

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school readiness; creating  
3           the "Children First Act of 1998; renaming ch.  
4           411, F.S.; creating s. 411.01, F.S.; providing  
5           legislative intent relating to early childhood  
6           health care, child care, and education;  
7           providing that early childhood health care,  
8           child care, and education programs shall be  
9           school readiness programs; creating the Florida  
10          Partnership for Children First, Inc. (Children  
11          First Partnership); creating the Children First  
12          Governing Board to operate as the board of  
13          directors of the Children First Partnership;  
14          providing Children First Partnership and  
15          governing board responsibilities and duties;  
16          providing membership of the governing board and  
17          meeting requirements; providing that the  
18          Children First Partnership is subject to public  
19          records and public meeting requirements;  
20          providing for hiring of certain employees;  
21          providing powers as a corporation; providing  
22          for staff of the governing board and Children  
23          First Partnership; requiring the Children First  
24          Partnership to phase in a program meeting  
25          specified requirements; requiring  
26          recommendations to revise provision of services  
27          to children of teenage parents; providing for  
28          establishment of a Children First Coalition in  
29          each county or combination of counties;  
30          specifying services to be provided by  
31          coalitions; providing for designation and

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

1 Children First Coalition and specifying duties;  
2 creating s. 411.05, F.S.; requiring the  
3 Department of Education to adopt the school  
4 readiness screening instruments developed by  
5 the Children First Partnership and to require  
6 their use by the school districts; creating s.  
7 411.06, F.S.; recognizing the nationwide  
8 Parents as Teachers Program; establishing the  
9 Florida Parents as Teachers Program under the  
10 jurisdiction of the Children First Partnership;  
11 providing program requirements; amending and  
12 renumbering s. 402.281, F.S., relating to the  
13 Gold Seal Quality Care program; providing  
14 duties of the Children First Partnership;  
15 amending s. 411.202, F.S.; revising  
16 definitions; amending s. 411.203, F.S.;  
17 revising provisions relating to a continuum of  
18 comprehensive services; amending ss. 411.24 and  
19 411.242, F.S., to conform; amending and  
20 renumbering s. 402.305, F.S., relating to  
21 licensing standards for child care facilities;  
22 providing duties of the Children First  
23 Partnership; removing provisions relating to a  
24 child care technical review panel; amending and  
25 renumbering s. 402.3052, F.S., relating to  
26 child development associate training grants;  
27 providing for consultation with the Children  
28 First Partnership; amending s. 20.19, F.S.,  
29 relating to the Department of Children and  
30 Family Services; requiring cooperation with the  
31 Children First Partnership and Children First

1 Coalitions; amending s. 229.591, F.S., relating  
2 to the school improvement and education  
3 accountability system; conforming school  
4 readiness goals; amending s. 288.9620, F.S.,  
5 relating to the workforce development board;  
6 providing for a report to the Children First  
7 Partnership; amending ss. 232.01, 383.14, and  
8 397.901, F.S., to conform; amending ss.  
9 414.027, 414.028, 414.055, and 414.22, F.S.,  
10 relating to the WAGES Program; providing for  
11 coordination with the Children First  
12 Partnership and Children First Coalitions;  
13 amending s. 446.601, F.S., relating to the  
14 "Workforce Florida Act of 1996"; providing for  
15 coordination with the Children First  
16 Partnership and Children First Coalitions;  
17 amending s. 624.91, F.S., relating to the  
18 "Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Act";  
19 providing a goal to work cooperatively with the  
20 Children First Partnership; repealing s.  
21 228.061(1), F.S., relating to preschool  
22 programs, s. 230.2306, F.S., relating to  
23 prekindergarten children service needs  
24 assessments and accommodation efforts by school  
25 districts, s. 391.304, F.S., relating to  
26 coordination of the developmental evaluation  
27 and intervention program, s. 402.26, F.S.,  
28 relating to legislative intent with respect to  
29 child care, s. 402.28, F.S., relating to Child  
30 Care Plus facilities, s. 411.201, F.S., the  
31 short title for the Florida Prevention, Early

1 Assistance, and Early Childhood Act, s.  
2 411.204, F.S., relating to program evaluation  
3 under the act, s. 411.205, F.S., relating to  
4 rules, s. 411.22, F.S., relating to legislative  
5 intent with respect to prevention and early  
6 assistance, s. 411.221, F.S., relating to  
7 preparation of the prevention and early  
8 assistance strategic plan, s. 411.223, F.S.,  
9 relating to uniform standards for preventive  
10 health care, s. 411.224, F.S., relating to the  
11 family support planning process, and ss.  
12 411.23, 411.231, and 411.232, F.S., the  
13 Children's Early Investment Act, effective July  
14 1, 1998; repealing s. 402.47, F.S., relating to  
15 foster grandparent and retired senior volunteer  
16 services to high-risk and handicapped children,  
17 s. 411.222, F.S., relating to the Offices of  
18 Prevention, Early Assistance, and Child  
19 Development and the State Coordinating Council  
20 for Early Childhood Services and their duties,  
21 and s. 411.3015(9), F.S., relating to  
22 collaborative agreements and plans with respect  
23 to subsidized child care programs, effective  
24 July 1, 1999; renumbering ss. 402.301,  
25 402.3015, 402.302, 402.3025, 402.3026,  
26 402.3051, 402.3055, 402.3057, 402.3058,  
27 402.306, 402.307, 402.308, 402.309, 402.310,  
28 402.311, 402.312, 402.3125, 402.313, 402.3135,  
29 402.314, 402.3145, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318,  
30 402.319, and 402.45, F.S.; requiring amendment  
31 recommendations regarding s. 411.301, F.S.,

1 relating to legislative intent with respect to  
2 child care facilities, s. 411.3015, F.S.,  
3 relating to the subsidized child care program,  
4 s. 411.302, F.S., relating to definitions, s.  
5 411.3025, F.S., relating to public and  
6 nonpublic schools in relation to child care  
7 requirements, s. 411.3026, F.S., relating to  
8 establishment of full-service schools, s.  
9 411.305, F.S., relating to licensing standards  
10 for child care facilities, s. 411.3051, F.S.,  
11 relating to child care market rate  
12 reimbursement and grants, s. 411.3052, F.S.,  
13 relating to the child development associate  
14 training grants program, s. 411.3055, F.S.,  
15 relating to child care personnel requirements,  
16 s. 411.306, F.S., relating to designation of  
17 the licensing agency and dissemination of  
18 information, s. 411.307, F.S., relating to  
19 approval of the licensing agency, s. 411.308,  
20 F.S., relating to issuance of a license, s.  
21 411.309, F.S., relating to provisional  
22 licenses, s. 411.310, F.S., relating to  
23 disciplinary actions, s. 411.311, F.S.,  
24 relating to inspection of facilities, s.  
25 411.312, F.S., relating to injunctive relief,  
26 s. 411.3125, F.S., relating to display and  
27 appearance of license, s. 411.313, F.S.,  
28 relating to family day care homes, s. 411.3135,  
29 F.S., relating to the subsidized child care  
30 case management program, s. 411.314, F.S.,  
31 relating to supportive services, s. 411.3145,

1 F.S., relating to the subsidized child care  
2 transportation program, s. 411.315, F.S.,  
3 relating to funding and license fees, s.  
4 411.316, F.S., relating to exemptions, s.  
5 411.318, F.S., relating to prohibited  
6 advertisement, s. 411.319, F.S., relating to  
7 penalties, s. 411.33, F.S., relating to  
8 authority to charge fees, s. 411.45, F.S.,  
9 relating to the community resource mother or  
10 father program, and s. 409.178, F.S., relating  
11 to the Child Care Partnership Act, by March 1,  
12 2000; requiring legislative review of such  
13 recommendations; requiring review of s. 402.27,  
14 F.S., by March 1, 1999, and recommendation to  
15 the Legislature regarding optimal coordination  
16 of resource and referral functions; providing  
17 appropriations; providing effective dates.

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

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

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

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

1           WHEREAS, we can make great strides to improve school  
2 readiness by addressing child care, child health, and school  
3 readiness education in one single, accountable continuum, NOW,  
4 THEREFORE,

5  
6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

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

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

15           411.01 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.;  
16 Children First Coalitions.--

17           (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

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

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



1           (b) Recognizing that high-quality early childhood  
2 health care, child care, and education experiences increase  
3 children's chances of educational success and reduce the need  
4 for costly future intervention and remediation, it is the  
5 intent of the Legislature that all children in Florida, from  
6 birth until they are ready for school, have access to quality  
7 early childhood health care, child care, and education to  
8 enhance their readiness to succeed in school.

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

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

28           (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that all early  
29 childhood health care, child care, and education programs and  
30 services serving Florida children in the first 5 years of life  
31 or until the child attains school readiness, whichever is

1 later, are considered school readiness programs. The  
2 Legislature finds that despite the efforts of hundreds of  
3 thousands of Floridians and increased collaboration among  
4 service providers, services for young children remain  
5 uncoordinated, uneven in quality, and inaccessible to many. It  
6 is the intent of the Legislature that a true continuum of  
7 high-quality, coordinated, and comprehensive early childhood  
8 health care, child care, and education be available to all  
9 children from birth to 5 years of age or until the child  
10 attains school readiness, whichever is later.

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

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

30 (3) CHILDREN FIRST GOVERNING BOARD.--  
31

1           (a) There is created a Children First Governing Board  
2 to operate as the board of directors of the Florida  
3 Partnership for Children First, Inc., with responsibility for  
4 adopting and maintaining coordinated programmatic,  
5 administrative, and fiscal policies and a common set of early  
6 childhood health care, child care, and education standards for  
7 all school readiness programs, while allowing a wide range of  
8 programmatic flexibility and differentiation. The governing  
9 board shall determine guidelines for granting programmatic  
10 waivers to any of its policies and standards. The governing  
11 board shall establish goals for early childhood development  
12 leading to school readiness and policies that lead to the  
13 achievement of these goals, including strict oversight of  
14 their implementation. The governing board shall develop a  
15 strategic plan for accomplishing these goals.

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

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

31

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

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

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

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

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

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

28           2. The governing board may take official action by a  
29 majority vote of the members present at any meeting at which a  
30 quorum is present. At the quarterly meetings, a quorum shall  
31 consist of the five members that constitute the executive

1 committee, plus four of the six appointive voting members. At  
2 the monthly meetings, a quorum shall consist of four of the  
3 six appointive voting members.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (4) FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN FIRST, INC.  
28 (CHILDREN FIRST PARTNERSHIP).--

29 (a) The Legislature hereby creates the Florida  
30 Partnership for Children First, Inc. (Children First  
31 Partnership), which shall be a public-private nonprofit

1 organization, which shall be registered, incorporated,  
2 organized, and operated in compliance with chapter 617, and  
3 which shall not be a unit or entity of state government. The  
4 Legislature determines, however, that public policy dictates  
5 that the Children First Partnership operate in the most open  
6 and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. To  
7 this end, the Legislature specifically declares that the  
8 Children First Partnership is subject to the provisions of  
9 chapter 119, relating to public records, and those provisions  
10 of chapter 286 relating to public meetings and records, except  
11 as provided in Committee Substitute for House Bill 4385 or  
12 similar legislation requiring confidentiality of identifying  
13 information about children served.

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

31

1 Services shall establish the terms and conditions of such  
2 lease agreements.

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

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

1 recommending quality standards, the Children First Partnership  
2 shall take into consideration standards consistent with ss.  
3 230.2305 and 402.3015 and the nationally recongnized standards  
4 for early childhood education programs, in conjunction with  
5 the numbers of children needing and eligible for school  
6 readiness program services who are not being served. The  
7 Children First Partnership shall make recommendations  
8 regarding changes in state law, rule, or agency policy that  
9 may assist Children First Coalitions in improving the early  
10 childhood health care, child care, and education of children  
11 from birth to 5 years of age or until the child attains school  
12 readiness, whichever is later.

13 (e) The Children First Partnership shall have all  
14 powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this section,  
15 including but not limited to the power to receive and accept  
16 grants, loans, or advances of funds from any public or private  
17 agency and to receive and accept from any source contributions  
18 of money, property, labor, or any other thing of value, to be  
19 held, used, and applied for the purposes of this section.

20 (f) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
21 shall be an independent nonpartisan body and shall not be  
22 identified or affiliated with any one agency, program, or  
23 group.

24 (g) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
25 shall have a budget, shall be financed through an annual  
26 appropriation made for this purpose in the General  
27 Appropriations Act, and shall be subject to compliance audits  
28 and annual financial audits by the Auditor General.

29 (h) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
30 shall be staffed by an executive director and professional and  
31 support staff and draw upon state agency personnel and



1 resources as needed to implement policy and manage interagency  
2 agreements necessary to create a more coherent system of  
3 school readiness programs for the state's youngest children.

4 (i) The executive director shall serve at the pleasure  
5 of the governing board, shall supervise the affairs and  
6 activities of the Children First Partnership and staff, and,  
7 consistent with the recommendations of the Florida Partnership  
8 for Children First, Inc., and needs of local Children First  
9 Coalitions, shall be responsible for contracting for technical  
10 assistance and support during fiscal years 1998-1999 and  
11 1999-2000 to assist counties in creating Children First  
12 Coalitions and developing local plans.

13 (5) CHILDREN FIRST PROGRAM.--The Children First  
14 Partnership shall implement a program which may be phased in  
15 to:

16 (a) Facilitate the provision of quality early  
17 childhood health care, child care, and education to children  
18 from birth to 5 years of age or until the child attains school  
19 readiness, whichever is later.

20 (b) Provide eligibility criteria for a single sliding  
21 fee scale for all school readiness programs and arrange for  
22 the collection of fees from families in an amount determined  
23 by the governing board in accordance with the following  
24 priority listing:

25 1. Children of participants in the WAGES program who  
26 are the only children eligible for services funded through the  
27 federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

28 2. Children under 5 years of age who are:

29 a. Children determined to be at risk of abuse,  
30 neglect, or exploitation and who are currently clients of the  
31 Department of Children and Family Services.

1           b. Children at risk of welfare dependency, including  
2 children of migrant farmworkers, children of teen parents, and  
3 children from other families at risk of welfare dependency due  
4 to a family income of less than 100 percent of the federal  
5 poverty level. The Children First Partnership shall recommend  
6 to the School Readiness Program Estimating Conference by July  
7 1, 1999, how to convert provision of services to children of  
8 teenage parents, as prescribed in s. 230.23166, to the  
9 children first program and terminate the funding provisions of  
10 s. 230.23166(3)(e).

11           c. Children of working families whose family income is  
12 equal to or greater than 100 percent, but does not exceed 150  
13 percent, of the federal poverty level.

14           3. Children who meet the eligibility requirements for  
15 the prekindergarten early intervention program under s.  
16 411.04(2).

17           (c) In accordance with the parental choice and payment  
18 arrangement provisions of subsection (9), establish  
19 participation criteria that include a single or simplified  
20 point of entry to the school readiness program services system  
21 in each county. These programs shall share the waiting lists  
22 for unserved children so that a count of eligible children is  
23 maintained without duplication. Participation criteria shall  
24 require parents to be provided a choice of school readiness  
25 program settings and locations, including but not limited to  
26 settings and locations in licensed, registered,  
27 religious-exempt, church-sponsored, school-based, or relative  
28 care programs.

29           (d) Partner with Children First Coalitions to provide,  
30 by direct service agreement, contract agreement, or voucher,  
31 school readiness program services meeting standards

1 established by the Children First Partnership and the parental  
2 choice and payment arrangement provisions of subsection (9).

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

6 (f) Establish, with consultation from appropriate  
7 professional organizations, standards and performance measures  
8 for school readiness program services and providers  
9 appropriate to children from birth to 5 years of age or until  
10 the child attains school readiness, whichever is later. The  
11 standards and performance measures must include, at a minimum,  
12 that each coalition's children first plan must:

13 1. Help prepare preschool children to enter  
14 kindergarten ready to learn, as measured by the school  
15 readiness screening instrument.

16 2. Provide extended-day and extended-year services  
17 when needed.

18 3. Provide coordinated staff development and teaching  
19 opportunities.

20 4. Provide expanded access to community services and  
21 resources for families to help achieve economic  
22 self-sufficiency.

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

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

28 (h) Prepare a plan for broadly publicizing and  
29 implementing the system for measuring school readiness in such  
30 a way that all children in children first plan programs or  
31 whose parents or guardians bring them to a children first

1 program location for screening upon payment of a nominal fee  
2 have the opportunity to undergo the screening by 3 1/2 years  
3 of age, with followup screening at 4 1/2 years of age and, for  
4 purposes of evaluation and tracking, assess all kindergarten  
5 screenings of children who have been in children first plan  
6 programs. The plan must include a way to make the screening  
7 and the training required to administer it available to public  
8 and private providers of school readiness programs, and a way  
9 to utilize the Florida Parents as Teachers Program established  
10 pursuant to s. 411.06 or other available methods to make the  
11 screening available for a nominal fee to children who do not  
12 participate in such programs.

13 (i) Establish a method for collecting data from the  
14 screening and establish guidelines for using the data so that  
15 the measurement, the data collection, and the use of the data  
16 serve the statewide goal that all children will be ready for  
17 school. The criteria for determining which data to collect  
18 should be the usefulness of the data to state policymakers and  
19 program administrators in administering programs and  
20 allocating state funds.

21 (j) Develop and implement a plan to publicize the  
22 Children First Partnership, its school readiness expectations,  
23 available school readiness program services, eligibility  
24 requirements for the sliding fee scale, and procedures for  
25 enrollment; and to provide the public with information as to  
26 the details of the programs offered by qualified providers,  
27 performance measures for the programs, and school readiness  
28 outcomes.

29 (k) As appropriate, enter into contracts with one-stop  
30 career centers, local school boards, child care resource and  
31 referral agencies, and other agencies to provide onsite

1 information, referrals, and other services to enhance the  
2 goals of the Children First Partnership.

3 (1) Provide a report on an annual basis to the  
4 governing board, the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, the  
5 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and  
7 the House of Representatives.

8 (6) CHILDREN FIRST COALITIONS.--

9 (a) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
10 shall assist in establishing a Children First Coalition in  
11 each county or combination of counties and shall encourage the  
12 strongest coalitions obtainable. The coalitions shall be  
13 comprised of private nonprofit agencies or a partnership of  
14 public entities, private nonprofit organizations, and  
15 individuals with strong demonstrated interest and leadership,  
16 and shall include the school district or districts and the  
17 existing central agencies for subsidized child care, as well  
18 as parents who are or have been parents of children in the  
19 programs, including parents of children with disabilities.  
20 One Children First Coalition shall be established in each  
21 county, except that two or more counties may join together  
22 under a Children First Coalition, but no more than one  
23 coalition may be established in any county. Each Children  
24 First Coalition shall develop a children first plan to be  
25 submitted to the Children First Partnership for approval. Each  
26 coalition shall provide for the following services as part of  
27 its children first plan:

28 1. Identification of existing public and private  
29 school readiness program services, including services by  
30 public and private employers, and the development of a  
31 resource file of those services. These services may include

1 family day care, public and private child care programs, Head  
2 Start, prekindergarten early intervention programs, services  
3 for children with developmental disabilities, full-time and  
4 part-time programs, before-school and after-school programs,  
5 vacation care programs, parent education, the WAGES Program,  
6 and related family support services. The resource file shall  
7 include, but not be limited to:

8 a. Type of program.

9 b. Hours of service.

10 c. Ages of children served.

11 d. Number of children served.

12 e. Significant program information, including  
13 participation requirements and performance measures.

14 f. Fees and eligibility for services.

15 g. Availability of transportation.

16 2. Establishment of a referral process which responds  
17 to parental need for information and which is provided with  
18 full recognition of the confidentiality rights of parents.  
19 Referrals may not be made to an unlicensed child care facility  
20 or arrangement unless there is no requirement that the  
21 facility or arrangement be licensed.

22 3. Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests  
23 for service tabulated through the internal referral process.  
24 The following documentation of requests for service shall be  
25 maintained by each Children First Coalition:

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

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

29 c. Time category of child care requests for each  
30 child.

31

1           d. Special time category, such as nights, weekends,  
2 and swing shift.

3           e. Reason that the services are desired.

4           f. Name of the employer and primary focus of the  
5 business.

6           4. Provision of technical assistance to existing and  
7 potential providers of school readiness program services.

8 This assistance may include but is not limited to:

9           a. Information on initiating new school readiness  
10 program services and program and budget development and  
11 assistance in finding such information from other sources.

12           b. Information and resources which help current school  
13 readiness program services providers to maximize their ability  
14 to serve children and parents in their community.

15           c. Information and incentives which could help current  
16 or planned school readiness program services offered by public  
17 or private employers seeking to maximize their ability to  
18 serve the children of their working parent employees in their  
19 community, through contractual or other funding arrangements  
20 with businesses.

21           5. Assistance to families and employers in applying  
22 for children first school readiness program subsidy, including  
23 but not limited to funding sources derived from subsidized  
24 child care, Head Start, prekindergarten early intervention  
25 programs, Project Independence, private scholarships, and the  
26 federal dependent care tax credit. Such assistance shall be  
27 designed to ensure that coalition funds are expended in the  
28 manner and for the purpose required by the funding source.

29           6. Within federal reimbursement requirements,  
30 assistance to state agencies in determining the market rate  
31 for school readiness programs.

1           7. Assistance in negotiating discounts or other  
2 special arrangements with program providers.

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

6           a. Type of program.

7           b. Hours of service.

8           c. Ages of children served.

9           d. Fees and eligibility for services.

10          e. Performance and school readiness outcomes.

11  
12 The coalition shall operate under the direction of the Florida  
13 Partnership for Children First, Inc., and shall be responsible  
14 for monitoring all providers' success in achieving the  
15 legislatively mandated performance standards and school  
16 readiness outcome measures. No public funds shall be paid to a  
17 provider unless the provider agrees to allow the coalition  
18 access to fulfill its monitoring responsibilities.

19          (b) As part of its children first plan, each coalition  
20 shall select and designate an entity with demonstrated  
21 capacity in fiscal management to serve as fiscal agent for  
22 receipt of block grant funding and to ensure that coalition  
23 funds are expended in the manner and for the purpose required  
24 by the funding source. The fiscal agent may be either a  
25 for-profit or a not-for-profit private entity, or may be a  
26 public entity that does not also serve as a provider of school  
27 readiness programs. The fiscal agent must be approved by the  
28 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc. The fiscal agent  
29 shall be required to provide all administrative and direct  
30 funding services as determined by the coalition. The cost of



1 these services shall be negotiated between the fiscal agent  
2 and the coalition.

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

6 (d) Each coalition shall assume responsibility for  
7 recommending phasing out duplicative coordinating bodies,  
8 increasing collaboration among service providers, coordinating  
9 services for young children, increasing program quality and  
10 accessibility, and providing a seamless service delivery  
11 system with a true continuum of coordinated school readiness  
12 program services, available to all children under 5 years of  
13 age living in the county or counties.

14 (e)1. Funds appropriated for a county or counties for  
15 the prekindergarten early intervention program, the subsidized  
16 child care program, and other state funded school readiness  
17 programs for preschool children may be transferred to the  
18 county's or counties' Children First Coalition account in the  
19 Children First School Readiness Trust Fund for the purpose of  
20 block grant funding to benefit the Children First Coalition in  
21 implementing its children first plan. Additional funds,  
22 including state appropriated incentive funds, may be placed in  
23 the trust fund for purposes of this paragraph.

24 2. Each coalition shall be eligible to receive block  
25 grant funding from its account in the Children First School  
26 Readiness Trust Fund and programmatic waiver authority if  
27 available, conditioned on the submission of an approved  
28 children first plan designed to increase the number of  
29 children ready to succeed at the time of entry into  
30 kindergarten. The Auditor General shall conduct compliance  
31

1 audits and an annual financial audit of each coalition's block  
2 grant funding.

3 3. To increase school readiness, block grant funding  
4 and programmatic waiver shall be used by the coalitions to  
5 improve health outcomes, increase the availability and  
6 accessibility of school readiness programs, and provide family  
7 support and parent education and development services.

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

9 (a) Children First Coalitions shall receive coalition  
10 initiation grants to develop children first plans, and block  
11 grant funding to implement approved plans designed to enable a  
12 county or counties to achieve the outcomes specified in  
13 subparagraph (6)(e)3. The plans must reflect strategies and  
14 activities for achieving these outcomes through enhancing the  
15 quality of school readiness program services that are adequate  
16 and appropriate for the outcome desired; increasing the level  
17 of services available so that those children in need of  
18 identified services will have access to such services; and  
19 creating incentives to integrate the various systems of  
20 children's school readiness program services so that all the  
21 systems work together as one to achieve the identified  
22 outcomes.

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

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

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

1           2. An assessment of unmet school readiness program  
2 needs for children from birth to 5 years of age and an  
3 assessment of school readiness program needs of children 5  
4 years of age and older.

5           3. An assessment of kindergarten readiness as  
6 administered in the past by the school district or districts,  
7 together with the plans, timeframes, and goals for the  
8 administration of the new school readiness instrument or  
9 instruments to be administered to children in the Children  
10 First Coalition's programs at 3 1/2 years of age and 4 1/2  
11 years of age and to be administered to students in  
12 kindergarten by the school district.

13           4. A method for school readiness program service  
14 systems integration; demonstration of methods for achieving  
15 the outcomes in subparagraph (6)(e)3.; demonstration of  
16 methods for meeting the needs of particular subgroups of the  
17 population, including migrant children, children with special  
18 needs, and minorities; and methods for administering and  
19 maintaining accountability in the integrated systems.

20           (d) Children first plans submitted by a Children First  
21 Coalition shall adhere to the minimum standards established by  
22 the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., and shall  
23 address improvements in the quality of current and new  
24 programs, including but not limited to components for  
25 providing developmentally appropriate curricula; small group  
26 sizes; ratios; increased staff training; and lower staff  
27 turnover rates.

28           (e) Additional areas to be given priority  
29 consideration in any children first plan submitted by a  
30 Children First Coalition include family involvement; business  
31 and private sector involvement; implementation of a single or

1 simplified point of entry and a unified waiting list for  
2 school readiness programs; provision of full-day, full-year,  
3 and night services, where needed and appropriate; and  
4 inclusion of children with disabilities.

5 (f) Children First Coalitions shall integrate  
6 childhood health care, child care, and education systems in  
7 their children first plans, starting with the systems that are  
8 currently most involved in collaboration with each other and  
9 consistent with local needs and priorities.

10 (8) COALITION INITIATION GRANTS; INCENTIVE BONUS;  
11 BLOCK GRANT FUNDING.--

12 (a) Children First Coalitions that are approved by the  
13 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be  
14 eligible for a \$25,000 initiation grant to support the  
15 Children First Coalition in developing its children first  
16 plan. Upon approval by the Children First Partnership of any  
17 coalition's children first plan that clearly shows enhancement  
18 in the quality and standards of the school readiness programs  
19 without diminishing the number of children served in the  
20 programs, the Children First Partnership shall award the  
21 coalition a cash incentive bonus on a per-student served  
22 basis, subject to appropriation.

23 (b) Children First Coalitions that have their children  
24 first plans approved by the Florida Partnership for Children  
25 First, Inc., by July 1, 1999, shall receive children first  
26 block grant funding beginning July 1, 1999, to begin a  
27 phase-in implementation of their children first plans.  
28 Children first block grant funding for these counties shall  
29 continue from year to year consistent with funding so  
30 designated in the General Appropriations Act.

31

1           (c) Beginning in January 1999, the Florida Partnership  
2 for Children First, Inc., shall issue a call for Children  
3 First Coalition initiation grants every 6 months until  
4 Children First Coalitions have been approved for all counties.  
5 Coalitions submitting children first plans that are approved  
6 by the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be  
7 eligible for block grant funding to implement their plans  
8 beginning July 1 following plan approval. Children first block  
9 grant funding shall be made available for these coalitions  
10 contingent upon approval of the children first plans and  
11 legislative appropriations for this purpose. Children first  
12 block grant funding for these coalitions shall continue from  
13 year to year consistent with funding so designated in the  
14 General Appropriations Act.

15           (9)(a) PARENTAL CHOICE; PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT.--The  
16 children first plan shall be provided in a manner that  
17 ensures, to the maximum extent possible, parental choice  
18 through flexibility in children first program arrangements and  
19 payment arrangements, including but not limited to voucher,  
20 contract, and direct service provision. According to federal  
21 regulations requiring parental choice, a parent may choose an  
22 informal child care arrangement.

23           (b) When a voucher is provided, the voucher must bear  
24 the name of the beneficiary and the program provider and, when  
25 redeemed, must bear the signature of both the beneficiary and  
26 an authorized representative of the provider. If it is  
27 determined that a provider has provided any cash to the  
28 beneficiary in return for receiving the voucher, the Children  
29 First Coalition shall refer the matter to the Division of  
30 Public Assistance Fraud of the the Office of the Auditor  
31

1 General for investigation and shall notify the agency  
2 responsible for the funding source.

3 (c) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
4 in consultation with the office of the Comptroller, shall  
5 establish an electronic disbursement system for the  
6 dissemination of funds and vouchers in accordance with this  
7 subsection. Fiscal agents shall fully implement the electronic  
8 disbursement system within 3 years after approval of the  
9 children first plan unless a waiver is obtained from the  
10 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc. The fiscal agent  
11 may charge an administrative fee not to exceed 1 percent of  
12 each voucher to offset administrative costs of the school  
13 readiness program.

14 (10) EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES.--

15 (a) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
16 shall have the responsibility for designing the evaluation and  
17 performance measures to track the effectiveness of the new  
18 children first block grant funding and other funding in  
19 meeting the goals of increasing the quality and accessibility  
20 of school readiness program services. The performance  
21 standards and measurable outcomes established and regularly  
22 reviewed by the Florida Partnership For Children First, Inc.,  
23 under this subsection must also include benchmarks and goals  
24 to measure the impact of state school readiness policies and  
25 programs. Evaluation and performance measures must accommodate  
26 the programmatic flexibility of parental choice settings among  
27 Children First Coalition providers, including but not limited  
28 to settings and locations in licensed, registered,  
29 religious-exempt, church-sponsored, school-based, or relative  
30 care programs.

31

1           (b) Each Children First Coalition shall require that  
2 all school readiness programs that screen children for school  
3 readiness utilize the school readiness screening instruments  
4 developed by the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
5 to accurately reflect school readiness as the primary measure  
6 of performance.

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

10           (11) RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS  
11 SECTION.--The appointive voting members of the Florida  
12 Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be selected no  
13 later than July 15, 1998, and the staff of the Children First  
14 Partnership shall be selected and in place no later than  
15 August 15, 1998. The first full meeting of the Florida  
16 Partnership for Children First, Inc., shall be held no later  
17 than October 1, 1998.

18           (12) PHASE-OUT OF STATE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR EARLY  
19 CHILDHOOD SERVICES.--By December 31, 1998, the State  
20 Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services shall submit  
21 a final report of recommendations regarding early childhood  
22 health care, child care, and education programs to the  
23 Children First Governing Board. The State Coordinating Council  
24 for Early Childhood Services shall cease to exist after  
25 December 31, 1998.

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

28           411.02 Children First Appropriation Allocation  
29 Conference.--Prior to the distribution of any funds pursuant  
30 to s. 411.01(8)(b) or (c), the Children First Governing Board  
31 shall conduct a Children First Appropriation Allocation

1 Conference. Conference principals shall include  
2 representatives of the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
3 Inc., the Department of Education, the Department of Children  
4 and Family Services, the Executive Office of the Governor, the  
5 Director of Economic and Demographic Research, and the  
6 applicable appropriations committees of the Senate and the  
7 House of Representatives. Conference principals shall discuss  
8 the forecasts of numbers of children needing school readiness  
9 programs as determined by the School Readiness Program  
10 Estimating Conference and participate in a joint effort to  
11 develop budget allocation proposals that maximize the  
12 legislative intent of the Children First Act and ensure that  
13 the requirements of the funding sources are met.

14 Section 5. Effective July 1, 1998, paragraph (a) of  
15 subsection (6) of section 216.136, Florida Statutes, is  
16 amended, and subsection (11) is added to said section, to  
17 read:

18 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and  
19 principals.--

20 (6) SOCIAL SERVICES ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.--

21 (a) Duties.--

22 ~~1.~~ The Social Services Estimating Conference shall  
23 develop such official information relating to the social  
24 services system of the state, including forecasts of social  
25 services caseloads, as the conference determines is needed for  
26 the state planning and budgeting system. Such official  
27 information shall include, but not be limited to, subsidized  
28 child care caseloads mandated by the Family Support Act of  
29 1988.

30 ~~2. In addition, the Social Services Estimating~~  
31 ~~Conference shall develop estimates and forecasts of the~~



1 ~~unduplicated count of children eligible for subsidized child~~  
2 ~~care as defined in s. 411.01. These estimates and forecasts~~  
3 ~~shall not include children enrolled in the prekindergarten~~  
4 ~~early intervention program established in s. 230.2305.~~

5 ~~3. The Department of Health and Rehabilitative~~  
6 ~~Services and the Department of Education shall provide~~  
7 ~~information on caseloads and waiting lists for the subsidized~~  
8 ~~child care and prekindergarten early intervention programs~~  
9 ~~requested by the Social Services Estimating Conference or~~  
10 ~~individual conference principals, in a timely manner.~~

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

12 (a) Duties.--

13 1. The School Readiness Program Estimating Conference  
14 shall develop such official information relating to the  
15 state's system of school readiness program services as  
16 described in s. 411.01, including forecasts of school  
17 readiness program needs, as the conference determines is  
18 needed for the state planning and budgeting system. Such  
19 official information shall include but not be limited to  
20 subsidized child care, Head Start, prekindergarten early  
21 intervention, prekindergarten disabilities, Even-Start  
22 literacy, First Start, migrant prekindergarten, and Title I  
23 prekindergarten needs.

24 2. In addition, the School Readiness Program  
25 Estimating Conference shall develop estimates and forecasts of  
26 the unduplicated count of children eligible for school  
27 readiness program services pursuant to s. 411.01.

28 3. The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
29 shall provide information on needs and waiting lists for  
30 school readiness program services requested by the School  
31

1 Readiness Program Estimating Conference or individual  
2 conference principals, in a timely manner.

3 (b) Principals.--The Executive Office of the Governor,  
4 the Director of Economic and Demographic Research, and  
5 professional staff, who have forecasting expertise, from the  
6 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., the Department  
7 of Children and Family Services, the Department of Education,  
8 the Senate, and the House of Representatives, or their  
9 designees, are the principals of the School Readiness Program  
10 Education Estimating Conference. The principal representing  
11 the Executive Office of the Governor shall preside over  
12 sessions of the conference.

13 Section 6. Effective July 1, 1999, section 230.2303,  
14 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 411.03, Florida  
15 Statutes, and amended to read:

16 411.03 ~~230.2303~~ Florida First Start Program.--

17 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT; PURPOSE.--The Legislature  
18 recognizes that the years of a child's life between birth and  
19 the third birthday are critical for fostering intellectual  
20 ability, language competence, physical development, and social  
21 skills. The Florida First Start Program is intended as a  
22 home-school partnership designed to give children with  
23 disabilities and children at risk of future school failure the  
24 best possible start in life and to support parents in their  
25 role as the children's first teachers. The purpose of the  
26 program is to assist parents to achieve their own goals for  
27 education and self-sufficiency and to teach parents how to  
28 foster their child's development in the crucial early years of  
29 life. The program must assist ~~school districts~~ in providing  
30 early, high-quality parent education and support services that  
31 enable the parents to enhance their children's intellectual,

1 language, physical, and social development, thus maximizing  
2 the children's overall progress during the first 3 years of  
3 life, laying the foundation for future school success, and  
4 minimizing the development of disabilities and developmental  
5 problems which interfere with learning.

6 (2) PROGRAM.--There is ~~hereby~~ created the Florida  
7 First Start Program for children from birth to 3 years of age  
8 and their parents. The program must be administered,  
9 implemented, and conducted ~~by school districts~~ pursuant to a  
10 children first plan developed by the Children First Coalition  
11 and approved by the Florida Partnership for Children First,  
12 Inc as provided in this section.

13 (3) PLAN.--~~Each school board may submit to the~~  
14 ~~Commissioner of Education a plan for conducting a Florida~~  
15 ~~First Start Program. Each program plan and subsequent amended~~  
16 program plan shall be developed in cooperation with the  
17 ~~district interagency coordinating council on early childhood~~  
18 ~~services established pursuant to s. 230.2305 and the~~  
19 ~~Interagency Prekindergarten Council for Children with~~  
20 ~~Disabilities, and shall be approved by the commissioner. A~~  
21 ~~district school board's plan must be designed to serve~~  
22 children from birth to 3 years of age who are disabled or at  
23 risk of future school failure and to serve their parents. For  
24 the purposes of this section, the term "children with  
25 disabilities or at risk of future school failure" includes any  
26 child who has one or more of the characteristics described in  
27 s. 411.202(10)~~(9)~~.

28 (4) PLAN APPROVAL.--To be considered for approval,  
29 each program plan, or amendment to a program plan, must be  
30 based on the latest ~~current~~ research findings regarding the  
31

1 growth and development of infants and young children and must  
2 include the following program components:

3 (a) The establishment of parent resource centers  
4 ~~located in neighborhood schools~~. Parent resource centers may  
5 be established in cooperation with and jointly funded through  
6 the community education program established pursuant to s.  
7 239.401 or the Florida Parents as Teachers Program established  
8 pursuant to s. 411.06.

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

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

18 (d) Periodic formal educational and medical screening  
19 for the children.

20 (e) A procedure to help parents identify their goals  
21 for education and self-sufficiency and to monitor their  
22 progress toward achievement of their goals. The program must  
23 provide a referral network to help parents who need special  
24 assistance, for themselves or their children, that is beyond  
25 the scope of this program.

26 (f) Assurances that each ~~school~~ parent resource center  
27 shall be operated in compliance with the recommendations of  
28 the Florida Parents as Teachers Program or staffed by a  
29 coordinator trained in parent education and holding a  
30 bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a major  
31

1 in early childhood education, child development, child  
2 psychology, home economics, social work, or nursing.

3 (g) A method for training parent educators and for  
4 recruiting parent educators ~~from among the families in the~~  
5 ~~school's attendance zone~~. Training for parent educators shall  
6 include, but not be limited to, child growth and development,  
7 health, safety, nutrition, identifying and reporting child  
8 abuse and neglect, developmentally appropriate activities for  
9 young children, and avoidance of income-based, race-based, and  
10 gender-based stereotyping.

11 (h) An inservice staff development component,  
12 including arrangements for staff access to child development  
13 associate certificate training or its equivalent, ~~coordination~~  
14 ~~with local teacher education centers established under s.~~  
15 ~~231.603, and integration with district master inservice plans~~  
16 ~~required under s. 236.0811.~~

17 (i) Coordination with ~~district~~ prekindergarten early  
18 intervention programs and other school readiness programs  
19 ~~servicing preschool children and their families.~~

20 (5) EVALUATION.--The Children First Coalition ~~Each~~  
21 ~~school district~~ shall conduct an annual evaluation of the  
22 effectiveness of the Florida First Start Program in achieving  
23 the performance outcomes established by the Florida  
24 Partnership for Children First, Inc. ~~This evaluation must~~  
25 ~~include assessment of the children's behavior, growth and~~  
26 ~~development, and achievement; the parents' success in meeting~~  
27 ~~their own goals for education and self-sufficiency; and the~~  
28 ~~parents' continued involvement with the education of their~~  
29 ~~children.~~The results of this evaluation must be maintained by  
30 ~~the school district~~ and made available to the public upon  
31 request.

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

15           (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--Each Florida First Start Program  
16 ~~shall district school board that implements a program under~~  
17 ~~this section shall, with the assistance of the district~~  
18 ~~interagency coordinating council on early childhood services,~~  
19 submit an annual report of its program to the Children First  
20 Coalition ~~commissioner~~. The report must describe the overall  
21 program operations, activities ~~of the district interagency~~  
22 ~~coordinating council~~, expenditures, the number of children  
23 served, staff training and qualifications, and evaluation  
24 findings.

25           (8) COORDINATION.--

26           (a) The Florida First Start Program shall be included  
27 under the jurisdiction of the Florida Partnership for Children  
28 First, Inc.,~~State Coordinating Council for Early Childhood~~  
29 ~~Services~~ established pursuant to s. 411.01 ~~411.222~~. The  
30 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,~~council~~ shall  
31 make recommendations for effective implementation of the

1 program and shall advise the Department of Education on needed  
2 legislation, rules, and technical assistance to ensure the  
3 continued implementation of an effective program.

4 (b) ~~Each school district shall develop, implement, and~~  
5 ~~evaluate its program in cooperation with the district~~  
6 ~~interagency coordinating council established under s.~~  
7 ~~230.2305.~~

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

11 Section 7. Effective July 1, 1999, section 230.2305,  
12 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as section 411.04, Florida  
13 Statutes, and amended to read:

14 411.04 ~~230.2305~~ Prekindergarten early intervention  
15 program.--

16 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT; PURPOSE.--The Legislature  
17 recognizes that high-quality prekindergarten education  
18 programs increase children's chances of achieving future  
19 educational success and becoming productive members of  
20 society. It is the intent of the Legislature that such  
21 programs be submitted by the Children First Coalition as part  
22 of the children first plan and comply with performance  
23 measures established by the Florida Partnership for Children  
24 First, Inc., pursuant to s. 411.01. The programs shall  
25 demonstrate that they are developmental, serve as preventive  
26 measures for children at risk of future school failure,  
27 enhance the educational readiness of all children in the  
28 program, and support family education and the involvement of  
29 parents in their child's educational progress. Each  
30 prekindergarten early intervention program shall provide the  
31 elements necessary to prepare children for school, including

1 health screening and referral and a developmentally  
2 appropriate educational program and opportunities for parental  
3 involvement in the program. Each prekindergarten early  
4 intervention program shall administer the screening  
5 instruments for school readiness developed by the Florida  
6 Partnership for Children First, Inc., pursuant to s. 411.01,  
7 in accordance with guidelines of the Children First Coalition.  
8 It is the legislative intent that the prekindergarten early  
9 intervention program not exist as an isolated program, but as  
10 part of the children first plan ~~build upon existing services~~  
11 ~~and work in cooperation with other programs for young~~  
12 ~~children.~~ It is intended that procedures such as, but not  
13 limited to, contracting, collocation, mainstreaming, and  
14 cooperative funding be used by the Children First Coalition to  
15 coordinate the program with Head Start, public and private  
16 providers of child care, preschool programs for children with  
17 disabilities, programs for migrant children, Chapter I,  
18 subsidized child care, adult literacy programs, and other  
19 services. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the  
20 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., oversee  
21 ~~Commissioner of Education seek the advice of the Secretary of~~  
22 ~~Health and Rehabilitative Services~~ in the development and  
23 implementation of performance measures for the prekindergarten  
24 early intervention program and that the Children First  
25 Coalition oversee the coordination of services to young  
26 children. The purpose of the prekindergarten early  
27 intervention program is to assist ~~local communities in~~  
28 ~~implementing programs that will enable all the~~ families and  
29 children in the school district to be prepared for the  
30 children's success in school.  
31



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

20           (a) At least 75 percent of the children projected to  
21 be served by the ~~district~~ program shall be economically  
22 disadvantaged 4-year-old children of working parents,  
23 including migrant children or children whose parents  
24 participate in the WAGES Program. Other children projected to  
25 be served by the ~~district~~ program may include any of the  
26 following up to a maximum of 25 percent of the total number of  
27 children served:

28           1. Three-year-old and four-year-old children who are  
29 referred to the school system who may not be economically  
30 disadvantaged but who are abused, prenatally exposed to  
31

1 alcohol or harmful drugs, or from foster homes, or who are  
2 marginal in terms of Exceptional Student Education placement.  
3       2. Three-year-old children and four-year-old children  
4 who may not be economically disadvantaged but who are eligible  
5 students with disabilities and served in an exceptional  
6 student education program with required special services,  
7 aids, or equipment and who are reported for partial funding in  
8 the K-12 Florida Education Finance Program. These students  
9 may be funded from prekindergarten early intervention program  
10 funds the portion of the time not funded by the K-12 Florida  
11 Education Finance Program for the actual instructional time or  
12 one full-time equivalent student membership, whichever is the  
13 lesser. These students with disabilities shall be counted  
14 toward the 25-percent student limit based on full-time  
15 equivalent student membership funded part-time by  
16 prekindergarten early intervention program funds. Also,  
17 3-year-old or 4-year-old eligible students with disabilities  
18 who are reported for funding in the K-12 Florida Education  
19 Finance Program in an exceptional student education program as  
20 provided in s. 236.081(1)(c) may be mainstreamed in the  
21 prekindergarten early intervention program if such programming  
22 is reflected in the student's individual educational plan; if  
23 required special services, aids, or equipment are provided;  
24 and if there is no operational cost to prekindergarten early  
25 intervention program funds. Exceptional education students  
26 who are reported for maximum K-12 Florida Education Finance  
27 Program funding and who are not reported for early  
28 intervention funding shall not count against the 75-percent or  
29 25-percent student limit as stated in this paragraph.  
30       3. Economically disadvantaged 3-year-old children.  
31

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

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

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

14           (b) An "economically disadvantaged" child shall be  
15 defined as a child eligible to participate in the free lunch  
16 program. Notwithstanding any change in a family's economic  
17 status or in the federal eligibility requirements for free  
18 lunch, a child who meets the eligibility requirements upon  
19 initial registration for the program shall be considered  
20 eligible until the child reaches kindergarten age. If the  
21 program is being offered by the school district, in order to  
22 assist the school district in establishing the priority in  
23 which children shall be served, and to increase the efficiency  
24 in the provision of child care services in each district, the  
25 district shall enter into a written collaborative agreement  
26 with the Children First Coalition.~~other publicly funded early~~  
27 ~~education and child care programs within the district. Such~~  
28 ~~agreement shall be facilitated by the interagency coordinating~~  
29 ~~council and shall set forth, among other provisions, the~~  
30 ~~measures to be undertaken to ensure the programs' achievement~~  
31 ~~and compliance with the performance standards established in~~

1 ~~subsection (3) and for maximizing the public resources~~  
2 ~~available to each program. In addition, the central agency~~  
3 ~~for state-subsidized child care or the local service district~~  
4 ~~of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services shall~~  
5 ~~provide the school district with an updated list of 3-year-old~~  
6 ~~and 4-year-old children residing in the school district who~~  
7 ~~are on the waiting list for state-subsidized child care.~~

8 (3) STANDARDS.--

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

19 (b) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
20 pursuant to s. 411.01 and Department of Education and the  
21 ~~Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services,~~ in  
22 consultation with the Legislature, shall develop a minimum set  
23 of performance standards for publicly funded school readiness  
24 ~~early education and child care~~ programs, including  
25 prekindergarten programs, and a method for measuring the  
26 progress of local school districts and other Children First  
27 Coalition providers ~~central agencies~~ in meeting a desired set  
28 of outcomes based on these performance measures. The defined  
29 outcomes must be consistent with the state's first education  
30 goal, readiness to start school, and must also consider  
31 administrative efficiency measures ~~such as the employment of a~~

1 ~~simplified point of entry to the child care services system,~~  
2 ~~coordinated staff development programs, and other efforts~~  
3 ~~within the state to increase the opportunity for~~  
4 ~~self-sufficiency welfare recipients to become self-sufficient.~~

5 Performance standards shall be developed for all levels of  
6 administration of the programs, including individual programs  
7 and providers, and must incorporate appropriate expectations  
8 for the type of program and the setting ~~in which care is~~  
9 ~~provided.~~

10 (c) The program curriculum must be developmentally  
11 appropriate according to the latest ~~current~~ nationally  
12 recognized recommendations for high-quality prekindergarten  
13 programs.

14 (d) School districts and other Children First  
15 Coalition providers shall utilize the ~~may establish a~~ sliding  
16 fee scale for participants developed by the Florida  
17 Partnership for Children First, Inc.

18 (e) The ratio of direct instructional staff to  
19 children shall be as provided in each coalition's children  
20 first plan as approved by the Florida Partnership for Children  
21 First, Inc. Until such time as the coalition's children first  
22 plan is approved, the ratio of direct instructional staff to  
23 children must be 1 adult to 10 children, or a lower ratio.  
24 Until such time as the coalition's children first plan is  
25 approved, upon written request from a school district, the  
26 commissioner may grant permission for a ratio of up to 1 adult  
27 to 15 children for individual schools or centers for which a  
28 1-to-10 ratio would not be feasible.

29 (f) The minimum staff requirements shall be as  
30 provided in each coalition's children first plan as approved  
31 by the Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc. Until such

1 time as the coalition's children first plan is approved,all  
2 staff must meet the following minimum requirements:

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

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

21 3. When individual classrooms are staffed by  
22 noncertified teachers, there must be a program director or  
23 lead teacher who is eligible for certification or certified  
24 for the appropriate grade levels pursuant to s. 231.17 and  
25 State Board of Education rules in regularly scheduled direct  
26 contact with each classroom. Notwithstanding s. 231.15, such  
27 classrooms must be staffed by at least one person who has, at  
28 a minimum, a child development associate credential (CDA) or  
29 an amount of training determined by the commissioner to be  
30 equivalent to or to exceed the minimum, such as an associate  
31 in science degree in the area of early childhood education.

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

8           5. All personnel who are not certified under s. 231.17  
9 must comply with screening requirements under ss. 231.02 and  
10 231.1713.

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

19           (h) ~~Services are to be provided during a school day~~  
20 ~~and school year equal to or exceeding the requirements for~~  
21 ~~kindergarten under ss. 228.041 and 236.013.~~ Strategies to  
22 provide care before school, after school, and 12 months a  
23 year, when needed, must be developed by the school district ~~in~~  
24 ~~cooperation with the central agency for state-subsidized child~~  
25 ~~care or other Children First Coalition provider~~ the local  
26 ~~service district of the Department of Health and~~  
27 ~~Rehabilitative Services and the district interagency~~  
28 ~~coordinating council.~~ Programs may be provided on Saturdays  
29 and through other innovative scheduling arrangements.

30           (i) The school district or other Children First  
31 Coalition provider must make every reasonable effort ~~efforts~~

1 to meet the first state education goal, readiness to start  
 2 school, including the involvement of other children first plan  
 3 school readiness programs, nonpublic schools, public and  
 4 private providers of day care and early education, and other  
 5 community agencies that provide services to young children.  
 6 This may include private child care programs, subsidized child  
 7 care programs, and Head Start programs. A written description  
 8 of these efforts must be provided to the Children First  
 9 Coalition ~~district interagency coordinating council on early~~  
 10 ~~childhood services~~.

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

24 (k) The Children First Coalition ~~school district~~ must  
 25 coordinate with the ~~central agency for state-subsidized child~~  
 26 ~~care or the~~ local service district of the Department of  
 27 Children and Family ~~Health and Rehabilitative~~ Services to  
 28 verify family participation in the WAGES Program, thus  
 29 ensuring accurate reporting and full utilization of federal  
 30 funds available through the Family Support Act, and for the  
 31



1 agency's or service district's sharing of the waiting list for  
2 state-subsidized child care under paragraph (a).

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

10 (a) ~~The~~ children's achievement as measured by the  
11 school readiness instrument or instruments ~~assessments~~ upon  
12 entry into the program and upon completion of the program. ~~†~~  
13 ~~and~~

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

20 (5) ANNUAL REPORT.--Each prekindergarten early  
21 intervention program under this section shall submit an annual  
22 report of its program to the Children First Coalition ~~district~~  
23 ~~interagency coordinating council on early childhood services.~~  
24 The report must describe the overall program operations;  
25 ~~activities of the district interagency coordinating council on~~  
26 ~~early childhood services;~~ expenditures; the number of students  
27 served; ratio of staff to children; staff qualifications;  
28 evaluation findings, including identification of program  
29 components that were most successful; and other information  
30 required by the Children First Coalition ~~council~~ or the  
31

1 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc ~~state advisory~~  
2 ~~council~~.

3 (6) FUNDING.--

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

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

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

1 district or other Children First Coalition provider ~~and by~~  
2 ~~agencies with which the school district contracts for the~~  
3 ~~provision of prekindergarten services.~~

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

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

18					
19	<u>Children First</u>			<u>Children First</u>	
20	<u>Coalition District</u>	x	1/4	+ <u>Coalition District</u>	x 3/4
21	percentage of state			percentage	
22	3-year-old and			of state total free	
23	4-year-old children			lunches served	
24					

25 The calculation of each Children First Coalition's ~~district's~~  
26 allocation factor is to be based upon the official estimate of  
27 the total number of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children by  
28 school district and the official record of the Department of  
29 Education for K-12 student total free lunches served by school  
30 district for the prior fiscal year.

31

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

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

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

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

20           ~~2. One member who is a director or designated director~~  
21 ~~of a prekindergarten program in the district, appointed by the~~  
22 ~~school board.~~

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

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

29           ~~5. Four members who are representatives of~~  
30 ~~organizations providing prekindergarten educational services,~~  
31 ~~one of whom is a representative of a Head Start Program,~~

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

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

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

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

24 ~~(c) Each district interagency coordinating council~~  
25 ~~shall:~~

26 ~~1. Assist district school boards in developing a plan~~  
27 ~~or an amended plan to implement a prekindergarten early~~  
28 ~~intervention program. The plan and all amendments must be~~  
29 ~~signed by the council chair, the chair of the district school~~  
30 ~~board, and the district school superintendent.~~

31

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

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

5           411.05 School readiness screening instruments.--The  
6 Department of Education shall adopt the school readiness  
7 screening instruments developed by the Florida Partnership for  
8 Children First, Inc., and shall require that:

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

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

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

18           411.06 Florida Parents as Teachers Program.--

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

27           (2) The purposes of the Florida Parents as Teachers  
28 Program are:

29           (a) To provide parents with the latest information on  
30 child development from birth to 5 years of age and suggest  
31 learning opportunities, based on the latest brain development

1 research, that encourage language and intellectual growth and  
2 the development of physical and social skills.

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

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

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

24 411.08 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.--

25 (1) As part of the Gold Seal Quality Care program, the  
26 Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc., ~~department~~ shall  
27 develop a three-tiered quality rating system for school  
28 readiness program ~~subsidized child care~~ providers, with the  
29 highest quality rating given to qualified ~~child care~~ providers  
30 who receive the Gold Seal Quality Care designation pursuant to  
31 this section.

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

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

17           411.202 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the  
18 term:

19           (4) "Department" means the Department of Children and  
20 Family Services.

21           (10)(9) "High-risk child" or "at-risk child" means a  
22 preschool child with one or more of the following  
23 characteristics:

24           (k) The child is a handicapped child as defined in  
25 subsection(9)(7).

26           ~~(21) "Strategic plan" means a report that analyzes~~  
27 ~~existing programs, services, resources, policy, and needs and~~  
28 ~~sets clear and consistent direction for programs and services~~  
29 ~~for high-risk pregnant women and for preschool children, with~~  
30 ~~emphasis on high-risk and handicapped children, by~~

31



1 ~~establishing goals and child and family outcomes, and~~  
2 ~~strategies to meet them.~~

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

5 411.203 High-risk and handicapped;continuum of  
6 comprehensive services.--~~The Department of Education and the~~  
7 ~~Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services shall utilize~~  
8 ~~the continuum of prevention and early assistance services for~~  
9 ~~high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped~~  
10 ~~children and their families, as outlined in this section, as a~~  
11 ~~basis for the intraagency and interagency program~~  
12 ~~coordination, monitoring, and analysis required in this~~  
13 ~~chapter.~~A The continuum of comprehensive services shall be  
14 the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for  
15 services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and  
16 handicapped children and their families, ~~and may be expanded~~  
17 ~~or reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services.~~  
18 ~~Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by~~  
19 ~~intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever~~  
20 ~~is applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based~~  
21 ~~upon applicable eligibility criteria, availability of~~  
22 ~~resources, and interagency prioritization when programs impact~~  
23 ~~both agencies, or upon single agency prioritization when~~  
24 ~~programs impact only one agency.~~ The continuum shall include,  
25 but not be limited to:

26 (1) EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.--

27 (a) Education of the public concerning, but not  
28 limited to, the causes of handicapping conditions, normal and  
29 abnormal child development, the benefits of abstinence from  
30 sexual activity, and the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

31

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

8 (2) INFORMATION AND REFERRAL.--

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

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

14 (c) Directing the family to appropriate services and  
15 programs to meet identified needs.

16 (3) CASE MANAGEMENT.--

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

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

22 ~~(c) Advocating for pregnant women and for children and~~  
23 ~~their families.~~

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

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

26 (b) Health education.

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

28 (d) Counseling to promote a healthy, stable, and  
29 supportive family unit, to include, but not be limited to,  
30 financial planning, stress management, and educational  
31 planning.

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

1 the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and  
2 Children.

3 (c) Medical care for seriously medically impaired  
4 preschool children.

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

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

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

14 (b) Special education and related services for  
15 handicapped children.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (d) Transportation.

31

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

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

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

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

15 (9) MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES.--

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

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

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

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

31

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.

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31