptions, s.  
3 411.318, F.S., relating to prohibited  
4 advertisement, s. 411.319, F.S., relating to  
5 penalties, s. 411.33, F.S., relating to  
6 authority to charge fees, s. 411.45, F.S.,  
7 relating to the community resource mother or  
8 father program, and s. 409.178, F.S., relating  
9 to the Child Care Partnership Act, by March 1,  
10 2000; requiring legislative review of such  
11 recommendations; requiring review of s. 402.27,  
12 F.S., by March 1, 1999, and recommendation to  
13 the Legislature regarding optimal coordination  
14 of resource and referral functions; providing  
15 appropriations; providing effective dates.

16  
17 WHEREAS, the bridge to opportunity for every child must  
18 be anchored in a healthy body and a healthy mind and must lead  
19 to the child's readiness to learn in school, and

20 WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged that entering school  
21 ready to learn is crucial to a child's success both in school  
22 and in life, and

23 WHEREAS, the state's system of public education could  
24 better perform its mission of educating its K-12 students if  
25 more students enter school healthy and ready to learn, and

26 WHEREAS, as emphasized by the Governor, the President  
27 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
28 Representatives, a child's health in both body and mind is  
29 essential to the child's ability to learn, and

30 WHEREAS, we can make great strides to improve school  
31 readiness by addressing child care, child health, and school

1 readiness education in one single, accountable continuum, NOW,  
2 THEREFORE,

3

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

5

6 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Children  
7 First Act of 1998." Nothing in this act is intended to impede  
8 or curtail the state's ability to draw down federal funds.

9 Section 2. Effective July 1, 1998, chapter 411,  
10 Florida Statutes, is renamed "Children First Partnership."

11 Section 3. Effective July 1, 1998, section 411.01,  
12 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

13 411.01 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.;  
14 Children First Coalitions.--

15 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

16 (a)1. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
17 early childhood health care, child care, and education of  
18 children from birth to 5 years of age or until the child  
19 attains school readiness, whichever is later, become a top  
20 priority.

21 2. As used in this chapter, the term "child care"  
22 includes formal and informal arrangements, including but not  
23 limited to child care centers, day care homes, private  
24 providers, and relative care. The term "health care" includes  
25 immunizations, screenings, well-baby care, and other  
26 preventive health care measures. The term "education" includes  
27 public and private prekindergarten and other education  
28 programs.

29 (b) Recognizing that high-quality early childhood  
30 health care, child care, and education experiences increase  
31 children's chances of educational success and reduce the need



1 for costly future intervention and remediation, it is the  
2 intent of the Legislature that all children in Florida, from  
3 birth until they are ready for school, have access to quality  
4 early childhood health care, child care, and education to  
5 enhance their readiness to succeed in school.

6 (c) Recognizing that parents are responsible for the  
7 early childhood health care, child care, and education of  
8 their children, but also recognizing that the condition of  
9 children in Florida must be improved, it is the intent of the  
10 Legislature that local communities offer assistance to  
11 families to improve the early childhood health care, child  
12 care, and education of children under 5 years of age and the  
13 school readiness of all children who enter the state's public  
14 school system. High-quality early childhood experiences and  
15 care should be provided with a minimum of governmental  
16 interference.

17 (d) The Legislature finds that for families to move to  
18 and maintain economic self-sufficiency, Florida must have an  
19 efficient way for these families to access quality early  
20 childhood health care, child care, and education services. The  
21 Legislature recognizes that significant benefits will accrue  
22 to children and families who have efficient access to quality  
23 early childhood health care, child care, and education  
24 arrangements.

25 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that all early  
26 childhood health care, child care, and education programs and  
27 services serving Florida children in the first 5 years of life  
28 or until the child attains school readiness, whichever is  
29 later, are considered school readiness programs. The  
30 Legislature finds that despite the efforts of hundreds of  
31 thousands of Floridians and increased collaboration among

1 service providers, services for young children remain  
2 uncoordinated, uneven in quality, and inaccessible to many. It  
3 is the intent of the Legislature that a true continuum of  
4 high-quality, coordinated, and comprehensive early childhood  
5 health care, child care, and education be available to all  
6 children from birth to 5 years of age or until the child  
7 attains school readiness, whichever is later.

8 (f) The Legislature recognizes new brain development  
9 research emphasizing the critical importance of the first  
10 years of life in children's emotional, social, and cognitive  
11 development, and that these scientific discoveries create an  
12 opportunity to apply the findings to all programs and services  
13 for children from birth to 5 years of age. The Legislature  
14 also recognizes that the period of time from birth to 3 years  
15 of age is an optimal time for learning in the areas of motor  
16 development, emotional control, vision, social attachment,  
17 vocabulary, second language, and logic.

18 (2) SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS.--For purposes of this  
19 chapter, all early childhood health care, child care, and  
20 education programs which are funded with state, federal,  
21 lottery, or local public funds and which provide services to  
22 children from birth to 5 years of age or until the child  
23 attains school readiness, whichever is later, shall be school  
24 readiness programs and shall work to achieve their part of the  
25 goal of children entering school with healthy bodies and  
26 healthy minds, ready to succeed in school.

27 (3) CHILDREN FIRST GOVERNING BOARD.--

28 (a) There is created a Children First Governing Board  
29 to operate as the board of directors of the Florida  
30 Partnership for Children First, Inc., with responsibility for  
31 creating and maintaining coordinated programmatic,

1 administrative, and fiscal policies and a common set of early  
2 childhood health care, child care, and education standards for  
3 all school readiness programs, while allowing a wide range of  
4 programmatic flexibility and differentiation. The governing  
5 board shall determine guidelines for granting programmatic  
6 waivers to any of its policies and standards. The governing  
7 board shall establish goals for early childhood development  
8 leading to school readiness and policies that lead to the  
9 achievement of these goals, including strict oversight of  
10 their implementation. The governing board shall develop a  
11 strategic plan for accomplishing these goals.

12 (b)1. As a condition for receiving funds appropriated  
13 to the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., the  
14 members of the Children First Governing Board shall include  
15 the Governor, the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of  
16 Children and Family Services, the chair of the WAGES Program  
17 State Board of Directors, and the chair of the Florida Council  
18 of 100, who shall constitute the executive committee of the  
19 governing board and shall be voting ex officio members.

20 2. The governing board shall also include six voting  
21 members who shall not be members of the Legislature, two  
22 appointed by the Governor, two by the President of the Senate,  
23 and two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who  
24 shall have expertise in early childhood health care, child  
25 care, or education. These members shall serve 4-year staggered  
26 terms.

27 3. An appointive voting member vacancy on the  
28 governing board shall be filled by the appointive authority  
29 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

30 4. Appointive voting members may be removed for cause  
31 by the appointive authority.

1           5. Members of the governing board are subject to the  
2 ethics provisions in part III of chapter 112, and no member  
3 may derive any financial benefit from the funds administered  
4 by the Children First Partnership.

5           (c)1. At the quarterly meetings, the governing board  
6 shall be chaired by the Governor.

7           2. At the monthly meetings, the governing board shall  
8 be chaired by the member designated by the Governor.

9           (d)1. The members of the governing board shall  
10 participate without proxy at all meetings they must attend.  
11 Full meetings of the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
12 Inc., at which the executive committee of the governing board  
13 must be convened, present, and voting, shall be held at least  
14 quarterly to establish goals and policy for the early  
15 childhood health care, child care, and education of Florida's  
16 youngest children and to consider reports from the Children  
17 First Coalitions and the Children First Partnership staff.  
18 Meetings of the appointive members, a designee representing  
19 each Children First Coalition, and the Children First  
20 Partnership staff shall be held at least monthly to discuss  
21 concerns, share information, and collaborate on how to achieve  
22 success.

23           2. The governing board may take official action by a  
24 majority vote of the members present at any meeting at which a  
25 quorum is present. At the quarterly meetings, a quorum shall  
26 consist of the five members that constitute the executive  
27 committee, plus four of the six appointive voting members. At  
28 the monthly meetings, a quorum shall consist of four of the  
29 six appointive voting members.

30  
31

1 (e)1. The governing board shall appoint an executive  
2 director who is responsible for other staff authorized by the  
3 board.

4 2. Governing board members shall serve without  
5 compensation but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per  
6 diem and travel expenses as provided by s. 112.061 and for  
7 other reasonable, necessary, and actual expenses.

8 (f) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no  
9 cause of action shall arise against, any member of the  
10 governing board, or its employees or agents, for any action  
11 they take in the performance of their powers and duties under  
12 this section.

13 (g) The governing board has complete fiscal control  
14 over the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., and is  
15 responsible for all corporate operations. The governing board  
16 is responsible for the prudent use of all public and private  
17 funds and shall ensure that the use of such funds is in  
18 accordance with all legal and contractual requirements.

19 (h) The governing board shall recommend the  
20 feasibility of combining funding streams for school readiness  
21 programs into a Children First School Readiness Trust Fund,  
22 and shall be responsible for the administration of the trust  
23 fund.

24 (4) FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN FIRST, INC.  
25 (CHILDREN FIRST PARTNERSHIP).--

26 (a) The Legislature hereby creates the Florida  
27 Partnership for Children First, Inc. (Children First  
28 Partnership), which shall be a public-private nonprofit  
29 organization, which shall be registered, incorporated,  
30 organized, and operated in compliance with chapter 617, and  
31 which shall not be a unit or entity of state government. The

1 Legislature determines, however, that public policy dictates  
2 that the Children First Partnership operate in the most open  
3 and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. To  
4 this end, the Legislature specifically declares that the  
5 Children First Partnership is subject to the provisions of  
6 chapter 119, relating to public records, and those provisions  
7 of chapter 286 relating to public meetings and records, except  
8 as provided in Committee Substitute for House Bill 4385 or  
9 similar legislation requiring confidentiality of identifying  
10 information about children served.

11 (b) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
12 shall establish one or more corporate offices, at least one of  
13 which shall be located in Leon County. Persons employed by the  
14 Department of Children and Family Services and the Department  
15 of Education on the day prior to July 1, 1998, whose jobs are  
16 privatized, shall be given preference, if qualified, for  
17 similar jobs at the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
18 Inc. The Department of Management Services may establish a  
19 lease agreement program under which the Florida Partnership  
20 for Children First, Inc., may hire individuals who, as of June  
21 30, 1998, are employed by the Department of Children and  
22 Family Services and the Department of Education. Under such  
23 agreement, the employee shall retain his or her status as a  
24 state employee but shall work under the direct supervision of  
25 the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc. Retention of  
26 state employee status shall include the right to participate  
27 in the Florida Retirement System. The Department of Management  
28 Services shall establish the terms and conditions of such  
29 lease agreements.

30 (c) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
31 is the principal responsible organization for the enhancement

1 of school readiness for the state's children. It shall be the  
2 responsibility of the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
3 Inc., to provide leadership for enhancement of school  
4 readiness in Florida by aggressively establishing a unified  
5 approach to Florida's efforts of enhancement of school  
6 readiness; by aggressively seeking potential new school  
7 readiness programs; and by aggressively assisting in the  
8 retention and expansion of effective existing school readiness  
9 programs. In support of this effort, the Florida Partnership  
10 for Children First, Inc., may develop and implement specific  
11 programs or strategies that address the creation, expansion,  
12 and preservation of Florida's school readiness programs. This  
13 approach must ensure the effective use of federal, state,  
14 local, and private resources in reducing the need for school  
15 readiness programs.

16 (d) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
17 shall have specific responsibility for implementing policies  
18 developed by the governing board, monitoring progress toward  
19 achievement of the goals established by the governing board,  
20 assessing gaps in current early childhood health care, child  
21 care, and education statewide, recommending quality standards  
22 and monitoring their implementation, approving children first  
23 plans, facilitating local implementation, providing technical  
24 assistance to Children First Coalitions, and recommending  
25 common eligibility requirements for similar programs while  
26 seeking a diversity of programs to meet the varieties of need,  
27 within the guidelines established by the governing board. The  
28 Children First Partnership shall make recommendations  
29 regarding changes in state law, rule, or agency policy that  
30 may assist Children First Coalitions in improving the early  
31 childhood health care, child care, and education of children

1 from birth to 5 years of age or until the child attains school  
2 readiness, whichever is later.

3 (e) The Children First Partnership shall have all  
4 powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this section,  
5 including but not limited to the power to receive and accept  
6 grants, loans, or advances of funds from any public or private  
7 agency and to receive and accept from any source contributions  
8 of money, property, labor, or any other thing of value, to be  
9 held, used, and applied for the purposes of this section.

10 (f) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
11 shall be an independent nonpartisan body and shall not be  
12 identified or affiliated with any one agency, program, or  
13 group.

14 (g) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
15 shall have a budget, shall be financed through an annual  
16 appropriation made for this purpose in the General  
17 Appropriations Act, and shall be subject to compliance audits  
18 and annual financial audits by the Auditor General.

19 (h) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
20 shall be staffed by an executive director and professional and  
21 support staff and draw upon state agency personnel and  
22 resources as needed to implement policy and manage interagency  
23 agreements necessary to create a more coherent system of  
24 school readiness programs for the state's youngest children.

25 (i) The executive director shall serve at the pleasure  
26 of the governing board, shall supervise the affairs and  
27 activities of the Children First Partnership and staff, and,  
28 consistent with the recommendations of the Florida Partnership  
29 for Children First, Inc., and needs of local Children First  
30 Coalitions, shall be responsible for contracting for technical  
31 assistance and support during fiscal years 1998-1999 and



1 1999-2000 to assist counties in creating Children First  
2 Coalitions and developing local plans.  
3 (5) CHILDREN FIRST PROGRAM.--The Children First  
4 Partnership shall phase in a program to:  
5 (a) Facilitate the provision of quality early  
6 childhood health care, child care, and education to children  
7 from birth to 5 years of age or until the child attains school  
8 readiness, whichever is later.  
9 (b) Provide eligibility criteria for a single sliding  
10 fee scale for all school readiness programs and arrange for  
11 the collection of fees from families in an amount determined  
12 by the governing board in accordance with the following  
13 priority listing:  
14 1. Children of participants in the WAGES program who  
15 are the only children eligible for services funded through the  
16 federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.  
17 2. Children under 5 years of age who are:  
18 a. Children determined to be at risk of abuse,  
19 neglect, or exploitation and who are currently clients of the  
20 Department of Children and Family Services.  
21 b. Children at risk of welfare dependency, including  
22 children of migrant farmworkers, children of teen parents, and  
23 children from other families at risk of welfare dependency due  
24 to a family income of less than 100 percent of the federal  
25 poverty level.  
26 c. Children of working families whose family income is  
27 equal to or greater than 100 percent, but does not exceed 150  
28 percent, of the federal poverty level.  
29 3. Children who meet the eligibility requirements for  
30 the prekindergarten early intervention program under s.  
31 411.04(2).

1           (c) In accordance with the parental choice and payment  
2 arrangement provisions of subsection (9), establish  
3 participation criteria that include a single or simplified  
4 point of entry to the school readiness program services system  
5 in each county. These programs shall share the waiting lists  
6 for unserved children so that a count of eligible children is  
7 maintained without duplication. Participation criteria shall  
8 require parents to be provided a choice of school readiness  
9 program settings and locations, including but not limited to  
10 settings and locations in licensed, registered,  
11 religious-exempt, church-sponsored, school-based, or relative  
12 care programs.

13           (d) Partner with Children First Coalitions to provide,  
14 by direct service agreement, contract agreement, or voucher,  
15 school readiness program services meeting standards  
16 established by the Children First Partnership and the parental  
17 choice and payment arrangement provisions of subsection (9).

18           (e) Make available the Florida Parents as Teachers  
19 Program pursuant to s. 411.06, whenever feasible and as early  
20 as possible in the child's development.

21           (f) Establish, with consultation from appropriate  
22 professional organizations, standards and performance measures  
23 for school readiness program services and providers  
24 appropriate to children from birth to 5 years of age or until  
25 the child attains school readiness, whichever is later. The  
26 standards and performance measures must include, at a minimum,  
27 that each coalition's children first plan must:

28                 1. Help prepare preschool children to enter  
29 kindergarten ready to learn, as measured by the school  
30 readiness screening instrument.

31

1           2. Provide extended-day and extended-year services  
2 when needed.

3           3. Provide coordinated staff development and teaching  
4 opportunities.

5           4. Provide expanded access to community services and  
6 resources for families to help achieve economic  
7 self-sufficiency.

8           5. Serve at least as many children as were served  
9 prior to implementation of the program.

10           (g) Develop age-appropriate screening instruments,  
11 utilizing the latest brain development research, that provide  
12 clear and objective data to measure school readiness.

13           (h) Prepare a plan for broadly publicizing and  
14 implementing the system for measuring school readiness in such  
15 a way that all children in children first plan programs or  
16 whose parents or guardians bring them to a children first  
17 program location for screening upon payment of a nominal fee  
18 have the opportunity to undergo the screening by 3 1/2 years  
19 of age, with followup screening at 4 1/2 years of age and, for  
20 purposes of evaluation and tracking, assess all kindergarten  
21 screenings of children who have been in children first plan  
22 programs. The plan must include a way to make the screening  
23 and the training required to administer it available to public  
24 and private providers of school readiness programs, and a way  
25 to utilize the Florida Parents as Teachers Program established  
26 pursuant to s. 411.06 or other available methods to make the  
27 screening available for a nominal fee to children who do not  
28 participate in such programs.

29           (i) Establish a method for collecting data from the  
30 screening and establish guidelines for using the data so that  
31 the measurement, the data collection, and the use of the data

1 serve the statewide goal that all children will be ready for  
2 school. The criteria for determining which data to collect  
3 should be the usefulness of the data to state policymakers and  
4 program administrators in administering programs and  
5 allocating state funds.

6 (j) Develop and implement a plan to publicize the  
7 Children First Partnership, its school readiness expectations,  
8 available school readiness program services, eligibility  
9 requirements for the sliding fee scale, and procedures for  
10 enrollment; and to provide the public with information as to  
11 the details of the programs offered by qualified providers,  
12 performance measures for the programs, and school readiness  
13 outcomes.

14 (k) As appropriate, enter into contracts with one-stop  
15 career centers, local school boards, child care resource and  
16 referral agencies, and other agencies to provide onsite  
17 information, referrals, and other services to enhance the  
18 goals of the Children First Partnership.

19 (l) Provide a report on an annual basis to the  
20 governing board, the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, the  
21 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and  
23 the House of Representatives.

24 (6) CHILDREN FIRST COALITIONS.--

25 (a) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
26 shall assist in establishing a Children First Coalition in  
27 each county or combination of counties and shall encourage the  
28 strongest coalitions obtainable. The coalitions shall be  
29 comprised of private nonprofit agencies or a partnership of  
30 public entities, private nonprofit organizations, and  
31 individuals with strong demonstrated interest and leadership,

1 and should include the school district or districts and the  
2 existing central agencies for subsidized child care, as well  
3 as parents who are or have been parents of children in the  
4 programs, including parents of children with disabilities.  
5 One Children First Coalition shall be established in each  
6 county, except that two or more counties may join together  
7 under a Children First Coalition, but no more than one  
8 coalition may be established in any county. Each Children  
9 First Coalition shall develop a children first plan to be  
10 submitted to the Children First Partnership for approval. Each  
11 coalition shall provide for the following services as part of  
12 its children first plan:

13 1. Identification of existing public and private  
14 school readiness program services, including services by  
15 public and private employers, and the development of a  
16 resource file of those services. These services may include  
17 family day care, public and private child care programs, Head  
18 Start, prekindergarten early intervention programs, services  
19 for children with developmental disabilities, full-time and  
20 part-time programs, before-school and after-school programs,  
21 vacation care programs, parent education, the WAGES Program,  
22 and related family support services. The resource file shall  
23 include, but not be limited to:

24 a. Type of program.  
25 b. Hours of service.  
26 c. Ages of children served.  
27 d. Number of children served.  
28 e. Significant program information, including  
29 participation requirements and performance measures.  
30 f. Fees and eligibility for services.  
31 g. Availability of transportation.

1           2. Establishment of a referral process which responds  
2 to parental need for information and which is provided with  
3 full recognition of the confidentiality rights of parents.  
4 Referrals may not be made to an unlicensed child care facility  
5 or arrangement unless there is no requirement that the  
6 facility or arrangement be licensed.

7           3. Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests  
8 for service tabulated through the internal referral process.  
9 The following documentation of requests for service shall be  
10 maintained by each Children First Coalition:

11           a. Number of calls and contacts to the Children First  
12 Coalition by type of service requested.

13           b. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

14           c. Time category of child care requests for each  
15 child.

16           d. Special time category, such as nights, weekends,  
17 and swing shift.

18           e. Reason that the services are desired.

19           f. Name of the employer and primary focus of the  
20 business.

21           4. Provision of technical assistance to existing and  
22 potential providers of school readiness program services.

23 This assistance may include but is not limited to:

24           a. Information on initiating new school readiness  
25 program services and program and budget development and  
26 assistance in finding such information from other sources.

27           b. Information and resources which help current school  
28 readiness program services providers to maximize their ability  
29 to serve children and parents in their community.

30           c. Information and incentives which could help current  
31 or planned school readiness program services offered by public

1 or private employers seeking to maximize their ability to  
2 serve the children of their working parent employees in their  
3 community, through contractual or other funding arrangements  
4 with businesses.

5 5. Assistance to families and employers in applying  
6 for children first school readiness program subsidy, including  
7 but not limited to funding sources derived from subsidized  
8 child care, Head Start, prekindergarten early intervention  
9 programs, Project Independence, private scholarships, and the  
10 federal dependent care tax credit. Such assistance shall be  
11 designed to ensure that coalition funds are expended in the  
12 manner and for the purpose required by the funding source.

13 6. Within federal reimbursement requirements,  
14 assistance to state agencies in determining the market rate  
15 for school readiness programs.

16 7. Assistance in negotiating discounts or other  
17 special arrangements with program providers.

18 8. Annual provision to the Florida Partnership for  
19 Children First, Inc., of the following information regarding  
20 licensed and registered school readiness program facilities:

21 a. Type of program.

22 b. Hours of service.

23 c. Ages of children served.

24 d. Fees and eligibility for services.

25 e. Performance and school readiness outcomes.

26  
27 The coalition shall operate under the direction of the Florida  
28 Partnership for Children First, Inc., and shall be responsible  
29 for monitoring all providers' success in achieving the  
30 legislatively mandated performance standards and school  
31 readiness outcome measures. No public funds shall be paid to a

1 provider unless the provider agrees to allow the coalition  
2 access to fulfill its monitoring responsibilities.

3 (b) As part of its children first plan, each coalition  
4 shall select and designate an entity with demonstrated  
5 capacity in fiscal management to serve as fiscal agent for  
6 receipt of block grant funding and to ensure that coalition  
7 funds are expended in the manner and for the purpose required  
8 by the funding source. The fiscal agent may be a public or  
9 private entity or a for-profit or nonprofit organization, but  
10 may not be a provider of school readiness program services  
11 under the children first plan. The fiscal agent must be  
12 approved by the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.  
13 The fiscal agent shall be required to provide all  
14 administrative and direct funding services as determined by  
15 the coalition. The cost of these services shall be negotiated  
16 between the fiscal agent and the coalition.

17 (c) The coalition shall require its children first  
18 program to comply with the parental choice and payment  
19 arrangement provisions of subsection (9).

20 (d) Each coalition shall assume responsibility for  
21 recommending phasing out duplicative coordinating bodies,  
22 increasing collaboration among service providers, coordinating  
23 services for young children, increasing program quality and  
24 accessibility, and providing a seamless service delivery  
25 system with a true continuum of coordinated school readiness  
26 program services, available to all children under 5 years of  
27 age living in the county or counties.

28 (e)1. Funds appropriated for a county or counties for  
29 the prekindergarten early intervention program, the subsidized  
30 child care program, and other state funded school readiness  
31 programs for preschool children may be transferred to the



1 county's or counties' Children First Coalition account in the  
2 Children First School Readiness Trust Fund for the purpose of  
3 block grant funding to benefit the Children First Coalition in  
4 implementing its children first plan. Additional funds,  
5 including state appropriated incentive funds, may be placed in  
6 the trust fund for purposes of this paragraph.

7 2. Each coalition shall be eligible to receive block  
8 grant funding from its account in the Children First School  
9 Readiness Trust Fund and programmatic waiver authority if  
10 available, conditioned on the submission of an approved  
11 children first plan designed to increase the number of  
12 children ready to succeed at the time of entry into  
13 kindergarten. The Auditor General shall conduct compliance  
14 audits and an annual financial audit of each coalition's block  
15 grant funding.

16 3. To increase school readiness, block grant funding  
17 and programmatic waiver shall be used by the coalitions to  
18 improve health outcomes, increase the availability and  
19 accessibility of school readiness programs, and provide family  
20 support and parent education and development services.

21 (7) INCENTIVES FOR CHILDREN FIRST PLANS.--

22 (a) Children First Coalitions shall receive coalition  
23 initiation grants to develop children first plans, and block  
24 grant funding to implement approved plans designed to enable a  
25 county or counties to achieve the outcomes specified in  
26 subparagraph (6)(e)3. The plans must reflect strategies and  
27 activities for achieving these outcomes through enhancing the  
28 quality of school readiness program services that are adequate  
29 and appropriate for the outcome desired; increasing the level  
30 of services available so that those children in need of  
31 identified services will have access to such services; and

1 creating incentives to integrate the various systems of  
2 children's school readiness program services so that all the  
3 systems work together as one to achieve the identified  
4 outcomes.

5 (b) Children first plans submitted by a Children First  
6 Coalition are subject to review and approval by the Florida  
7 Partnership for Children First, Inc.

8 (c) To determine county priorities for coordinated  
9 school readiness programs, each plan submitted by a Children  
10 First Coalition shall include:

11 1. An assessment of current public, private, and  
12 charitable resources available within the county for children  
13 from birth to 5 years of age.

14 2. An assessment of unmet school readiness program  
15 needs for children from birth to 5 years of age and an  
16 assessment of school readiness program needs of children 5  
17 years of age and older.

18 3. An assessment of kindergarten readiness as  
19 administered in the past by the school district or districts,  
20 together with the plans, timeframes, and goals for the  
21 administration of the new school readiness instrument or  
22 instruments to be administered to children in the Children  
23 First Coalition's programs at 3 1/2 years of age and 4 1/2  
24 years of age and to be administered to students in  
25 kindergarten by the school district.

26 4. A method for school readiness program service  
27 systems integration; demonstration of methods for achieving  
28 the outcomes in subparagraph (6)(e)3.; demonstration of  
29 methods for meeting the needs of particular subgroups of the  
30 population, including migrant children, children with special  
31

1 needs, and minorities; and methods for administering and  
2 maintaining accountability in the integrated systems.

3 (d) Children first plans submitted by a Children First  
4 Coalition shall adhere to the minimum standards established by  
5 the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., and shall  
6 address improvements in the quality of current and new  
7 programs, including but not limited to components for  
8 providing developmentally appropriate curricula; small group  
9 sizes; ratios; increased staff training; and lower staff  
10 turnover rates.

11 (e) Additional areas to be given priority  
12 consideration in any children first plan submitted by a  
13 Children First Coalition include family involvement; business  
14 and private sector involvement; implementation of a single or  
15 simplified point of entry and a unified waiting list for  
16 school readiness programs; provision of full-day, full-year,  
17 and night services, where needed and appropriate; and  
18 inclusion of children with disabilities.

19 (f) Children First Coalitions shall phase in the  
20 integration of the early childhood health care, child care,  
21 and education systems in their children first plans, starting  
22 with the systems that are currently most involved in  
23 collaboration with each other and consistent with local needs  
24 and priorities.

25 (8) COALITION INITIATION GRANTS; INCENTIVE BONUS;  
26 BLOCK GRANT FUNDING.--

27 (a) Children First Coalitions that are approved by the  
28 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be  
29 eligible for a \$25,000 initiation grant to support the  
30 Children First Coalition in developing its children first  
31 plan. Upon approval by the Children First Partnership of any

1 coalition's children first plan that clearly shows enhancement  
2 in the quality and standards of the school readiness programs  
3 without diminishing the number of children served in the  
4 programs, the Children First Partnership shall award the  
5 coalition a cash incentive bonus on a per-student served  
6 basis, subject to appropriation.

7 (b) Children First Coalitions that have their children  
8 first plans approved by the Florida Partnership for Children  
9 First, Inc., by July 1, 1999, shall receive children first  
10 block grant funding beginning July 1, 1999, to begin a  
11 phase-in implementation of their children first plans.  
12 Children first block grant funding for these counties shall  
13 continue from year to year consistent with funding so  
14 designated in the General Appropriations Act.

15 (c) Beginning in January 1999, the Florida Partnership  
16 for Children First, Inc., shall issue a call for Children  
17 First Coalition initiation grants every 6 months until  
18 Children First Coalitions have been approved for all counties.  
19 Coalitions submitting children first plans that are approved  
20 by the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be  
21 eligible for block grant funding to implement their plans  
22 beginning July 1 following plan approval. Children first block  
23 grant funding shall be made available for these coalitions  
24 contingent upon approval of the children first plans and  
25 legislative appropriations for this purpose. Children first  
26 block grant funding for these coalitions shall continue from  
27 year to year consistent with funding so designated in the  
28 General Appropriations Act.

29 (9)(a) PARENTAL CHOICE; PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT.--The  
30 children first plan shall be provided in a manner that  
31 ensures, to the maximum extent possible, parental choice

1 through flexibility in children first program arrangements and  
2 payment arrangements, including but not limited to voucher,  
3 contract, and direct service provision. According to federal  
4 regulations requiring parental choice, a parent may choose an  
5 informal child care arrangement.

6 (b) When a voucher is provided, the voucher must bear  
7 the name of the beneficiary and the program provider and, when  
8 redeemed, must bear the signature of both the beneficiary and  
9 an authorized representative of the provider. If it is  
10 determined that a provider has provided any cash to the  
11 beneficiary in return for receiving the voucher, the Children  
12 First Coalition shall refer the matter to the Division of  
13 Public Assistance Fraud of the the Office of the Auditor  
14 General for investigation and shall notify the agency  
15 responsible for the funding source.

16 (c) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
17 in consultation with the office of the Comptroller, shall  
18 establish an electronic disbursement system for the  
19 dissemination of funds and vouchers in accordance with this  
20 subsection. Fiscal agents shall fully implement the electronic  
21 disbursement system within 3 years after approval of the  
22 children first plan unless a waiver is obtained from the  
23 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc. The fiscal agent  
24 may charge an administrative fee not to exceed 1 percent of  
25 each voucher to offset administrative costs of the school  
26 readiness program.

27 (10) EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES.--

28 (a) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
29 shall have the responsibility for designing the evaluation and  
30 performance measures to track the effectiveness of the new  
31 children first block grant funding and other funding in

1 meeting the goals of increasing the quality and accessibility  
2 of school readiness program services. The performance  
3 standards and measurable outcomes established and regularly  
4 reviewed by the Florida Partnership For Children First, Inc.,  
5 under this subsection must also include benchmarks and goals  
6 to measure the impact of state school readiness policies and  
7 programs. Evaluation and performance measures must accommodate  
8 the programmatic flexibility of parental choice settings among  
9 Children First Coalition providers, including but not limited  
10 to settings and locations in licensed, registered,  
11 religious-exempt, church-sponsored, school-based, or relative  
12 care programs.

13 (b) Each Children First Coalition shall require that  
14 all school readiness programs that screen children for school  
15 readiness utilize the school readiness screening instruments  
16 developed by the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
17 to accurately reflect school readiness as the primary measure  
18 of performance.

19 (c) The governing board shall report to the  
20 Legislature on the implementation and performance of the  
21 Children First Coalitions by March 1 of each year.

22 (11) RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS  
23 SECTION.--The appointive voting members of the Florida  
24 Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be selected no  
25 later than July 15, 1998, and the staff of the Children First  
26 Partnership shall be selected and in place no later than  
27 August 15, 1998. The first full meeting of the Florida  
28 Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be held no later  
29 than October 1, 1998.

30 (12) PHASE-OUT OF STATE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR EARLY  
31 CHILDHOOD SERVICES.--By December 31, 1998, the State

1 Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services shall submit  
2 a final report of recommendations regarding early childhood  
3 health care, child care, and education programs to the  
4 Children First Governing Board. The State Coordinating Council  
5 for Early Childhood Services shall cease to exist after  
6 December 31, 1998.

7 Section 4. Effective July 1, 1998, section 411.02,  
8 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

9 411.02 Children First Appropriation Allocation  
10 Conference.--Prior to the distribution of any funds pursuant  
11 to s. 411.01(8)(b) or (c), the Children First Governing Board  
12 shall conduct a Children First Appropriation Allocation  
13 Conference. Conference principals shall include  
14 representatives of the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
15 Inc., the Department of Education, the Department of Children  
16 and Family Services, the Executive Office of the Governor, the  
17 Director of Economic and Demographic Research, and the  
18 applicable appropriations committees of the Senate and the  
19 House of Representatives. Conference principals shall discuss  
20 the forecasts of numbers of children needing school readiness  
21 programs as determined by the School Readiness Program  
22 Estimating Conference and participate in a joint effort to  
23 develop budget allocation proposals that maximize the  
24 legislative intent of the Children First Act and ensure that  
25 the requirements of the funding sources are met.

26 Section 5. Effective July 1, 1998, paragraph (a) of  
27 subsection (6) of section 216.136, Florida Statutes, is  
28 amended, and subsection (11) is added to said section, to  
29 read:

30 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and  
31 principals.--

1 (6) SOCIAL SERVICES ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.--

2 (a) Duties.--

3 ~~1.~~ The Social Services Estimating Conference shall  
4 develop such official information relating to the social  
5 services system of the state, including forecasts of social  
6 services caseloads, as the conference determines is needed for  
7 the state planning and budgeting system. Such official  
8 information shall include, but not be limited to, subsidized  
9 child care caseloads mandated by the Family Support Act of  
10 1988.

11 ~~2. In addition, the Social Services Estimating~~  
12 ~~Conference shall develop estimates and forecasts of the~~  
13 ~~unduplicated count of children eligible for subsidized child~~  
14 ~~care as defined in s. 411.01. These estimates and forecasts~~  
15 ~~shall not include children enrolled in the prekindergarten~~  
16 ~~early intervention program established in s. 230.2305.~~

17 ~~3. The Department of Health and Rehabilitative~~  
18 ~~Services and the Department of Education shall provide~~  
19 ~~information on caseloads and waiting lists for the subsidized~~  
20 ~~child care and prekindergarten early intervention programs~~  
21 ~~requested by the Social Services Estimating Conference or~~  
22 ~~individual conference principals, in a timely manner.~~

23 (11) SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.--

24 (a) Duties.--

25 1. The School Readiness Program Estimating Conference  
26 shall develop such official information relating to the  
27 state's system of school readiness program services as  
28 described in s. 411.01, including forecasts of school  
29 readiness program needs, as the conference determines is  
30 needed for the state planning and budgeting system. Such  
31 official information shall include but not be limited to



1 subsidized child care, Head Start, prekindergarten early  
2 intervention, prekindergarten disabilities, Even-Start  
3 literacy, First Start, migrant prekindergarten, and Title I  
4 prekindergarten needs.

5 2. In addition, the School Readiness Program  
6 Estimating Conference shall develop estimates and forecasts of  
7 the unduplicated count of children eligible for school  
8 readiness program services pursuant to s. 411.01.

9 3. The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
10 shall provide information on needs and waiting lists for  
11 school readiness program services requested by the School  
12 Readiness Program Estimating Conference or individual  
13 conference principals, in a timely manner.

14 (b) Principals.--The Executive Office of the Governor,  
15 the Director of Economic and Demographic Research, and  
16 professional staff, who have forecasting expertise, from the  
17 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., the Department  
18 of Children and Family Services, the Department of Education,  
19 the Senate, and the House of Representatives, or their  
20 designees, are the principals of the School Readiness Program  
21 Education Estimating Conference. The principal representing  
22 the Executive Office of the Governor shall preside over  
23 sessions of the conference.

24 Section 6. Effective July 1, 1999, section 230.2303,  
25 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 411.03, Florida  
26 Statutes, and amended to read:

27 411.03 ~~230.2303~~ Florida First Start Program.--

28 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT; PURPOSE.--The Legislature  
29 recognizes that the years of a child's life between birth and  
30 the third birthday are critical for fostering intellectual  
31 ability, language competence, physical development, and social

1 skills. The Florida First Start Program is intended as a  
2 home-school partnership designed to give children with  
3 disabilities and children at risk of future school failure the  
4 best possible start in life and to support parents in their  
5 role as the children's first teachers. The purpose of the  
6 program is to assist parents to achieve their own goals for  
7 education and self-sufficiency and to teach parents how to  
8 foster their child's development in the crucial early years of  
9 life. The program must assist ~~school districts~~ in providing  
10 early, high-quality parent education and support services that  
11 enable the parents to enhance their children's intellectual,  
12 language, physical, and social development, thus maximizing  
13 the children's overall progress during the first 3 years of  
14 life, laying the foundation for future school success, and  
15 minimizing the development of disabilities and developmental  
16 problems which interfere with learning.

17 (2) PROGRAM.--There is ~~hereby~~ created the Florida  
18 First Start Program for children from birth to 3 years of age  
19 and their parents. The program must be administered,  
20 implemented, and conducted ~~by school districts~~ pursuant to a  
21 children first plan developed by the Children First Coalition  
22 and approved by the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
23 Inc as provided in this section.

24 (3) PLAN.--~~Each school board may submit to the~~  
25 ~~Commissioner of Education a plan for conducting a Florida~~  
26 ~~First Start Program.~~ Each program plan and subsequent amended  
27 program plan shall be developed in cooperation with the  
28 ~~district interagency coordinating council on early childhood~~  
29 ~~services established pursuant to s. 230.2305 and the~~  
30 ~~Interagency Prekindergarten Council for Children with~~  
31 ~~Disabilities, and shall be approved by the commissioner. A~~

1 ~~district school board's plan must be~~ designed to serve  
2 children from birth to 3 years of age who are disabled or at  
3 risk of future school failure and to serve their parents. For  
4 the purposes of this section, the term "children with  
5 disabilities or at risk of future school failure" includes any  
6 child who has one or more of the characteristics described in  
7 s. 411.202(10)~~(9)~~.

8 (4) PLAN APPROVAL.--To be considered for approval,  
9 each program plan, or amendment to a program plan, must be  
10 based on the latest current research findings regarding the  
11 growth and development of infants and young children and must  
12 include the following program components:

13 (a) The establishment of parent resource centers  
14 ~~located in neighborhood schools~~. Parent resource centers may  
15 be established in cooperation with and jointly funded through  
16 the community education program established pursuant to s.  
17 239.401 or the Florida Parents as Teachers Program established  
18 pursuant to s. 411.06.

19 (b) Visits, at least once a month, by trained parent  
20 educators from the parent resource center, who shall inform  
21 the parents about stages of child development and suggest  
22 methods for parents to encourage children's intellectual,  
23 language, physical, and social development. Parent educators  
24 shall also offer guidance on home safety, nutrition, effective  
25 discipline, constructive play activities, and other topics.

26 (c) Monthly group meetings for parents with similarly  
27 aged children held at the parent resource centers.

28 (d) Periodic formal educational and medical screening  
29 for the children.

30 (e) A procedure to help parents identify their goals  
31 for education and self-sufficiency and to monitor their

1 progress toward achievement of their goals. The program must  
2 provide a referral network to help parents who need special  
3 assistance, for themselves or their children, that is beyond  
4 the scope of this program.

5 (f) Assurances that each ~~school~~ parent resource center  
6 shall be operated in compliance with the recommendations of  
7 the Florida Parents as Teachers Program or staffed by a  
8 coordinator trained in parent education and holding a  
9 bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a major  
10 in early childhood education, child development, child  
11 psychology, home economics, social work, or nursing.

12 (g) A method for training parent educators and for  
13 recruiting parent educators ~~from among the families in the~~  
14 ~~school's attendance zone~~. Training for parent educators shall  
15 include, but not be limited to, child growth and development,  
16 health, safety, nutrition, identifying and reporting child  
17 abuse and neglect, developmentally appropriate activities for  
18 young children, and avoidance of income-based, race-based, and  
19 gender-based stereotyping.

20 (h) An inservice staff development component,  
21 including arrangements for staff access to child development  
22 associate certificate training or its equivalent, ~~coordination~~  
23 ~~with local teacher education centers established under s.~~  
24 ~~231.603, and integration with district master inservice plans~~  
25 ~~required under s. 236.0811.~~

26 (i) Coordination with ~~district~~ prekindergarten early  
27 intervention programs and other school readiness programs  
28 ~~servicing preschool children and their families.~~

29 (5) EVALUATION.--The Children First Coalition ~~Each~~  
30 ~~school district~~ shall conduct an annual evaluation of the  
31 effectiveness of the Florida First Start Program in achieving

1 the performance outcomes established by the Florida  
2 Partnership for Children First, Inc. ~~This evaluation must~~  
3 ~~include assessment of the children's behavior, growth and~~  
4 ~~development, and achievement; the parents' success in meeting~~  
5 ~~their own goals for education and self-sufficiency; and the~~  
6 ~~parents' continued involvement with the education of their~~  
7 ~~children.~~The results of this evaluation must be maintained by  
8 ~~the school district~~ and made available to the public upon  
9 request.

10 (6) MONITORING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.--The Florida  
11 Partnership for Children First, Inc.,~~commissioner~~ shall  
12 monitor each Children First Coalition's Florida First Start  
13 district Program at least annually to determine compliance  
14 with the coalition's children first district plan and the  
15 provisions of this section. ~~The department shall develop~~  
16 ~~manuals and guidelines for the development of district plans~~  
17 ~~and shall provide technical assistance to ensure that each~~  
18 ~~district program maintains high standards of quality and~~  
19 ~~effectiveness.~~ The Florida Partnership for Children First,  
20 Inc.,~~department~~ shall identify exemplary programs in the  
21 state to serve as model Florida First Start Programs and shall  
22 disseminate information on these programs to all Children  
23 First Coalitions districts.

24 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--Each Florida First Start Program  
25 shall ~~district school board that implements a program under~~  
26 ~~this section shall, with the assistance of the district~~  
27 ~~interagency coordinating council on early childhood services,~~  
28 submit an annual report of its program to the Children First  
29 Coalition ~~commissioner~~. The report must describe the overall  
30 program operations, activities ~~of the district interagency~~  
31 ~~coordinating council,~~ expenditures, the number of children

1 served, staff training and qualifications, and evaluation  
2 findings.

3 (8) COORDINATION.--

4 ~~(a)~~ The Florida First Start Program shall be included  
5 under the jurisdiction of the Florida Partnership for Children  
6 First, Inc., State Coordinating Council for Early Childhood  
7 Services established pursuant to s. 411.01 ~~411.222~~. The  
8 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., council shall  
9 make recommendations for effective implementation of the  
10 program and ~~shall advise the Department of Education on needed~~  
11 ~~legislation, rules, and technical assistance to ensure the~~  
12 ~~continued implementation of an effective program.~~

13 ~~(b) Each school district shall develop, implement, and~~  
14 ~~evaluate its program in cooperation with the district~~  
15 ~~interagency coordinating council established under s.~~  
16 ~~230.2305.~~

17 (9) FUNDING.--Funding for the Florida First Start  
18 Program must be determined annually in the General  
19 Appropriations Act.

20 Section 7. Effective July 1, 1999, section 230.2305,  
21 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 411.04, Florida  
22 Statutes, and amended to read:

23 411.04 ~~230.2305~~ Prekindergarten early intervention  
24 program.--

25 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT; PURPOSE.--The Legislature  
26 recognizes that high-quality prekindergarten education  
27 programs increase children's chances of achieving future  
28 educational success and becoming productive members of  
29 society. It is the intent of the Legislature that such  
30 programs be submitted by the Children First Coalition as part  
31 of the children first plan and comply with performance

1 measures established by the Florida Partnership for Children  
2 First, Inc., pursuant to s. 411.01. The programs shall  
3 demonstrate that they are developmental, serve as preventive  
4 measures for children at risk of future school failure,  
5 enhance the educational readiness of all children in the  
6 program, and support family education and the involvement of  
7 parents in their child's educational progress. Each  
8 prekindergarten early intervention program shall provide the  
9 elements necessary to prepare children for school, including  
10 health screening and referral and a developmentally  
11 appropriate educational program and opportunities for parental  
12 involvement in the program. Each prekindergarten early  
13 intervention program shall administer the screening  
14 instruments for school readiness developed by the Florida  
15 Partnership for Children First, Inc., pursuant to s. 411.01,  
16 in accordance with guidelines of the Children First Coalition.  
17 It is the legislative intent that the prekindergarten early  
18 intervention program not exist as an isolated program, but as  
19 part of the children first plan ~~build upon existing services~~  
20 ~~and work in cooperation with other programs for young~~  
21 ~~children.~~ It is intended that procedures such as, but not  
22 limited to, contracting, collocation, mainstreaming, and  
23 cooperative funding be used by the Children First Coalition to  
24 coordinate the program with Head Start, public and private  
25 providers of child care, preschool programs for children with  
26 disabilities, programs for migrant children, Chapter I,  
27 subsidized child care, adult literacy programs, and other  
28 services. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the  
29 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., oversee  
30 ~~Commissioner of Education seek the advice of the Secretary of~~  
31 ~~Health and Rehabilitative Services in the development and~~

1 implementation of performance measures for the prekindergarten  
2 early intervention program and that the Children First  
3 Coalition oversee the coordination of services to young  
4 children. The purpose of the prekindergarten early  
5 intervention program is to assist ~~local communities in~~  
6 ~~implementing programs that will enable all the~~ families and  
7 children in the school district to be prepared for the  
8 children's success in school.

9 (2) ELIGIBILITY.--There is ~~hereby~~ created the  
10 prekindergarten early intervention program for children who  
11 are 3 and 4 years of age. A prekindergarten early  
12 intervention program may ~~shall~~ be administered by a district  
13 school board or other Children First Coalition provider and  
14 shall receive state funds pursuant to subsection(6)(~~5~~). Each  
15 public school district or other Children First Coalition  
16 provider shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the  
17 needs of children for extended day and extended year services  
18 without compromising the quality of the 6-hour, 180-day  
19 program. The school district or other Children First  
20 Coalition provider shall report on such efforts. School  
21 district participation in the prekindergarten early  
22 intervention program shall be at the discretion of each school  
23 district. Eligibility for program participation shall be as  
24 established by the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
25 Inc. Until eligibility is established by the Florida  
26 Partnership for Children First, Inc., eligibility shall be  
27 determined as follows:

28 (a) At least 75 percent of the children projected to  
29 be served by the ~~district~~ program shall be economically  
30 disadvantaged 4-year-old children of working parents,  
31 including migrant children or children whose parents



1 participate in the WAGES Program. Other children projected to  
2 be served by the ~~district~~ program may include any of the  
3 following up to a maximum of 25 percent of the total number of  
4 children served:

5 1. Three-year-old and four-year-old children who are  
6 referred to the school system who may not be economically  
7 disadvantaged but who are abused, prenatally exposed to  
8 alcohol or harmful drugs, or from foster homes, or who are  
9 marginal in terms of Exceptional Student Education placement.

10 2. Three-year-old children and four-year-old children  
11 who may not be economically disadvantaged but who are eligible  
12 students with disabilities and served in an exceptional  
13 student education program with required special services,  
14 aids, or equipment and who are reported for partial funding in  
15 the K-12 Florida Education Finance Program. These students  
16 may be funded from prekindergarten early intervention program  
17 funds the portion of the time not funded by the K-12 Florida  
18 Education Finance Program for the actual instructional time or  
19 one full-time equivalent student membership, whichever is the  
20 lesser. These students with disabilities shall be counted  
21 toward the 25-percent student limit based on full-time  
22 equivalent student membership funded part-time by  
23 prekindergarten early intervention program funds. Also,  
24 3-year-old or 4-year-old eligible students with disabilities  
25 who are reported for funding in the K-12 Florida Education  
26 Finance Program in an exceptional student education program as  
27 provided in s. 236.081(1)(c) may be mainstreamed in the  
28 prekindergarten early intervention program if such programming  
29 is reflected in the student's individual educational plan; if  
30 required special services, aids, or equipment are provided;  
31 and if there is no operational cost to prekindergarten early

1 intervention program funds. Exceptional education students  
2 who are reported for maximum K-12 Florida Education Finance  
3 Program funding and who are not reported for early  
4 intervention funding shall not count against the 75-percent or  
5 25-percent student limit as stated in this paragraph.

6 3. Economically disadvantaged 3-year-old children.

7 4. Economically disadvantaged children, children with  
8 disabilities, and children at risk of future school failure,  
9 from birth to age four, who are served at home through home  
10 visitor programs and intensive parent education programs such  
11 as the Florida First Start Program.

12 5. Children who meet federal and state requirements  
13 for eligibility for the migrant preschool program but who do  
14 not meet the criteria of "economically disadvantaged" as  
15 defined in paragraph (b), who shall not pay a fee.

16 6. After the groups listed in subparagraphs 1., 2.,  
17 3., and 4. have been served, 3-year-old and 4-year-old  
18 children who are not economically disadvantaged and for whom a  
19 fee is paid for the children's participation.

20 (b) An "economically disadvantaged" child shall be  
21 defined as a child eligible to participate in the free lunch  
22 program. Notwithstanding any change in a family's economic  
23 status or in the federal eligibility requirements for free  
24 lunch, a child who meets the eligibility requirements upon  
25 initial registration for the program shall be considered  
26 eligible until the child reaches kindergarten age. If the  
27 program is being offered by the school district, in order to  
28 assist the school district in establishing the priority in  
29 which children shall be served, and to increase the efficiency  
30 in the provision of child care services in each district, the  
31 district shall enter into a written collaborative agreement

1 with the Children First Coalition.~~other publicly funded early~~  
2 ~~education and child care programs within the district. Such~~  
3 ~~agreement shall be facilitated by the interagency coordinating~~  
4 ~~council and shall set forth, among other provisions, the~~  
5 ~~measures to be undertaken to ensure the programs' achievement~~  
6 ~~and compliance with the performance standards established in~~  
7 ~~subsection (3) and for maximizing the public resources~~  
8 ~~available to each program. In addition, the central agency~~  
9 ~~for state-subsidized child care or the local service district~~  
10 ~~of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services shall~~  
11 ~~provide the school district with an updated list of 3-year-old~~  
12 ~~and 4-year-old children residing in the school district who~~  
13 ~~are on the waiting list for state-subsidized child care.~~

14 (3) STANDARDS.--

15 (a) Children First Coalitions shall require that all  
16 children first plan school readiness ~~Publicly supported~~  
17 ~~preschool~~ programs, including prekindergarten early  
18 intervention, subsidized child care, teen parent programs,  
19 Head Start, migrant programs, and Chapter I programs, ~~shall~~  
20 employ a single simplified point of entry to the school  
21 readiness program ~~child care~~ services system in every county  
22 community. These programs shall share the waiting lists for  
23 unserved children ~~in the community~~ so that a count of eligible  
24 children is maintained without duplications.

25 (b) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
26 pursuant to s. 411.01 and ~~Department of Education and the~~  
27 ~~Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services,~~ in  
28 consultation with the Legislature, shall develop a minimum set  
29 of performance standards for publicly funded school readiness  
30 ~~early education and child care programs, including~~  
31 prekindergarten programs, and a method for measuring the

1 progress of local school districts and other Children First  
2 Coalition providers ~~central agencies~~ in meeting a desired set  
3 of outcomes based on these performance measures. The defined  
4 outcomes must be consistent with the state's first education  
5 goal, readiness to start school, and must also consider  
6 administrative efficiency measures ~~such as the employment of a~~  
7 ~~simplified point of entry to the child care services system,~~  
8 ~~coordinated staff development programs, and other efforts~~  
9 ~~within the state~~ to increase the opportunity for  
10 self-sufficiency ~~welfare recipients to become self-sufficient.~~  
11 Performance standards shall be developed for all levels of  
12 administration of the programs, including individual programs  
13 and providers, and must incorporate appropriate expectations  
14 for the type of program and the setting ~~in which care is~~  
15 ~~provided.~~

16 (c) The program curriculum must be developmentally  
17 appropriate according to the latest ~~current~~ nationally  
18 recognized recommendations for high-quality prekindergarten  
19 programs.

20 (d) School districts and other Children First  
21 Coalition providers shall utilize the ~~may establish~~ a sliding  
22 fee scale for participants developed by the Florida  
23 Partnership for Children First, Inc.

24 (e) The ratio of direct instructional staff to  
25 children shall be as provided in each coalition's children  
26 first plan as approved by the Florida Partnership for Children  
27 First, Inc. Until such time as the coalition's children first  
28 plan is approved, the ratio of direct instructional staff to  
29 children must be 1 adult to 10 children, or a lower ratio.  
30 Until such time as the coalition's children first plan is  
31 approved, upon written request from a school district, the

1 commissioner may grant permission for a ratio of up to 1 adult  
2 to 15 children for individual schools or centers for which a  
3 1-to-10 ratio would not be feasible.

4 (f) The minimum staff requirements shall be as  
5 provided in each coalition's children first plan as approved  
6 by the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc. Until such  
7 time as the coalition's children first plan is approved,all  
8 staff must meet the following minimum requirements:

9 1. The minimum level of training is to be the  
10 completion of a 30-clock-hour training course planned jointly  
11 by the Department of Education and the Department of Health  
12 and Rehabilitative Services to include the following areas:  
13 state and local rules that govern child care, health, safety,  
14 and nutrition; identification and report of child abuse and  
15 neglect; child growth and development; use of developmentally  
16 appropriate early childhood curricula; and avoidance of  
17 income-based, race-based, and gender-based stereotyping.

18 2. When individual classrooms are staffed by certified  
19 teachers, those teachers must be certified for the appropriate  
20 grade levels under s. 231.17 and State Board of Education  
21 rules. Teachers who are not certified for the appropriate  
22 grade levels must obtain proper certification within 2 years.  
23 However, the commissioner may make an exception on an  
24 individual basis when the requirements are not met because of  
25 serious illness, injury, or other extraordinary, extenuating  
26 circumstance.

27 3. When individual classrooms are staffed by  
28 noncertified teachers, there must be a program director or  
29 lead teacher who is eligible for certification or certified  
30 for the appropriate grade levels pursuant to s. 231.17 and  
31 State Board of Education rules in regularly scheduled direct

1 contact with each classroom. Notwithstanding s. 231.15, such  
2 classrooms must be staffed by at least one person who has, at  
3 a minimum, a child development associate credential (CDA) or  
4 an amount of training determined by the commissioner to be  
5 equivalent to or to exceed the minimum, such as an associate  
6 in science degree in the area of early childhood education.

7 4. Beginning October 1, 1994, principals and other  
8 school district administrative and supervisory personnel with  
9 direct responsibility for the program must demonstrate  
10 knowledge of prekindergarten education programs that increase  
11 children's chances of achieving future educational success and  
12 becoming productive members of society in a manner established  
13 by the State Board of Education by rule.

14 5. All personnel who are not certified under s. 231.17  
15 must comply with screening requirements under ss. 231.02 and  
16 231.1713.

17 (g) Student participation is ~~must be~~ contingent upon  
18 parental involvement. The parental involvement activities  
19 integral to the program must include program site-based  
20 parental activities designed to fully involve parents in the  
21 program and may include the Florida Parents as Teachers  
22 Program pursuant to s. 411.06 and other parenting education,  
23 home visitor activities, and family support services  
24 coordination, and other activities.

25 (h) ~~Services are to be provided during a school day~~  
26 ~~and school year equal to or exceeding the requirements for~~  
27 ~~kindergarten under ss. 228.041 and 236.013. Strategies to~~  
28 ~~provide care before school, after school, and 12 months a~~  
29 ~~year, when needed, must be developed by the school district in~~  
30 ~~cooperation with the central agency for state-subsidized child~~  
31 ~~care or other Children First Coalition provider the local~~

1 ~~service district of the Department of Health and~~  
2 ~~Rehabilitative Services and the district interagency~~  
3 ~~coordinating council.~~ Programs may be provided on Saturdays  
4 and through other innovative scheduling arrangements.

5 (i) The school district or other Children First  
6 Coalition provider must make every reasonable effort ~~efforts~~  
7 to meet the first state education goal, readiness to start  
8 school, including the involvement of other children first plan  
9 school readiness programs, nonpublic schools, public and  
10 private providers of day care and early education, and other  
11 community agencies that provide services to young children.  
12 This may include private child care programs, subsidized child  
13 care programs, and Head Start programs. A written description  
14 of these efforts must be provided to the Children First  
15 Coalition ~~district interagency coordinating council on early~~  
16 ~~childhood services.~~

17 (j) In accordance with the parental choice and payment  
18 arrangement provisions of s. 411.01(9), parents must be  
19 provided a voucher or an option regarding a child's  
20 participation at a school-based site or other Children First  
21 Coalition among contracted site sites, when such voucher or an  
22 option is appropriate and within the school district. The  
23 Children First Coalition ~~school district~~ may consider  
24 availability of sites, transportation, staffing ratios, costs,  
25 and other factors in determining the assignment and setting  
26 ~~district~~ guidelines. Parents may request and be assigned a  
27 site other than one first assigned by the Children First  
28 Coalition ~~district~~, provided the parents pay the cost of  
29 transporting the child to the site of the parents' choice.

30 (k) The Children First Coalition ~~school district~~ must  
31 coordinate with the ~~central agency for state-subsidized child~~

1 ~~care or the~~ local service district of the Department of  
2 Children and Family Health and Rehabilitative Services to  
3 verify family participation in the WAGES Program, thus  
4 ensuring accurate reporting and full utilization of federal  
5 funds available through the Family Support Act, and for the  
6 agency's or service district's sharing of the waiting list for  
7 state-subsidized child care under paragraph (a).

8 (4) EVALUATION.--Each school district and other  
9 Children First Coalition provider shall conduct an evaluation  
10 of the effectiveness of its ~~the~~ prekindergarten early  
11 intervention program. This evaluation shall include  
12 performance measures required by the Children First Coalition  
13 as part of the children first plan and measures of the  
14 ~~following:~~

15 ~~(a) The~~ children's achievement as measured by the  
16 school readiness instrument or instruments ~~assessments~~ upon  
17 entry into the program and upon completion of the program. ~~+~~  
18 ~~and~~

19 ~~(b) The~~ children's ~~readiness for kindergarten as~~  
20 ~~measured by the instrument the district uses to assess the~~  
21 ~~school readiness of all children entering kindergarten.~~The  
22 results of this evaluation must be maintained by the Children  
23 First Coalition ~~school district~~ and made available to the  
24 public ~~upon request.~~

25 (5) ANNUAL REPORT.--Each prekindergarten early  
26 intervention program under this section shall submit an annual  
27 report of its program to the Children First Coalition ~~district~~  
28 ~~interagency coordinating council on early childhood services.~~  
29 The report must describe the overall program operations;  
30 ~~activities of the district interagency coordinating council on~~  
31 ~~early childhood services~~; expenditures; the number of students



1 served; ratio of staff to children; staff qualifications;  
2 evaluation findings, including identification of program  
3 components that were most successful; and other information  
4 required by the Children First Coalition council or the  
5 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc state advisory  
6 council.

7 (6) FUNDING.--

8 (a) This section shall be implemented only to the  
9 extent that funding is available. State funds appropriated  
10 for the prekindergarten early intervention program may not be  
11 used for the construction of new facilities, the  
12 transportation of students, or the purchase of buses, but may  
13 be used for educational field trips which enhance the  
14 curriculum.

15 1. At least 70 percent of the total funds appropriated  
16 for each children first plan's prekindergarten early  
17 intervention program and allocated to each Children First  
18 Coalition school district under this section must be used for  
19 implementing and conducting a prekindergarten early  
20 intervention program or contracting with other public or  
21 nonpublic entities for programs to serve eligible children.  
22 The maximum amount to be spent per child for this purpose is  
23 to be designated annually in the General Appropriations Act.

24 2. No more than 30 percent of the funds appropriated  
25 for each children first plan's prekindergarten early  
26 intervention program and allocated to each Children First  
27 Coalition school district pursuant to this section may be used  
28 to enhance existing public and nonpublic programs for eligible  
29 children, to provide before-school and after-school care for  
30 children served under this section, ~~to remodel or renovate~~  
31 ~~existing facilities under chapter 235,~~ to lease or

1 lease-purchase facilities, to purchase classroom equipment to  
2 allow the implementation of the prekindergarten early  
3 intervention program, and to provide training for program  
4 teachers and administrative personnel employed by the school  
5 district or other Children First Coalition provider ~~and by~~  
6 ~~agencies with which the school district contracts for the~~  
7 ~~provision of prekindergarten services.~~

8 3. Funds may also be used pursuant to subparagraphs 1.  
9 and 2. to provide the prekindergarten early intervention  
10 program for more than 180 school days.

11 (b) A minimum grant for each children first plan's  
12 prekindergarten early intervention program ~~district~~ is to be  
13 determined annually in the General Appropriations Act. The  
14 funds remaining after appropriating for the prekindergarten  
15 early intervention program and allocating the minimum grants  
16 must be prorated based on an allocation factor for each  
17 Children First Coalition ~~district~~ and must be added to each  
18 Children First Coalition's ~~district's~~ minimum grant. The  
19 allocation factor, unless otherwise recommended by the Florida  
20 Partnership for Children First, Inc., is to be calculated as  
21 follows:

23	<u>Children First</u>			<u>Children First</u>	
24	<u>Coalition District</u>	x 1/4	+	<u>Coalition District</u>	x 3/4
25	percentage of state			percentage	
26	3-year-old and			of state total free	
27	4-year-old children			lunches served	

28  
29 The calculation of each Children First Coalition's ~~district's~~  
30 allocation factor is to be based upon the official estimate of  
31 the total number of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children by

1 school district and the official record of the Department of  
2 Education for K-12 student total free lunches served by school  
3 district for the prior fiscal year.

4 (7) CHILDREN FIRST COALITIONS ~~DISTRICT INTERAGENCY~~  
5 ~~COORDINATING COUNCILS.~~--Children First Coalitions shall be  
6 responsible for the prekindergarten early intervention  
7 programs in their county or counties of jurisdiction.

8 (a) To be eligible for a prekindergarten early  
9 intervention program, each school district or other Children  
10 First Coalition provider must develop, implement, and evaluate  
11 its prekindergarten program in cooperation with a Children  
12 First Coalition ~~district interagency coordinating council on~~  
13 ~~early childhood services.~~

14 (b) ~~Each district coordinating council must consist of~~  
15 ~~at least 12 members to be appointed by the district school~~  
16 ~~board, the county commission for the county in which~~  
17 ~~participating schools are located, and the Department of~~  
18 ~~Health and Rehabilitative Services' district administrator and~~  
19 ~~must include at least the following:~~

20 1. ~~One member who is a parent of a child enrolled in,~~  
21 ~~or intending to enroll in, the public school prekindergarten~~  
22 ~~program, appointed by the school board.~~

23 2. ~~One member who is a director or designated director~~  
24 ~~of a prekindergarten program in the district, appointed by the~~  
25 ~~school board.~~

26 3. ~~One member who is a member of a district school~~  
27 ~~board, appointed by the school board.~~

28 4. ~~One member who is a representative of an agency~~  
29 ~~serving children with disabilities, appointed by the~~  
30 ~~Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services' district~~  
31 ~~administrator.~~

1           ~~5. Four members who are representatives of~~  
2 ~~organizations providing prekindergarten educational services,~~  
3 ~~one of whom is a representative of a Head Start Program,~~  
4 ~~appointed by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative~~  
5 ~~Services' district administrator; one of whom is a~~  
6 ~~representative of a Title XX subsidized child day care~~  
7 ~~program, if such programs exist within the county, appointed~~  
8 ~~by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services'~~  
9 ~~district administrator; and two of whom are private providers~~  
10 ~~of preschool care and education to 3-year-old and 4-year-old~~  
11 ~~children, one appointed by the county commission and one~~  
12 ~~appointed by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative~~  
13 ~~Services' district administrator. If there is no Head Start~~  
14 ~~Program or Title XX program operating within the county, these~~  
15 ~~two members must represent community interests in~~  
16 ~~prekindergarten education.~~

17           ~~6. Two members who are representatives of agencies~~  
18 ~~responsible for providing social, medical, dental, adult~~  
19 ~~literacy, or transportation services, one of whom represents~~  
20 ~~the county health department, both appointed by the county~~  
21 ~~commission.~~

22           ~~7. One member to represent a local child advocacy~~  
23 ~~organization, appointed by the Department of Health and~~  
24 ~~Rehabilitative Services' district administrator.~~

25           ~~8. One member to represent the district K-3 program,~~  
26 ~~appointed by the school board.~~

27           ~~(c) Each district interagency coordinating council~~  
28 ~~shall:~~

29           ~~1. Assist district school boards in developing a plan~~  
30 ~~or an amended plan to implement a prekindergarten early~~  
31 ~~intervention program. The plan and all amendments must be~~

1 ~~signed by the council chair, the chair of the district school~~  
2 ~~board, and the district school superintendent.~~

3 ~~2. Coordinate the delivery of educational, social,~~  
4 ~~medical, child care, and other services.~~

5 Section 8. Effective July 1, 1998, section 411.05,  
6 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

7 411.05 School readiness screening instruments.--The  
8 Department of Education shall adopt the school readiness  
9 screening instruments developed by the Florida Partnership for  
10 Children First, Inc., and shall require that:

11 (1) All school districts administer the kindergarten  
12 screening instrument to each kindergarten student in the  
13 district school system.

14 (2) All school districts that operate preschool  
15 programs administer the age-appropriate screening instrument  
16 to each preschool student in the district's preschool  
17 programs.

18 Section 9. Effective July 1, 1998, section 411.06,  
19 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

20 411.06 Florida Parents as Teachers Program.--

21 (1) The Legislature recognizes that the nationwide  
22 Parents as Teachers Program has demonstrated that it is a  
23 cost-effective program that produces outstanding results and  
24 long-term cost savings. There is established the Florida  
25 Parents as Teachers Program under the jurisdiction of the  
26 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., which shall make  
27 funding for the program available to each Children First  
28 Coalition.

29 (2) The purposes of the Florida Parents as Teachers  
30 Program are:

31

1 (a) To provide parents with the latest information on  
2 child development from birth to 5 years of age and suggest  
3 learning opportunities, based on the latest brain development  
4 research, that encourage language and intellectual growth and  
5 the development of physical and social skills.

6 (b) To provide all families within the jurisdiction of  
7 the Children First Coalition with the opportunity to have  
8 their children screened for school readiness, either through  
9 the child's participation in a children first plan program or  
10 by payment of a nominal fee, at the ages of 3 1/2 years and  
11 4 1/2 years.

12 (3) The Florida Parents as Teachers Program shall  
13 include personalized home visits by certified parent educators  
14 trained in child development, to help parents understand what  
15 to expect during each stage of their child's development and  
16 to offer practical tips on how to encourage learning, manage  
17 behavior, and promote strong parent-child relationships. The  
18 program shall also include group meetings, periodic  
19 screenings, a resource network, and followup studies,  
20 including tracking the school readiness screenings  
21 administered after the child is in kindergarten, to measure  
22 school readiness outcomes.

23 Section 10. Effective July 1, 1998, section 402.281,  
24 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 411.08, Florida  
25 Statutes, and subsections (1) and (3) of said section are  
26 amended to read:

27 411.08 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.--

28 (1) As part of the Gold Seal Quality Care program, the  
29 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., ~~department~~ shall  
30 develop a three-tiered quality rating system for school  
31 readiness program ~~subsidized child care~~ providers, with the

1 highest quality rating given to qualified ~~child care~~ providers  
2 who receive the Gold Seal Quality Care designation pursuant to  
3 this section.

4 ~~(3) In developing the Gold Seal Quality Care program~~  
5 ~~standards, the department shall consult with the Department of~~  
6 ~~Education, the Florida Head Start Directors Association, the~~  
7 ~~Florida Association of Child Care Management, the Florida~~  
8 ~~Family Day Care Association, the Florida Children's Forum, the~~  
9 ~~State Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services, the~~  
10 ~~Early Childhood Association of Florida, the National~~  
11 ~~Association for Child Development Education, providers~~  
12 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents, for the~~  
13 ~~purpose of approving the accrediting associations.~~

14 Section 11. Effective July 1, 1998, subsections (4)  
15 through (20) of section 411.202, Florida Statutes, are  
16 renumbered as subsections (5) through (21), respectively,  
17 present subsection (21) is repealed, paragraph (k) of present  
18 subsection (9) is amended, and a new subsection (4) is added  
19 to said section, to read:

20 411.202 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the  
21 term:

22 (4) "Department" means the Department of Children and  
23 Family Services.

24 (10)(9) "High-risk child" or "at-risk child" means a  
25 preschool child with one or more of the following  
26 characteristics:

27 (k) The child is a handicapped child as defined in  
28 subsection (9)(7).

29 ~~(21) "Strategic plan" means a report that analyzes~~  
30 ~~existing programs, services, resources, policy, and needs and~~  
31 ~~sets clear and consistent direction for programs and services~~

1 ~~for high-risk pregnant women and for preschool children, with~~  
2 ~~emphasis on high-risk and handicapped children, by~~  
3 ~~establishing goals and child and family outcomes, and~~  
4 ~~strategies to meet them.~~

5 Section 12. Effective July 1, 1998, section 411.203,  
6 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 411.203 High-risk and handicapped;continuum of  
8 comprehensive services.--~~The Department of Education and the~~  
9 ~~Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services shall utilize~~  
10 ~~the continuum of prevention and early assistance services for~~  
11 ~~high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped~~  
12 ~~children and their families, as outlined in this section, as a~~  
13 ~~basis for the intraagency and interagency program~~  
14 ~~coordination, monitoring, and analysis required in this~~  
15 ~~chapter.~~A The continuum of comprehensive services shall be  
16 the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for  
17 services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and  
18 handicapped children and their families, ~~and may be expanded~~  
19 ~~or reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services.~~  
20 ~~Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by~~  
21 ~~intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever~~  
22 ~~is applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based~~  
23 ~~upon applicable eligibility criteria, availability of~~  
24 ~~resources, and interagency prioritization when programs impact~~  
25 ~~both agencies, or upon single agency prioritization when~~  
26 ~~programs impact only one agency.~~ The continuum shall include,  
27 but not be limited to:

28 (1) EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.--

29 (a) Education of the public concerning, but not  
30 limited to, the causes of handicapping conditions, normal and  
31



1 abnormal child development, the benefits of abstinence from  
2 sexual activity, and the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

3 (b) Education of professionals and paraprofessionals  
4 concerning, but not limited to, the causes of handicapping  
5 conditions, normal and abnormal child development, parenting  
6 skills, the benefits of abstinence from sexual activity, and  
7 the consequences of teenage pregnancy, through preservice and  
8 inservice training, continuing education, and required  
9 postsecondary coursework.

10 (2) INFORMATION AND REFERRAL.--

11 (a) Providing information about available services and  
12 programs to families of high-risk and handicapped children.

13 (b) Providing information about service options and  
14 providing technical assistance to aid families in the  
15 decisionmaking process.

16 (c) Directing the family to appropriate services and  
17 programs to meet identified needs.

18 (3) CASE MANAGEMENT.--

19 ~~(a)~~ Arranging and coordinating services and activities  
20 for high-risk pregnant women, and for high-risk children and  
21 their families, with identified service providers.

22 ~~(b) Providing appropriate casework services to~~  
23 ~~pregnant women and to high-risk children and their families.~~

24 ~~(c) Advocating for pregnant women and for children and~~  
25 ~~their families.~~

26 (4) SUPPORT SERVICES PRIOR TO PREGNANCY.--

27 (a) Basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter.

28 (b) Health education.

29 (c) Family planning services, on a voluntary basis.

30 (d) Counseling to promote a healthy, stable, and  
31 supportive family unit, to include, but not be limited to,

- 1 financial planning, stress management, and educational  
2 planning.
- 3 (5) MATERNITY AND NEWBORN SERVICES.--
- 4 (a) Comprehensive prenatal care, accessible to all  
5 pregnant women and provided for high-risk pregnant women.
- 6 (b) Adoption counseling for unmarried pregnant  
7 teenagers.
- 8 (c) Nutrition services for high-risk pregnant women.
- 9 (d) Perinatal intensive care.
- 10 (e) Delivery services for high-risk pregnant women.
- 11 (f) Postpartum care.
- 12 (g) Nutrition services for lactating mothers of  
13 high-risk children.
- 14 (h) A new mother information program at the birth  
15 site, to provide an informational brochure about  
16 immunizations, normal child development, abuse avoidance and  
17 appropriate parenting strategies, family planning, and  
18 community resources and support services for all parents of  
19 newborns and to schedule Medicaid-eligible infants for a  
20 health checkup.
- 21 (i) Appropriate screenings, including ~~to include~~, but  
22 not ~~be~~ limited to, metabolic screening, sickle-cell screening,  
23 hearing screening, developmental screening, and categorical  
24 screening.
- 25 (j) Followup family planning services for high-risk  
26 mothers and mothers of high-risk infants.
- 27 (6) HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES FOR PRESCHOOL  
28 CHILDREN.--
- 29 (a) Preventive health services for all preschool  
30 children.
- 31

1 (b) Nutrition services for all preschool children,  
2 including, but not limited to, the Child Care Food Program and  
3 the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and  
4 Children.

5 (c) Medical care for seriously medically impaired  
6 preschool children.

7 (d) Cost-effective quality health care alternatives  
8 for medically involved preschool children, in or near their  
9 homes.

10 (7) EDUCATION, EARLY ASSISTANCE, AND RELATED SERVICES  
11 FOR HIGH-RISK CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.--

12 (a) Early assistance, including, but not limited to,  
13 developmental assistance programs, parent support and training  
14 programs, and appropriate followup assistance services, for  
15 handicapped and high-risk infants and their families.

16 (b) Special education and related services for  
17 handicapped children.

18 (c) Education, early assistance, and related services  
19 for high-risk children.

20 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND  
21 PARENTS OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.--

22 (a) Nonmedical prenatal and support services for  
23 pregnant teenagers and other high-risk pregnant women.

24 (b) School readiness ~~Child care and Early childhood~~  
25 programs, including, but not limited to, the Florida Parents  
26 as Teachers Program pursuant to s. 411.06, subsidized child  
27 care, licensed nonsubsidized child care, family day care  
28 homes, therapeutic child care, Head Start, and preschool  
29 programs in public and private schools.

30 (c) Parent education and counseling, including the  
31 Florida Parents as Teachers Program.

1 (d) Transportation.

2 (e) Respite care, homemaker care, crisis management,  
3 and other services that allow families of high-risk children  
4 to maintain and provide quality care to their children at  
5 home.

6 (f) Parent support groups, ~~such as the community~~  
7 ~~resource mother or father program as established in s. 402.45,~~  
8 ~~the Florida First Start Program as established in s. 230.2303,~~  
9 ~~or parents as first teachers,~~ to strengthen families and to  
10 enable families of high-risk children to better meet their  
11 needs.

12 (g) Utilization of the elderly, either as volunteers  
13 or paid employees, to work with high-risk children.

14 (h) Utilization of high school and postsecondary  
15 students as volunteers to work with high-risk children.

16 (9) MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES.--

17 (a) Resource information systems on services and  
18 programs available for families.

19 (b) Registry of high-risk newborns and newborns with  
20 birth defects, which utilizes privacy safeguards for children  
21 and parents who are subjects of the registry.

22 (c) Local registry of preschoolers with high-risk or  
23 handicapping conditions, which utilizes privacy safeguards for  
24 children and parents who are subjects of the registry.

25 (d) Information sharing system among the Florida  
26 Partnership for Children First, Inc., the Department of  
27 Children and Family Health and Rehabilitative Services, the  
28 Department of Education, local education agencies, and other  
29 appropriate entities, on children eligible for services.  
30 Information may be shared when parental or guardian permission  
31 has been given for release.

1 (e) Well-baby insurance for preschoolers included in  
2 the family policy coverage.

3 (f) Evaluation, to include:

4 1. Establishing child-centered and family-focused  
5 goals and objectives for each element of the continuum.

6 2. Developing a system to report child and family  
7 outcomes and program effectiveness for each element of the  
8 continuum.

9 (g) Planning for continuation of services, to include:

10 1. Individual and family service plan by an  
11 interdisciplinary team, for the transition from birth or the  
12 earliest point of identification of a high-risk infant or  
13 toddler into an early assistance, preschool program for  
14 3-year-olds or 4-year-olds, or other appropriate programs.

15 2. Individual and family service plan by an  
16 interdisciplinary team, for the transition of a high-risk  
17 preschool child into a public or private school system.

18 Section 13. Effective July 1, 1998, section 411.24,  
19 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 411.24 Short title.--Sections 411.24-411.243 ~~This part~~  
21 may be cited as the "Florida Education Now and Babies Later  
22 (ENABL) Act."

23 Section 14. Effective July 1, 1998, paragraph (a) of  
24 subsection (3) of section 411.242, Florida Statutes, is  
25 amended to read:

26 411.242 Florida Education Now and Babies Later (ENABL)  
27 program.--

28 (3) ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS.--

29 (a) The ENABL program should be directed to geographic  
30 areas in the state where the childhood birth rate is higher  
31 than the state average and where the children and their

1 families are in greatest need because of an unfavorable  
2 combination of economic, social, environmental, and health  
3 factors, including, without limitation, extensive poverty,  
4 high crime rate, great incidence of low birthweight babies,  
5 high incidence of alcohol and drug abuse, and high rates of  
6 childhood pregnancy. The selection of a geographic site shall  
7 also consider the incidence of young children within these  
8 at-risk geographic areas who are cocaine babies, children of  
9 mothers who participate in the WAGES Program, children of  
10 teenage parents, low birthweight babies, and very young foster  
11 children. To receive funding under this section, a  
12 community-based local contractor must demonstrate:

13 1. Its capacity to administer and coordinate the ENABL  
14 pregnancy prevention public education program and services for  
15 children and their families in a comprehensive manner and to  
16 provide a flexible range of age-appropriate educational  
17 services.

18 2. Its capacity to identify and serve those children  
19 least able to access existing pregnancy prevention public  
20 education programs.

21 3. Its capacity to administer and coordinate the ENABL  
22 programs and services in an intensive and continuous manner.

23 4. The proximity of its program to young children,  
24 parents, and other family members to be served by the ENABL  
25 program, or its ability to provide offsite educational  
26 services.

27 5. Its ability to incorporate existing federal, state,  
28 and local governmental educational programs and services in  
29 implementing the ENABL program.

30 6. Its ability to coordinate its activities and  
31 educational services with children first plans and existing

1 public and private state and local agencies and programs, such  
2 as those responsible for health, education, social support,  
3 mental health, child care, respite care, housing,  
4 transportation, alcohol and drug abuse treatment and  
5 prevention, income assistance, employment training and  
6 placement, nutrition, and other relevant services, ~~all of the~~  
7 ~~foregoing~~ intended to assist children and families at risk.

8 7. How its plan will involve project participants and  
9 community representatives in the planning and operation of the  
10 ENABL program.

11 8. Its ability to participate in the evaluation  
12 component required in this section.

13 ~~9. Its consistency with the strategic plan pursuant to~~  
14 ~~s. 411.221.~~

15 9.10. Its capacity to match state funding for the  
16 ENABL program at the rate of \$1 in cash or in matching  
17 services for each dollar funded by the state.

18 Section 15. Effective July 1, 1999, section 402.305,  
19 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 411.305, Florida  
20 Statutes, and paragraph (d) of subsection (2) and subsection  
21 (17) are amended to read:

22 411.305 ~~402.305~~ Licensing standards; child care  
23 facilities.--

24 (2) PERSONNEL.--Minimum standards for child care  
25 personnel shall include minimum requirements as to:

26 (d) Minimum staff training requirements.

27 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure  
28 that all child care personnel and operators of family day care  
29 homes serving at-risk children in a subsidized child care  
30 program pursuant to s. 411.3015 ~~402.3015~~ take an approved  
31

- 1 30-clock-hour introductory course in child care, which course  
2 covers at least the following topic areas:
- 3 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern  
4 child care.
  - 5 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.
  - 6 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
  - 7 d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
8 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills  
9 development.
  - 10 e. Specialized areas, as determined by the department,  
11 for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care  
12 facility.
- 13
- 14 Within 90 days of employment, child care personnel shall begin  
15 training to meet the training requirements and shall complete  
16 such training within 1 year of the date on which the training  
17 began. Exemption from all or a portion of the required  
18 training shall be granted to child care personnel based upon  
19 educational credentials or passage of competency examinations.
- 20 2. The introductory course in child care shall stress,  
21 to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the  
22 study of children.
- 23 3. On an annual basis in order to further their child  
24 care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child  
25 care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the  
26 child care training shall be required to take an additional  
27 approved 8 clock hours of inservice training or an equivalent  
28 as determined by the department.
- 29 4. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified  
30 child care professionals to provide training of child care  
31 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the



1 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community  
2 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be  
3 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when  
4 possible. Other district educational resources, such as  
5 community colleges and vocational-technical programs, can be  
6 designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist  
7 or are determined not to have the capability to meet the  
8 coordination requirements set forth by the department.

9         5. Training requirements shall not apply to certain  
10 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not  
11 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance  
12 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

13         6. The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.  
14 ~~State Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services~~, in  
15 coordination with the department, shall evaluate or contract  
16 for an evaluation for the general purpose of determining the  
17 status of and means to improve staff training requirements and  
18 testing procedures. ~~The evaluation shall be completed by~~  
19 ~~October 1, 1992, and conducted every 2 years thereafter. The~~  
20 ~~evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, determining~~  
21 ~~the availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff~~  
22 ~~training; determining the need for specialty training; and~~  
23 ~~determining ways to increase inservice training and ways to~~  
24 ~~increase the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of~~  
25 ~~current and proposed staff training. The evaluation~~  
26 ~~methodology shall include a reliable and valid survey of child~~  
27 ~~care personnel.~~

28         7. The child care operator shall be required to take  
29 basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5  
30 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory  
31 training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

1           ~~(17) CHILD CARE TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL.-- There is~~  
2 ~~hereby created a child care technical review panel, appointed~~  
3 ~~by the Chair of the State Coordinating Council for Early~~  
4 ~~Childhood Services, established by s. 411.222, to develop~~  
5 ~~recommendations for inclusion, unedited, in the State~~  
6 ~~Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services annual~~  
7 ~~report as required by s. 411.222(4)(f), and provide technical~~  
8 ~~assistance to the department for the adoption of rules for~~  
9 ~~licensing child care facilities in accordance with the minimum~~  
10 ~~standards established in this section. The review panel must~~  
11 ~~consist of seven members, five of whom must be:~~

12           ~~(a) An owner or operator of a subsidized child care~~  
13 ~~facility;~~

14           ~~(b) An owner or operator of a proprietary child care~~  
15 ~~facility;~~

16           ~~(c) An owner or operator of a licensed church child~~  
17 ~~care facility;~~

18           ~~(d) A child care provider that has attained a child~~  
19 ~~development associate credential; and~~

20           ~~(e) A child care provider that has attained a child~~  
21 ~~care professional credential.~~

22  
23 ~~The initial technical review panel members must be appointed~~  
24 ~~by October 1, 1992, for a term of 3 years. No member shall~~  
25 ~~serve more than two consecutive terms.~~

26           Section 16. Effective July 1, 1999, section 402.3052,  
27 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 411.3052, Florida  
28 Statutes, and subsection (1) is amended to read:

29           411.3052 ~~402.3052~~ Child development associate training  
30 grants program.--

31

1 (1) There is ~~hereby~~ created the child development  
2 associate training grants program within the department.

3 ~~(a)~~ The purpose of the child development associate  
4 training grants program is to provide child care personnel who  
5 work in a licensed child care facility or public or ~~and~~  
6 nonpublic preschool program for children 5 years of age or  
7 under an opportunity to receive a child development associate  
8 credential, or its equivalent, and to receive other training  
9 to enhance their skills. The department shall administer the  
10 program in consultation with the Florida Partnership for  
11 Children First, Inc.

12 ~~(b) The State Coordinating Council for Early Childhood~~  
13 ~~Services shall serve in an advisory capacity to the department~~  
14 ~~in the implementation of the training program.~~

15 Section 17. Effective July 1, 1998, paragraph (c) of  
16 subsection (9) of section 20.19, Florida Statutes, is amended  
17 to read:

18 20.19 Department of Children and Family  
19 Services.--There is created a Department of Children and  
20 Family Services.

21 (9) DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR.--

22 (c) The duties of the district administrator include,  
23 but are not limited to:

24 1. Ensuring jointly with the health and human services  
25 board that the administration of all service programs is  
26 carried out in conformity with state and federal laws, rules,  
27 and regulations, statewide service plans, and any other  
28 policies, procedures, and guidelines established by the  
29 secretary.

30 2. Administering the offices of the department within  
31 the district and directing and coordinating all personnel,

1 facilities, and programs of the department located in that  
2 district, except as otherwise provided herein.

3 3. Applying standard information, referral, intake,  
4 diagnostic and evaluation, and case management procedures  
5 established by the secretary. Such procedures shall include,  
6 but are not limited to, a protective investigation system for  
7 dependency programs serving abandoned, abused, and neglected  
8 children.

9 4. Centralizing to the greatest extent possible the  
10 administrative functions associated with the provision of  
11 services of the department within the district.

12 5. Coordinating the services provided by the  
13 department in the district with those of other districts, with  
14 the Secretary of Juvenile Justice, the district juvenile  
15 justice manager, and public and private agencies that provide  
16 health, social, educational, or rehabilitative services within  
17 the district. Such coordination of services includes  
18 cooperation with the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
19 Inc., and the Children First Coalitions ~~superintendent of each~~  
20 ~~school district in the department's service district~~ to  
21 achieve the first state education goal, readiness to start  
22 school.

23 6. Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
24 appointing all personnel within the district. The district  
25 administrator and the secretary shall jointly appoint the  
26 superintendent of each institution under the jurisdiction of  
27 the department within the district.

28 7. Establishing, with the approval of the health and  
29 human services board, such policies and procedures as may be  
30 required to discharge his or her duties and implement and  
31

1 conform the policies, procedures, and guidelines established  
2 by the secretary to the needs of the district.

3 8. Transferring up to 10 percent of the total district  
4 budget, with the approval of the secretary, to maximize  
5 effective program delivery, the provisions of ss. 216.292 and  
6 216.351 notwithstanding.

7 Section 18. Effective July 1, 1999, paragraph (a) of  
8 subsection (3) of section 229.591, Florida Statutes, is  
9 amended to read:

10 229.591 Comprehensive revision of Florida's system of  
11 school improvement and education accountability.--

12 (3) EDUCATION GOALS.--The state as a whole shall work  
13 toward the following goals:

14 (a) Readiness to start school.--Communities and  
15 schools cooperate with Children First Coalitions and the  
16 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,~~collaborate~~ to  
17 prepare children and families for children's success in  
18 school.

19 Section 19. Effective July 1, 1999, paragraph (a) of  
20 subsection (1) of section 232.01, Florida Statutes, is amended  
21 to read:

22 232.01 School attendance.--

23 (1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6  
24 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February  
25 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but  
26 who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as  
27 hereinafter provided, are required to attend school regularly  
28 during the entire school term.

29 2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years  
30 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for  
31

1 admission to public kindergartens during that school year  
2 under rules prescribed by the school board.

3 3. Children who will have attained the age of 3 years  
4 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for  
5 admission to prekindergarten early intervention programs  
6 during that school year as provided in s. 411.04 ~~230.2305~~ or a  
7 preschool program as provided in s. 228.061.

8 Section 20. Effective July 1, 1998, subsection (8) of  
9 section 288.9620, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

10 288.9620 Workforce development board.--

11 (8) By December 1 of each year, Enterprise Florida,  
12 Inc., shall submit to the Governor, the President of the  
13 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
14 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., the Senate  
15 Minority Leader, and the House Minority Leader a complete and  
16 detailed report by the board setting forth:

17 (a) The audit in subsection (9), if conducted.

18 (b) The operations and accomplishments of the  
19 partnership including the programs or entities listed in  
20 subsection (7).

21 Section 21. Effective July 1, 1998, paragraph (b) of  
22 subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida  
23 Statutes, are amended to read:

24 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other  
25 hereditary and congenital disorders, and environmental risk  
26 factors.--

27 (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.--To help ensure access to  
28 the maternal and child health care system, the Department of  
29 Health shall promote the screening of all infants born in  
30 Florida for phenylketonuria and other metabolic, hereditary,  
31 and congenital disorders known to result in significant

1 impairment of health or intellect, as screening programs  
2 accepted by current medical practice become available and  
3 practical in the judgment of the department. The department  
4 shall also promote the identification and screening of all  
5 infants born in this state and their families for  
6 environmental risk factors such as low income, poor education,  
7 maternal and family stress, emotional instability, substance  
8 abuse, and other high-risk conditions associated with  
9 increased risk of infant mortality and morbidity to provide  
10 early intervention, remediation, and prevention services,  
11 including, but not limited to, parent support and training  
12 programs, home visitation, and case management.  
13 Identification, perinatal screening, and intervention efforts  
14 shall begin prior to and immediately following the birth of  
15 the child by the attending health care provider. Such efforts  
16 shall be conducted in hospitals, perinatal centers, county  
17 health departments, school health programs that provide  
18 prenatal care, and birthing centers, and reported to the  
19 Office of Vital Statistics.

20 (b) Postnatal screening.--A risk factor analysis using  
21 the department's designated risk assessment instrument shall  
22 also be conducted as part of the medical screening process  
23 upon the birth of a child and submitted to the department's  
24 Office of Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes  
25 provided for in this chapter. The department's screening  
26 process for risk assessment shall include a scoring mechanism  
27 and procedures that establish thresholds for notification,  
28 further assessment, referral, and eligibility for services by  
29 professionals or paraprofessionals consistent with the level  
30 of risk. Procedures for developing and using the screening  
31 instrument, notification, referral, and care coordination

1 services, reporting requirements, management information, and  
2 maintenance of a computer-driven registry in the Office of  
3 Vital Statistics which ensures privacy safeguards must be  
4 consistent with the provisions and plans established under  
5 chapter 411, Pub. L. No. 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures  
6 established for reporting information and maintaining a  
7 confidential registry must include a mechanism for a  
8 centralized information depository at the state and county  
9 levels. The department shall coordinate with existing risk  
10 assessment systems and information registries. The department  
11 must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the  
12 screening information registry is integrated with the  
13 department's automated data systems, including the Florida  
14 On-line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system.  
15 Tests and screenings must be performed at such times and in  
16 such manner as is prescribed by the department after  
17 consultation with the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
18 Inc., and the Genetics and Infant Screening Advisory Council  
19 ~~and the State Coordinating Council for Early Childhood~~  
20 ~~Services.~~

21 (2) RULES.--After consultation with the Genetics and  
22 Infant Screening Advisory Council, the department shall adopt  
23 and enforce rules requiring that every infant born in this  
24 state shall, prior to becoming 2 weeks of age, be subjected to  
25 a test for phenylketonuria and, at the appropriate age, be  
26 tested for such other metabolic diseases and hereditary or  
27 congenital disorders as the department may deem necessary from  
28 time to time. After consultation with the Florida Partnership  
29 for Children First, Inc.,~~State Coordinating Council for Early~~  
30 ~~Childhood Services,~~the department shall also adopt and  
31 enforce rules requiring every infant born in this state to be



1 screened for environmental risk factors that place children  
2 and their families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality,  
3 and other negative outcomes. The department shall adopt such  
4 additional rules as are found necessary for the administration  
5 of this section, including rules relating to the methods used  
6 and time or times for testing as accepted medical practice  
7 indicates, rules relating to charging and collecting fees for  
8 screenings authorized by this section, and rules requiring  
9 mandatory reporting of the results of tests and screenings for  
10 these conditions to the department.

11 Section 22. Effective July 1, 1998, paragraph (c) of  
12 subsection (2) of section 397.901, Florida Statutes, is  
13 amended to read:

14 397.901 Prototype juvenile addictions receiving  
15 facilities.--

16 (2)

17 (c) The department may implement the prototype  
18 juvenile addictions receiving facilities component of the  
19 emergency assessment and specialized treatment services within  
20 resources appropriated for this purpose.

21 1. Using the criteria provided in this section, the  
22 department shall evaluate and select the service providers and  
23 sites to be funded initially.

24 2. An independent third-party evaluation of the  
25 prototypes must be conducted ~~in accordance with the principles~~  
26 ~~and procedures specified in s. 411.204~~, pursuant to a contract  
27 entered into prior to the prototype selection to ensure  
28 integrity of the evaluation design, ongoing monitoring and  
29 periodic review of progress, and a timely, comprehensive  
30 evaluation report. The evaluation report must include process  
31 and outcome data, and must be submitted to the Governor, the

1 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
2 Representatives, the department, and appropriate substantive  
3 committees and subcommittees of the Legislature within 1 year  
4 after startup and annually thereafter for 5 years. Five years  
5 after the prototype juvenile addictions receiving facilities  
6 and the independent evaluation are funded and operational, a  
7 5-year retrospective report must be submitted on the impact of  
8 the addictions receiving facility modality upon treatment  
9 outcomes and sustained recovery of the participants.

10 Section 23. Effective July 1, 1999, section 414.027,  
11 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 414.027 WAGES Program statewide implementation plan.--

13 (1) The WAGES Program State Board of Directors shall  
14 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, ~~and~~ the  
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Florida  
16 Partnership for Children First, Inc., a statewide plan for  
17 implementing the WAGES Program established under this chapter.

18 At a minimum, the statewide implementation plan must include:

19 (a) Performance standards, measurement criteria, and  
20 contract guidelines for all services provided under the WAGES  
21 Program whether by state employees or contract providers.

22 (b) Directives for creating and chartering local WAGES  
23 coalitions to plan and coordinate the delivery of services  
24 under the WAGES Program at the local level.

25 (c) The approval of the implementation plans submitted  
26 by local WAGES coalitions.

27 (d) Recommendations for clarifying, or if necessary,  
28 modifying the roles of the state agencies charged with  
29 implementing the WAGES Program so that all unnecessary  
30 duplication is eliminated.

31

1 (e) Recommendations for modifying compensation and  
2 incentive programs for state employees in order to achieve the  
3 performance outcomes necessary for successful implementation  
4 of the WAGES Program.

5 (f) Criteria for allocating WAGES Program resources to  
6 local WAGES coalitions. Such criteria must include weighting  
7 factors that reflect the relative degree of difficulty  
8 associated with securing employment placements for specific  
9 subsets of the welfare transition caseload.

10 (g) The development of a performance-based payment  
11 structure to be used for all WAGES Program services, which  
12 takes into account the following:

- 13 1. The degree of difficulty associated with placing a  
14 WAGES Program participant in a job;
- 15 2. The quality of the placement with regard to salary,  
16 benefits, and opportunities for advancement; and
- 17 3. The employee's retention of the placement.

18  
19 The payment structure shall provide not more than 40 percent  
20 of the cost of services provided to a WAGES participant prior  
21 to placement, 50 percent upon employment placement, and 10  
22 percent if employment is retained for at least 6 months. The  
23 payment structure should provide bonus payments to providers  
24 that experience notable success in achieving long-term job  
25 retention with WAGES Program participants. The board shall  
26 consult with the Enterprise Florida workforce development  
27 board and the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., in  
28 developing the WAGES Program statewide implementation plan.

29 (2) The board of directors shall update the statewide  
30 implementation plan annually and submit quarterly progress  
31 reports to the Governor, the President of the Senate, ~~and~~ the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Florida  
2 Partnership for Children First, Inc. The annual updated plan  
3 must contain proposals for implementing the goals and  
4 objectives of the WAGES Program during the succeeding 3-year  
5 period.

6 Section 24. Effective July 1, 1999, section 414.028,  
7 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 414.028 Local WAGES coalitions.--The WAGES Program  
9 State Board of Directors shall create and charter local WAGES  
10 coalitions to plan and coordinate the delivery of services  
11 under the WAGES Program at the local level. The boundaries of  
12 the service area for a local WAGES coalition shall conform to  
13 the boundaries of the service area for the regional workforce  
14 development board established under the Enterprise Florida  
15 workforce development board. The local delivery of services  
16 under the WAGES Program shall be coordinated, to the maximum  
17 extent possible, with the Children First Coalition and the  
18 local services and activities of the local service providers  
19 designated by the regional workforce development boards.

20 (1)(a) Each local WAGES coalition must have a minimum  
21 of 11 members, of which at least one-half must be from the  
22 business community. The composition of the coalition  
23 membership must generally reflect the racial, gender, and  
24 ethnic diversity of the community as a whole. All members  
25 shall be appointed to 3-year terms. The membership of each  
26 coalition must include:

27 1. Representatives of the principal entities that  
28 provide funding for the employment, education, training, and  
29 social service programs that are operated in the service area,  
30 including, but not limited to, representatives of local  
31

1 government, the regional workforce development board, and the  
2 United Way.

3 2. A representative of the health and human services  
4 board.

5 3. A representative of a community development board.

6 4. Three representatives of the business community who  
7 represent a diversity of sizes of businesses.

8 5. Representatives of other local planning,  
9 coordinating, or service-delivery entities.

10 6. A representative of a grassroots community or  
11 economic development organization that serves the poor of the  
12 community.

13 (b) A representative of an agency or entity that could  
14 benefit financially from funds appropriated under the WAGES  
15 Program may not be a member of a local WAGES coalition.

16 (c) A member of the board of a public or private  
17 educational institution may not serve as a member of a local  
18 WAGES coalition.

19 (d) A representative of any county or municipal  
20 governing body that elects to provide services through the  
21 local WAGES coalition shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member  
22 of the coalition.

23 (2) A local WAGES coalition and a regional workforce  
24 development board may be combined into one board if the  
25 membership complies with subsection (1), and if the membership  
26 of the combined board meets the requirements of Pub. L. No.  
27 97-300, the federal Job Training Partnership Act, as amended,  
28 and with any law delineating the membership requirements for  
29 the regional workforce development boards. Notwithstanding  
30 paragraph (1)(b), in a region in which the duties of the two  
31 boards are combined, a person may be a member of the WAGES

1 coalition even if the member, or the member's principal, could  
2 benefit financially from transactions of the coalition.  
3 However, members must recuse themselves from voting on all  
4 matters from which they or their principals could benefit  
5 financially. Failure to recuse on any such vote will  
6 constitute grounds for immediate removal from the local WAGES  
7 coalition.

8 (3) The statewide implementation plan prepared by the  
9 WAGES Program State Board of Directors shall prescribe and  
10 publish the process for chartering the local WAGES coalitions.

11 (4) Each local WAGES coalition shall perform the  
12 planning, coordination, and oversight functions specified in  
13 the statewide implementation plan, including, but not limited  
14 to:

15 (a) Developing a program and financial plan to achieve  
16 the performance outcomes specified by the WAGES Program State  
17 Board of Directors for current and potential program  
18 participants in the service area. The plan must reflect the  
19 recommendation of the Children First Coalition regarding the  
20 needs of service areas for seed money to create programs that  
21 assist children of WAGES participants.

22 (b) Developing a funding strategy to implement the  
23 program and financial plan which incorporates resources from  
24 all principal funding sources.

25 (c) Identifying employment, service, and support  
26 resources in the community which may be used to fulfill the  
27 performance outcomes of the WAGES Program.

28 (d) In cooperation with the regional workforce  
29 development board and the Children First Coalition,  
30 coordinating the implementation of one-stop career centers.

31

1 (e) Advising the Department of Children and Family  
2 Services and the Department of Labor and Employment Security  
3 with respect to the competitive procurement of services under  
4 the WAGES Program.

5 (f) Selecting an entity to administer the program and  
6 financial plan, such as a unit of a political subdivision  
7 within the service area, a not-for-profit private organization  
8 or corporation, or any other entity agreed upon by the local  
9 WAGES coalition.

10 (5) The WAGES Program State Board of Directors may not  
11 approve the program and financial plan of a local coalition  
12 unless the plan has the approval of the Florida Partnership  
13 for Children First, Inc., as consistent with the applicable  
14 children first plan, and provides a teen pregnancy prevention  
15 component that includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a  
16 plan for implementing the Florida Education Now and Babies  
17 Later (ENABL) program under s. 411.242 and the Teen Pregnancy  
18 Prevention Community Initiative within each segment of the  
19 service area in which the childhood birth rate is higher than  
20 the state average. Each local WAGES coalition is authorized to  
21 fund community-based welfare prevention and reduction  
22 initiatives that increase the support provided by noncustodial  
23 parents to their welfare-dependent children and are consistent  
24 with program and financial guidelines developed by the WAGES  
25 Program State Board of Directors and the Commission on  
26 Responsible Fatherhood. These initiatives may include, but are  
27 not limited to, improved paternity establishment, work  
28 activities for noncustodial parents, and programs aimed at  
29 decreasing out-of-wedlock pregnancies, encouraging the  
30 involvement of fathers with their children, and increasing  
31 child-support payments.

1 (6) Local employees of the department and the  
2 Department of Labor and Employment Security shall provide  
3 staff support for the local WAGES coalitions. At the option of  
4 the local WAGES coalition, staff support may be provided by  
5 another agency or entity if it can be provided at no cost to  
6 the state and if the support is not provided by an agency or  
7 other entity that could benefit financially from funds  
8 appropriated to implement the WAGES Program.

9 (7) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no  
10 cause of action of any nature shall arise against, any member  
11 of a local WAGES coalition or its employees or agents for any  
12 lawful action taken by them in the performance of their powers  
13 and duties under this section and s. 414.029.

14 Section 25. Effective July 1, 1999, subsections (1)  
15 and (2) of section 414.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to  
16 read:

17 414.055 One-stop career centers.--

18 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that one-stop  
19 career centers developed by community coalitions or  
20 public/private partnerships that involve the business  
21 community, educational institutions, governmental entities,  
22 Children First Coalitions, and community-based organizations  
23 should be the principal service-delivery mechanism for  
24 services associated with the WAGES Program, employment  
25 services, and workforce development.

26 (2) Local WAGES coalitions and regional workforce  
27 boards, in consultation with Children First Coalitions and the  
28 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., must coordinate  
29 the planning and implementation of one-stop career centers and  
30 services so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of services  
31 and facilities.



1 Section 26. Effective July 1, 1999, subsection (2) of  
2 section 414.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 414.22 Transitional education and training.--In order  
4 to assist current and former participants in continuing their  
5 training and upgrading their skills, education, or training,  
6 support services may be provided to a participant for up to 2  
7 years after the participant is no longer eligible to  
8 participate in the program. This section does not constitute  
9 an entitlement to transitional education and training. If  
10 funds are not sufficient to provide services under this  
11 section, the Department of Labor and Employment Security may  
12 limit or otherwise prioritize transitional education and  
13 training.

14 (2) The Department of Labor and Employment Security,  
15 in consultation with the Florida Partnership for Children  
16 First, Inc., may authorize child care or other support  
17 services in addition to services provided in conjunction with  
18 employment. For example, a participant who is employed full  
19 time may receive subsidized child care related to that  
20 employment and may also receive additional subsidized child  
21 care in conjunction with training to upgrade the participant's  
22 skills.

23 Section 27. Effective July 1, 1999, subsection (4) of  
24 section 446.601, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 446.601 Short title; legislative intent.--

26 (4) The workforce development strategy shall be  
27 designed by the workforce development board ~~Enterprise Florida~~  
28 ~~Jobs and Education Partnership~~ pursuant to s. 228.9620  
29 ~~288.0475~~, and shall be centered around the four integrated  
30 strategic components of One-Stop Career Centers,  
31

1 School-to-Work, Welfare-to-Work, and High Skills/High Wage  
2 Jobs.

3 (a) One-Stop Career Centers are the state's initial  
4 customer-service contact strategy for offering every Floridian  
5 access, through service sites, telephone, or computer  
6 networks, to the following services:

- 7 1. Job search, referral, and placement assistance.
- 8 2. Career counseling and educational planning.
- 9 3. Consumer reports on service providers.
- 10 4. Recruitment and eligibility determination.
- 11 5. Support services, including child care and  
12 transportation.
- 13 6. Employability skills training.
- 14 7. Adult education and basic skills training.
- 15 8. Technical training leading to a certification and  
16 degree.
- 17 9. Claim filing for unemployment compensation  
18 services.
- 19 10. Temporary income, health, nutritional, and housing  
20 assistance.
- 21 11. Child care and transportation assistance to gain  
22 employment, in accordance with recommendations of the Florida  
23 Partnership for Children First, Inc., and the Children First  
24 Coalition.
- 25 12. Other appropriate and available workforce  
26 development services.

27 (b) School-to-Work is the state's youth and adult  
28 workforce education strategy for coordinating business,  
29 education, and the community to support students in achieving  
30 long-term career goals, and for ensuring the workforce is  
31

1 prepared with the academic and occupational skills required  
2 for success.

3 (c) Welfare-to-Work is the state's strategy for  
4 encouraging self-sufficiency and minimizing dependence upon  
5 public assistance by emphasizing job placement and transition  
6 support services for welfare recipients.

7 (d) High Skills/High Wage is the state's strategy for  
8 aligning education and training programs with the Occupational  
9 Forecasting Conference under s. 216.136, for meeting the job  
10 demands of the state's existing businesses, and for providing  
11 a ready workforce which is integral to the state's economic  
12 development goal of attracting new and expanding businesses.

13 Section 28. Effective July 1, 1998, subsection (2) of  
14 section 624.91, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 624.91 The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Act.--

16 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds that  
17 increased access to health care services could improve  
18 children's health and reduce the incidence and costs of  
19 childhood illness and disabilities among children in this  
20 state. Many children do not have preventive services  
21 available or funded, and for those who do, lack of access is a  
22 restriction to getting service. It is the intent of the  
23 Legislature that a nonprofit corporation be organized to  
24 facilitate a program to bring preventive health care services  
25 to children, if necessary through the use of school facilities  
26 in this state when more appropriate sites are unavailable, and  
27 to provide comprehensive health insurance coverage to such  
28 children. A goal for the corporation is to cooperate with any  
29 existing preventive service programs funded by the public or  
30 the private sector and to work cooperatively with the Florida  
31 Partnership for Children First, Inc.

1           Section 29. Effective July 1, 1998, subsection (1) of  
2 section 228.061, Florida Statutes, and sections 230.2306,  
3 391.304, 402.26, 402.28, 411.201, 411.204, 411.205, 411.22,  
4 411.221, 411.223, 411.224, 411.23, 411.231, and 411.232,  
5 Florida Statutes, are repealed.

6           Section 30. Effective July 1, 1999, sections 402.47  
7 and 411.222, Florida Statutes, and subsection (9) of section  
8 411.3015, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

9           Section 31. (1) Effective July, 1998, sections  
10 402.301, 402.3015, 402.302, 402.3025, 402.3026, 402.3051,  
11 402.3055, 402.3057, 402.3058, 402.306, 402.307, 402.308,  
12 402.309, 402.310, 402.311, 402.312, 402.3125, 402.313,  
13 402.3135, 402.314, 402.3145, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318,  
14 402.319, and 402.45, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as  
15 sections 411.301, 411.3015, 411.302, 411.3025, 411.3026,  
16 411.3051, 411.3055, 411.3057, 411.3058, 411.306, 411.307,  
17 411.308, 411.309, 411.310, 411.311, 411.312, 411.3125,  
18 411.313, 411.3135, 411.314, 411.3145, 411.315, 411.316,  
19 411.318, 411.319, and 411.45, Florida Statutes, respectively.

20           (2) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
21 shall examine sections 411.301, 411.3015, 411.302, 411.3025,  
22 411.3026, 411.305, 411.3051, 411.3052, 411.3055, 411.306,  
23 411.307, 411.308, 411.309, 411.310, 411.311, 411.312,  
24 411.3125, 411.313, 411.3135, 411.314, 411.3145, 411.315,  
25 411.316, 411.318, 411.319, 411.33, 411.45, and 409.178,  
26 Florida Statutes, and shall recommend to the Legislature no  
27 later than March 1, 2000, amendments that reflect the intent  
28 of this act. Specifically, all statutes relating to licensure  
29 and program standards shall reflect the new school readiness  
30 component requirements, protect health, safety, and sanitation  
31 requirements of children, and provide for the highest quality

1 program with the least governmental intrusion possible. The  
2 Legislature shall review such recommendations during the 2000  
3 Regular Session.

4 Section 32. The Florida Partnership for Children  
5 First, Inc., shall examine s. 402.27, Florida Statutes, and  
6 shall recommend to the Legislature no later than March 1,  
7 1999, amendments that reflect the intent of this act.  
8 Specifically, the partnership shall review how best to  
9 coordinate resource and referral functions to provide the  
10 highest quality services to parents and promote the greatest  
11 support from the private sector.

12 Section 33. There is hereby appropriated from the  
13 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to be  
14 deposited in the Children First School Readiness Trust Fund,  
15 as administered by the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
16 Inc., for fiscal year 1998-1999, the sum of \$1,675,000 for the  
17 purpose of implementing s. 411.01(8)(a), Florida Statutes, as  
18 created by this act.

19 Section 34. There is hereby appropriated from the  
20 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to be  
21 deposited in the Children First School Readiness Trust Fund,  
22 as administered by the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
23 Inc., for fiscal year 1998-1999, the sum of \$500,000 for the  
24 purpose of implementing s. 411.06, Florida Statutes, as  
25 created by this act.

26 Section 35. Except as otherwise provided herein, this  
27 act shall take effect July 1, 1998, if Committee Substitute  
28 for House Bill 4415, relating to children's health, and  
29 Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill  
30 4383, relating to the healthy opportunity for school readiness  
31 voucher program, are adopted, or similar legislation having

1 substantially the same intent and purpose is adopted, in the  
2 same legislative session or an extension thereof.  
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