

By the Committee on Education Innovation and  
Representatives Warner, Lynn, Murman, Chestnut, Melvin, Logan,  
Patterson, Alexander, Bush, Bullard and Cantens

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school readiness; creating  
3           s. 411.01, F.S.; providing legislative intent;  
4           providing definitions; creating the State  
5           School Readiness Governing Board; providing  
6           membership requirements, meeting requirements,  
7           public records requirements, and  
8           responsibilities and duties of the governing  
9           board; authorizing the governing board to adopt  
10          rules; providing eligibility requirements for  
11          the school readiness program; requiring  
12          performance standards and outcome measures  
13          developed and approved by the governing board  
14          to meet certain guidelines; providing for the  
15          establishment of a school readiness coalition  
16          in each county; providing membership of the  
17          coalitions; providing for implementation and  
18          phasing-in of the school readiness program;  
19          requiring the development of a plan; providing  
20          for exceptions to law; providing for coalition  
21          initiation grants; providing incentive bonuses;  
22          providing for the funding of the school  
23          readiness program; requiring each coalition to  
24          develop a reimbursement rate schedule for all  
25          programs funded by the coalition; providing  
26          requirements for school readiness agents;  
27          providing for parental choice with respect to  
28          child care arrangements and payments; requiring  
29          the governing board to adopt an electronic  
30          funds transfer system; requiring the Office of  
31          Program Policy Analysis and Government

1           Accountability to provide consultation and  
2           assess outcomes; requiring each coalition to  
3           conduct an annual evaluation and submit a  
4           report to the governing board and requiring an  
5           annual report by the governing board that  
6           includes coalition report information; creating  
7           s. 229.567, F.S.; requiring the Department of  
8           Education to require use by the school  
9           districts of a school readiness screening  
10          system adopted by the governing board; amending  
11          s. 216.136, F.S.; creating the School Readiness  
12          Program Estimating Conference; requiring the  
13          conference to develop information relating to  
14          school readiness programs; specifying the  
15          principals of the conference; amending s.  
16          236.013, F.S.; deleting half-day kindergarten  
17          and prekindergarten disabilities programs from  
18          the FEFP; amending s. 414.026, F.S.; adding the  
19          chair of the State School Readiness Governing  
20          Board to the WAGES Program State Board of  
21          Directors; amending s. 624.91, F.S.; requiring  
22          the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation to work  
23          cooperatively with the State School Readiness  
24          Governing Board; authorizing the Governor to  
25          transfer funds; authorizing the State School  
26          Readiness Governing Board to make staffing  
27          recommendations; providing an effective date.

28  
29           WHEREAS, the voters of the State of Florida, in the  
30          November 1998 General Election, amended Section 1 of Article  
31          IX of the State Constitution to state that it is "a paramount

1 duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education  
2 of all children residing within its borders," and

3 WHEREAS, while the state's public school system  
4 educates the kindergarten through 12th grade population, there  
5 is no adequate provision for an educational component to early  
6 childhood programs for the state's at-risk  
7 birth-to-kindergarten population, NOW, THEREFORE,

8  
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10  
11 Section 1. Section 411.01, Florida Statutes, is  
12 created to read:

13 411.01 School readiness program.--

14 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

15 (a) The Legislature recognizes that school readiness  
16 programs increase children's chances of achieving future  
17 educational success and becoming productive members of  
18 society. It is the intent of the Legislature that such  
19 programs be developmentally appropriate, research-based,  
20 involve parents as their child's first teacher, serve as  
21 preventive measures for children at risk of future school  
22 failure, enhance the educational readiness of eligible  
23 children, and support family education. Each school readiness  
24 program shall provide the elements necessary to prepare  
25 at-risk children for school, including health screening and  
26 referral and an appropriate educational program.

27 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that school  
28 readiness programs be operated on a full-day, year-round basis  
29 to the maximum extent possible to enable parents to work and  
30 become financially self-sufficient.

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1       (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that school  
2 readiness programs not exist as isolated programs, but build  
3 upon existing services and work in cooperation with other  
4 programs for young children, and that school readiness  
5 programs be coordinated and funding integrated to achieve full  
6 effectiveness.

7       (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
8 implementation of a school readiness program be phased in on a  
9 county-by-county basis. Each coalition's school readiness  
10 program shall have available to it funding from all the  
11 county's publicly funded early education and child care  
12 programs, including Florida First Start programs, Even-Start  
13 literacy programs, prekindergarten early intervention  
14 programs, Head Start programs, programs offered by public and  
15 private providers of child care, prekindergarten disabilities  
16 programs, migrant prekindergarten programs, Title I programs,  
17 subsidized child care programs, teen parent programs, and  
18 other services, together with any additional funds  
19 appropriated or obtained for purposes of this section, and  
20 these programs and services shall be a part of the coalition's  
21 integrated school readiness program.

22       (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
23 administrative staff at the state level for school readiness  
24 programs be kept to the minimum necessary to carry out the  
25 duties of the State School Readiness Governing Board, as the  
26 school readiness programs are to be locally designed,  
27 operated, and managed, with the State School Readiness  
28 Governing Board adopting a system for measuring school  
29 readiness; developing school readiness program performance  
30 standards, outcome measurements, and data design and review;  
31

1 and approving and reviewing local school readiness coalitions  
2 and plans.

3 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that  
4 appropriations for combined school readiness programs shall  
5 not be less than the programs would receive in any fiscal year  
6 on an uncombined basis.

7 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
8 school readiness program coordinate and operate in conjunction  
9 with the district school systems. However, it is also the  
10 intent of the Legislature that the school readiness program  
11 not be construed as part of the system of free public schools  
12 but rather as a separate program for children under the age of  
13 kindergarten eligibility, funded separately from the system of  
14 free public schools, utilizing a mandatory sliding fee scale,  
15 and providing an integrated and seamless system of school  
16 readiness services for the state's birth-to-kindergarten  
17 population.

18 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
19 federal child care income tax credit be preserved for school  
20 readiness programs.

21 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

22 (a) "Governing board" means the State School Readiness  
23 Governing Board.

24 (b) "Coalition" means a Local School Readiness  
25 Coalition.

26 (c) "Plan" means a coalition's school readiness  
27 program implementation plan.

28 (3) STATE SCHOOL READINESS GOVERNING BOARD.--The State  
29 School Readiness Governing Board is established in the  
30 Executive Office of the Governor.

31 (a) The governing board shall consist of:

- 1           1. The Lieutenant Governor, or his or her designee.  
2           2. The Secretary of the Department of Children and  
3 Family Services.  
4           3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her  
5 designee.  
6           4. The chair of the WAGES Program State Board of  
7 Directors.  
8           5. The Secretary of Health.  
9           6. The chair of the Child Care Executive Partnership  
10 Board.  
11           7. Five members appointed by the Governor. Four of  
12 the Governor's appointees shall be appointed from a list of  
13 six nominees, of which three have been submitted by the  
14 President of the Senate, and three have been submitted by the  
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members shall be  
16 appointed to 4-year terms of office. However, of the initial  
17 appointees, one shall be appointed to a 1-year term, one shall  
18 be appointed to a 2-year term, two shall be appointed to  
19 3-year terms, and one shall be appointed to a 4-year term. Any  
20 vacancy on the governing board shall be filled in the same  
21 manner as the original appointment.  
22  
23 The appointed members shall be business, community, and civic  
24 leaders in the state who are not elected to public office and  
25 who do not earn their income in the early education and child  
26 care industry. The members must be geographically and  
27 demographically representative of the state. The Governor  
28 shall select a chair and a vice chair, and shall appoint an  
29 executive director, who is responsible for other staff  
30 authorized by the governing board.  
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1           (b) For purposes of administration of the Federal  
2 Child Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. Parts 98 and 99,  
3 the governing board may be designated by the Governor as the  
4 Lead Agency, and if so designated shall comply with the Lead  
5 Agency responsibilities pursuant to federal law.  
6 Additionally, the governing board shall establish a reading  
7 and literacy partnership with the Governor, the Commissioner  
8 of Education, the chairs and ranking minority members of the  
9 appropriate Senate and House education committees, and the  
10 coalitions for purposes of receiving federal Reading  
11 Excellence Act grants, and shall make every attempt to draw  
12 down all available relevant federal funds.

13           (c) The governing board shall meet quarterly and may  
14 meet as often as it deems necessary to carry out its duties  
15 and responsibilities. Members of the governing board shall  
16 participate without proxy at the quarterly meetings. The  
17 governing board may take official action by a majority vote of  
18 the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is  
19 present. The governing board shall hold its first meeting by  
20 October 1, 1999.

21           (d) Members of the governing board are subject to the  
22 ethics provisions in part III of chapter 112, and no member  
23 may derive any financial benefit from the funds administered  
24 by the governing board.

25           (e) Members of the governing board shall serve without  
26 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
27 and travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
28 duties as provided in s. 112.061, and reimbursement for other  
29 reasonable, necessary, and actual expenses.

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1           (f) For the purposes of tort liability, the members of  
2 the governing board and its employees shall be governed by s.  
3 768.28.

4           (g) The governing board shall:

5           1. Be responsible for the prudent use of all public  
6 and private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual  
7 requirements.

8           2. Provide final approval and periodic review of  
9 coalitions and plans.

10           3. Provide leadership for enhancement of school  
11 readiness in this state by aggressively establishing a unified  
12 approach to the state's efforts toward enhancement of school  
13 readiness. In support of this effort, the governing board may  
14 develop and implement specific strategies that address the  
15 state's school readiness programs, and may make  
16 recommendations to the appropriate oversight entity to move  
17 agency staff from other state agencies.

18           4. Seek the most strategic use of federal, state,  
19 local, and private resources to maximize the effectiveness of  
20 school readiness programs.

21           5. Adopt a system for measuring school readiness that  
22 provides objective data regarding the expectations for school  
23 readiness, and establish a method for collecting the data and  
24 guidelines for using the data. The measurement, the data  
25 collection, and the use of the data must serve the statewide  
26 school readiness goal. The criteria for determining which data  
27 to collect should be the usefulness of the data to state  
28 policymakers and local program administrators in administering  
29 programs and allocating state funds, and must include the  
30 tracking of school readiness system information back to  
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1 individual school readiness programs to assist in determining  
2 program effectiveness.

3 6. Develop and adopt performance standards and outcome  
4 measures which meet the requirements of subsection (5).

5 (h) The governing board may adopt rules necessary to  
6 administer the provisions of this section which relate to  
7 preparing and implementing the system for school readiness,  
8 collecting data, approving local school readiness coalitions  
9 and plans, providing a method whereby a coalition can serve  
10 two or more counties, awarding incentives to coalitions, and  
11 issuing waivers.

12 (i) The governing board shall recommend to the  
13 Governor, the Commissioner of Education, and the State Board  
14 of Education rules, and revisions or repeal of rules, which  
15 would increase the effectiveness of programs that prepare  
16 children for school.

17 (j) The governing board shall submit an annual report  
18 of its activities to the Governor, the executive director of  
19 the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, the President of the  
20 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
21 minority leaders of both houses of the Legislature. In  
22 addition, the governing board's reports and recommendations  
23 shall be made available to the State Board of Education, other  
24 appropriate state agencies and entities, district school  
25 boards, central agencies for child care, and county public  
26 health units. The annual report must provide an analysis of  
27 school readiness activities across the state, including the  
28 number of children who were served in the programs and the  
29 number of children who were ready for school. The annual  
30 report shall be submitted in a timeframe that summarizes the  
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1 coalition reports pursuant to subsection (13) and the work of  
2 the School Readiness Program Estimating Conference.

3 (k) The governing board shall work with school  
4 readiness coalitions to increase parents' training for and  
5 involvement in their children's preschool education.

6 (4) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.--The school readiness program  
7 shall be established for children under the age of  
8 kindergarten eligibility. Priority for participation in the  
9 school readiness program shall be given to children who meet  
10 one or more of the following criteria:

11 (a) Children under the age of kindergarten eligibility  
12 who are:

13 1. Children determined to be at risk of abuse,  
14 neglect, or exploitation and who are currently clients of the  
15 Children and Family Services Program Office of the Department  
16 of Children and Family Services.

17 2. Children at risk of welfare dependency, including  
18 economically disadvantaged children, children of participants  
19 in the WAGES program, children of migrant farmworkers, and  
20 children of teen parents.

21 3. Children of working families whose family income  
22 does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

23 (b) Three-year-old children and 4-year-old children  
24 who may not be economically disadvantaged but who have  
25 disabilities, have been served in a specific part-time or  
26 combination of part-time exceptional education programs with  
27 required special services, aids, or equipment, and were  
28 previously reported for funding part time with the Florida  
29 Education Finance Program as exceptional students.

30 (c) Economically disadvantaged children, children with  
31 disabilities, and children at risk of future school failure,

1 from birth to 4 years of age, who are served at home through  
2 home visitor programs and intensive parent education programs  
3 such as the Florida First Start Program.

4 (d) Children who meet federal and state requirements  
5 for eligibility for the migrant preschool program but who do  
6 not meet the criteria of economically disadvantaged.

7  
8 An "economically disadvantaged" child means a child whose  
9 family income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty  
10 level. Notwithstanding any change in a family's economic  
11 status, but subject to additional family contributions in  
12 accordance with the sliding fee scale, a child who meets the  
13 eligibility requirements upon initial registration for the  
14 program shall be considered eligible until the child reaches  
15 kindergarten age.

16 (5) STANDARDS; OUTCOME MEASURES.--

17 (a) All publicly funded school readiness programs  
18 shall be required to meet the performance standards and  
19 outcome measures developed and approved by the governing  
20 board. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
21 Accountability shall provide consultation to the governing  
22 board in the development of the measures and standards. These  
23 performance standards and outcome measures shall be applicable  
24 on a state-wide basis and must:

25 1. Help prepare preschool children to enter  
26 kindergarten ready to learn, as measured by a methodology  
27 adopted by the governing board with input from the Department  
28 of Education.

29 2. Provide extended-day services and extended-year  
30 services when needed.

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1           3. Include a staff development plan to ensure that the  
2 program has qualified professionals.

3           4. Provide for expanded access to community services  
4 and resources, including adult literacy assistance, to help  
5 families achieve economic self-sufficiency.

6           5. Provide for a simplified point of entry and unified  
7 waiting list.

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

10          7. Establish a community plan to address the needs of  
11 all eligible children.

12          8. Meet all state licensing guidelines, where  
13 applicable.

14          9. Assess the developmental status of each child upon  
15 the child's entry into a school readiness program and exit  
16 from the program for the purpose of assisting program  
17 effectiveness determinations.

18  
19 The governing board shall develop a phase-in schedule through  
20 which all publicly funded school readiness programs shall be  
21 measured by these performance standards.

22          (b) All publicly funded school readiness programs  
23 shall be required to implement a comprehensive program of  
24 children and family services that will enhance the cognitive,  
25 social, and physical development of children to achieve the  
26 performance standards and outcome measures specified in  
27 paragraph (a).

28          (6) LOCAL SCHOOL READINESS COALITIONS.--

29          (a) Each coalition shall consist of at least 14  
30 members but not more than 21 members, including the following  
31 local officials:

- 1           1. The Department of Children and Family Services  
2 district administrator or his or her deputy or the equivalent.  
3           2. The district superintendent of schools or his or  
4 her deputy or the equivalent.  
5           3. The regional workforce development board chair or  
6 director, where applicable.  
7           4. The county health department director or his or her  
8 designee.  
9           5. The Children's Services Council chair or executive  
10 director, if applicable.  
11           6. The child care licensing agency head.  
12           7. Two members appointed by the Department of Children  
13 and Family Services district administrator.  
14           8. Two members appointed by the board of county  
15 commissioners.  
16           9. Two members appointed by the district school board.  
17           10. The central child care agency administrator.  
18           11. Head Start director or directors.  
19           12. Up to 7 additional members appointed by the  
20 coalition.  
21           (b) All members shall be voting members, except that a  
22 member shall not vote on an issue relating to funding for an  
23 entity represented by that member.  
24           (c) No member of a coalition may appoint a designee to  
25 act in his or her place. A member who is unable to attend may  
26 send a representative to coalition meetings, but that  
27 representative will have no voting privileges.  
28           (d) Members of the coalition are subject to the ethics  
29 provisions in part III of chapter 112.  
30           (7) IMPLEMENTATION; PHASING-IN OF PROGRAM; EXCEPTIONS  
31 TO LAW.--

1       (a) The school readiness program is to be phased-in as  
2 prescribed by the procedures for implementation provided in  
3 this subsection and subsection (8). Until the coalition  
4 implements its plan, the county shall continue to receive the  
5 services identified in paragraph (1)(d) through the various  
6 agencies that would be responsible for delivering those  
7 services under current law.

8       (b) In order to obtain plan approval by the governing  
9 board, the coalition must submit to the governing board a plan  
10 that includes strategies to meet the requirements of this  
11 section, including:

12           1. Specific eligibility priorities for children within  
13 the coalition's county pursuant to subsection (4).

14           2. Performance standards and outcome measures  
15 established by the governing board or alternatively, standards  
16 and outcome measures to be used until such time as the  
17 governing board adopts such standards and outcome measures.

18           3. Reimbursement rates that have been developed by the  
19 coalition.

20           4. A sliding fee scale.

21           5. A business plan, which must include the contract  
22 with a school readiness agent if the coalition is not a  
23 legally established corporate entity. Coalitions may contract  
24 with other coalitions to achieve efficiency in multiple-county  
25 services, and such contracts may be part of the coalition's  
26 business plan.

27  
28 As part of the plan, the coalition may request the Governor to  
29 apply for a waiver to allow the county to administer the Head  
30 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school  
31 readiness program. If any school readiness plan can

1 demonstrate that specific statutory goals can be achieved more  
2 effectively by using procedures that require modification of  
3 existing rules, policies, or procedures, a request for a  
4 waiver to the governing board may be made as part of the plan.  
5 Upon review, the governing board may grant the proposed  
6 modification.

7 (c) The coalition may not implement its plan until it  
8 submits the plan to and receives approval from the governing  
9 board. Once the plan has been approved, the plan and the  
10 services provided under the plan shall be controlled by the  
11 coalition rather than by the state agencies or departments.  
12 The plan shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but not  
13 less than every 3 years.

14 (d) Upon approval by the governing board of a  
15 coalition's plan that adequately addresses the substance of  
16 the following itemized statutes, the provisions of this  
17 section shall supersede and prevail over ss. 228.061(1) and  
18 (2), 230.2303, 230.2305, 230.2306, 230.23166, 232.01(1)(a)3.  
19 and (e), 402.3015, 411.204, 411.221, 411.222, 411.223, and  
20 411.232.

21 (e) The plan shall then be utilized to develop and  
22 issue a request for proposals for:

23 1. Systems support services, including a central  
24 agency, child care resource and referral, eligibility  
25 determinations, training of providers, and parent support and  
26 involvement.

27 2. Direct enhancement services to families and  
28 children.

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1 System support and direct enhancement services shall be in  
2 addition to payments for the placement of children in school  
3 readiness programs.

4 (f) Two or more counties may join for the purpose of  
5 planning and implementing a school readiness program.

6 (8) COALITION INITIATION GRANTS; INCENTIVE BONUSES.--

7 (a)1. Coalitions that are approved by the governing  
8 board by December 1, 1999, shall be eligible for a \$50,000  
9 initiation grant to support the coalition in developing its  
10 plan.

11 2. Coalitions that are approved by the governing board  
12 by March 1, 2000, shall be eligible for a \$25,000 initiation  
13 grant to support the coalition in developing its plan.

14 (b) Coalitions that have their plans approved by March  
15 1, 2000, shall receive funding from the governing board in  
16 fiscal year 2000-2001, and each year thereafter.

17 (c) Upon the governing board's approval of any  
18 coalition's plan that clearly shows enhancement in the quality  
19 and standards of the school readiness program without  
20 diminishing the number of children served in the program, the  
21 governing board shall award the coalition an incentive bonus  
22 on a per-child-served basis, subject to appropriation.

23 (d) In fiscal year 2000-2001, and each year  
24 thereafter, any increases in funding for school readiness  
25 programs shall be administered through the coalitions.

26 (e) In fiscal year 2001-2002, the governing board  
27 shall request proposals from government agencies and nonprofit  
28 corporations for the development and operation of a coalition  
29 in each county that does not have an approved coalition by  
30 March 1, 2001, unless the county has requested and been  
31 granted a waiver by the governing board for good cause.



1           (9) FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM.--  
2           (a) It is the intent of this section to establish an  
3 integrated and quality seamless service delivery system for  
4 all publicly funded early education and child care programs  
5 operating in this state.  
6           (b) All state funds budgeted for a county for the  
7 programs specified in paragraph (1)(d), along with the pro  
8 rata share of the state administrative costs of those  
9 programs, all federal funds and required local matching funds  
10 for a county for programs specified in paragraph (1)(d), and  
11 any additional funds appropriated or obtained for purposes of  
12 this section, shall be transferred for the benefit of the  
13 coalition for implementation of its plan, including the hiring  
14 of staff to effectively operate the coalition's school  
15 readiness program.  
16           (c) By February 15, 2000, the governing board shall  
17 present to the Legislature recommendations for combining  
18 funding streams for school readiness programs into a School  
19 Readiness Trust Fund.  
20           (d) The governing board shall annually distribute all  
21 eligible funds as block grants to assist coalitions in  
22 integrating services and funding to develop a quality service  
23 delivery system. Subject to appropriation, the governing board  
24 may also provide financial awards to coalitions demonstrating  
25 success in merging and integrating funding streams to serve  
26 children and school readiness programs.  
27           (e) State funds appropriated for the school readiness  
28 program may not be used for the construction of new facilities  
29 or the purchase of buses. By February 15, 2000, the governing  
30 board shall present to the Legislature recommendations for  
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1 providing necessary transportation services for school  
2 readiness programs.

3 (f) All cost savings and all revenues received through  
4 a mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to help fund the  
5 local school readiness program.

6 (10) REIMBURSEMENT RATE.--Each coalition shall develop  
7 a reimbursement rate schedule that encompasses all programs  
8 funded by that coalition. The reimbursement rate schedule must  
9 take into consideration the relevant market rate and must  
10 include the projected number of children to be served and must  
11 be submitted to the governing board for information.

12 (11) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS  
13 AGENTS.--If the coalition is not a legally established  
14 corporate entity, the coalition must designate a school  
15 readiness agent, which may be a public entity or a private  
16 nonprofit organization. The school readiness agent shall be  
17 required to provide financial and administrative services  
18 pursuant to a contract with the coalition. The cost of the  
19 financial and administrative services shall be negotiated  
20 between the school readiness agent and the coalition. If the  
21 school readiness agent is a provider of early education and  
22 care programs, the contract must specify that the school  
23 readiness agent will act on policy direction from the  
24 coalition and will not receive policy direction from its own  
25 corporate or governance board regarding disbursement of coalition  
26 funds. The school readiness agent shall disburse funds in  
27 accordance with the approved coalition school readiness plan  
28 and based on billing and disbursement procedures approved by  
29 the governing board. The school readiness agent must conform  
30 to all data-reporting requirements established by the  
31 governing board. A contract between a coalition and a school

1 readiness agent must be presented to the governing board as  
2 part of the coalition's plan approval process.

3 (12) PARENTAL CHOICE.--

4 (a) The school readiness program shall provide  
5 parental choice pursuant to a purchase service order that  
6 ensures, to the maximum extent possible, flexibility in school  
7 readiness programs and payment arrangements. According to  
8 federal regulations requiring parental choice, a parent may  
9 choose an informal child-care arrangement.

10 (b) If it is determined that a provider has provided  
11 any cash or other unlawful remuneration to the beneficiary in  
12 return for receiving the purchase order, the school readiness  
13 agent shall refer the matter to the Division of Public  
14 Assistance Fraud for investigation.

15 (c) The governing board shall adopt an electronic  
16 transfer system for the dissemination of funds in accordance  
17 with this subsection, which shall be fully implemented within  
18 3 years after plan approval unless a waiver is obtained from  
19 the governing board.

20 (d) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
21 Government Accountability shall assess the implementation,  
22 efficiency, and outcomes of the revised school readiness  
23 program and report findings to the President of the Senate and  
24 the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1,  
25 2002. Subsequent reviews shall be conducted at the direction  
26 of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee.

27 (13) EVALUATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.--Each coalition  
28 shall conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of its school  
29 readiness program including performance standards and outcome  
30 measures, and shall provide an annual report to the governing  
31 board.

1           (14) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.--In the event of a  
2 conflict between the provisions of this section and federal  
3 requirements, the federal requirements shall control.

4           Section 2. Section 229.567, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           229.567 School readiness screening system.--The  
7 Department of Education shall require that the school  
8 readiness screening system adopted by the State School  
9 Readiness Governing Board be utilized uniformly by all school  
10 districts.

11           Section 3. Subsection (11) is added to section  
12 216.136, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

13           216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and  
14 principals.--

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

16           (a) Duties.--

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

27           2. In addition, the School Readiness Program  
28 Estimating Conference shall estimate the unduplicated count of  
29 children who are eligible for services under the school  
30 readiness program.

31

1           3. The School Readiness Governing Board shall provide  
2 information on needs and waiting lists for school readiness  
3 program services requested by the School Readiness Program  
4 Estimating Conference or individual conference principals in a  
5 timely manner.

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

15           Section 4. Subsections (2) and (5) of section 236.013,  
16 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17           236.013 Definitions.--Notwithstanding the provisions  
18 of s. 228.041, the following terms are defined as follows for  
19 the purposes of this act:

20           (2) A "full-time equivalent student" in each program  
21 of the district is defined in terms of full-time students and  
22 part-time students as follows:

23           (a) A "full-time student" is one student on the  
24 membership roll of one school program or a combination of  
25 school programs listed in s. 236.081(1)(c) for the school year  
26 or the equivalent for:

27           1. Instruction in a standard school, comprising not  
28 less than 900 net hours for a student in or at the grade level  
29 of 4 through 12 and adult, or not less than 720 net hours for  
30 a student in or at the grade level of kindergarten through  
31

1 ~~grade 3 or in an authorized prekindergarten exceptional~~  
2 ~~program.~~

3           2. Instruction in a double-session school or a school  
4 utilizing an experimental school calendar approved by the  
5 Department of Education, comprising not less than the  
6 equivalent of 810 net hours in grades 4 through 12 or not less  
7 than 630 net hours in kindergarten through grade 3; or

8           3. Instruction comprising the appropriate number of  
9 net hours set forth in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. for  
10 students who, within the past year, have moved with their  
11 parents for the purpose of engaging in the farm labor or fish  
12 industries, if a plan furnishing such an extended school day  
13 or week, or a combination thereof, has been approved by the  
14 commissioner. Such plan may be approved to accommodate the  
15 needs of migrant students only or may serve all students in  
16 schools having a high percentage of migrant students. The plan  
17 described in this subparagraph is optional for any school  
18 district and is not mandated by the state.

19           (b) A "part-time student" is a student on the active  
20 membership roll of a school program or combination of school  
21 programs listed in s. 236.081(1)(c) who is less than a  
22 full-time student.

23           (c)1. A "full-time equivalent student" is:

24           a. A full-time student in any one of the programs  
25 listed in s. 236.081(1)(c); or

26           b. A combination of full-time or part-time students in  
27 any one of the programs listed in s. 236.081(1)(c) which is  
28 the equivalent of one full-time student based on the following  
29 calculations:

30           (I) A full-time student, except a postsecondary or  
31 adult student or a senior high school student enrolled in

1 adult education when such courses are required for high school  
2 graduation, in a combination of programs listed in s.  
3 236.081(1)(c) shall be a fraction of a full-time equivalent  
4 membership in each special program equal to the number of net  
5 hours per school year for which he or she is a member, divided  
6 by the appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph  
7 (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2.; the difference between that  
8 fraction or sum of fractions and the maximum value as set  
9 forth in subsection (5) for each full-time student is presumed  
10 to be the balance of the student's time not spent in such  
11 special education programs and shall be recorded as time in  
12 the appropriate basic program.

13 ~~(II) A student in the basic half-day kindergarten~~  
14 ~~program of not less than 450 net hours shall earn one-half of~~  
15 ~~a full-time equivalent membership.~~

16 ~~(III) A half-day kindergarten student in a combination~~  
17 ~~of programs listed in s. 236.081(1)(c) is a fraction of a~~  
18 ~~full-time equivalent membership in each special program equal~~  
19 ~~to the number of net hours or major portion thereof per school~~  
20 ~~year for which he or she is a member divided by the number of~~  
21 ~~hours set forth in sub-sub-subparagraph (II); the difference~~  
22 ~~between that fraction and the number of hours set forth in~~  
23 ~~sub-sub-subparagraph (II) for each full-time student in~~  
24 ~~membership in a half-day kindergarten program is presumed to~~  
25 ~~be the balance of the student's time not spent in such special~~  
26 ~~education programs and shall be recorded as time in the~~  
27 ~~appropriate basic program.~~

28 (II)~~(IV)~~ A part-time student, except a postsecondary  
29 or adult student, is a fraction of a full-time equivalent  
30 membership in each basic and special program equal to the  
31 number of net hours or major fraction thereof per school year

1 for which he or she is a member, divided by the appropriate  
2 number of hours set forth in subparagraph (a)1. or  
3 subparagraph (a)2.

4 (III)~~(V)~~ A postsecondary or adult student or a senior  
5 high school student enrolled in adult education when such  
6 courses are required for high school graduation is a portion  
7 of a full-time equivalent membership in each special program  
8 equal to the net hours or major fraction thereof per fiscal  
9 year for which he or she is a member, divided by the  
10 appropriate number of hours set forth in subparagraph (a)1. or  
11 subparagraph (a)2.

12 (IV)~~(VI)~~ A full-time student who is part of a program  
13 authorized by subparagraph (a)3. in a combination of programs  
14 listed in s. 236.081(1)(c) is a fraction of a full-time  
15 equivalent membership in each regular or special program equal  
16 to the number of net hours per school year for which he or she  
17 is a member, divided by the appropriate number of hours set  
18 forth in subparagraph (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2.

19 ~~(VII) A prekindergarten handicapped student shall meet  
20 the requirements specified for kindergarten students.~~

21 2. A student in membership in a program scheduled for  
22 more or less than 180 school days is a fraction of a full-time  
23 equivalent membership equal to the number of instructional  
24 hours in membership divided by the appropriate number of hours  
25 set forth in subparagraph (a)1.; however, for the purposes of  
26 this subparagraph, membership in programs scheduled for more  
27 than 180 days is limited to:

- 28 a. Special programs for exceptional students;  
29 b. Special vocational-technical programs;  
30 c. Special adult general education programs;

31



1           d. Dropout prevention programs as defined in s.  
2 230.2316 for students in residential programs operated by the  
3 Department of Children and Family Services; programs operated  
4 by the Department of Juvenile Justice as defined in s.  
5 230.23161 in which students receive educational services; or  
6 teenage parent programs as defined in s. 230.23166 for  
7 students who are in need of such additional instruction;

8           e. Dropout prevention programs as defined in s.  
9 230.2316 in which students are placed for academic or  
10 disciplinary purposes or programs in English for speakers of  
11 other languages as defined in s. 233.058 for students who were  
12 in membership for all of the last 15 days of the 180-day term  
13 or a total of 30 days within the 180-day term and are in need  
14 of such additional instruction;

15           f. Other basic programs offered for promotion or  
16 credit instruction as defined by rules of the state board; and

17           g. Programs which modify the school year to  
18 accommodate the needs of children who have moved with their  
19 parents for the purpose of engaging in the farm labor or fish  
20 industries, provided such programs are approved by the  
21 commissioner.

22  
23 The department shall determine and implement an equitable  
24 method of equivalent funding for experimental schools and for  
25 schools operating under emergency conditions, which schools  
26 have been approved by the department under the provisions of  
27 s. 228.041(13) to operate for less than the minimum school  
28 day.

29           (5) The maximum value for funding a student in  
30 kindergarten through grade 12 ~~or in a prekindergarten program~~  
31 ~~for exceptional children as provided in s. 232.01(1)(e),~~

1 except for a student as set forth in sub-sub-subparagraph  
2 (2)(c)1.b.(I), is one full-time equivalent student membership  
3 for a school year or equivalent.

4 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 414.026, Florida  
5 Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

6 414.026 WAGES Program State Board of Directors.--

7 (2)(a) The board of directors shall be composed of the  
8 following members:

- 9 1. The Commissioner of Education, or the  
10 commissioner's designee.
- 11 2. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.
- 12 3. The Secretary of Health.
- 13 4. The Secretary of Labor and Employment Security.
- 14 5. The Secretary of Community Affairs.
- 15 6. The Secretary of Transportation, or the secretary's  
16 designee.
- 17 7. The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
18 Economic Development.
- 19 8. The chair of the State School Readiness Governing  
20 Board.

21 ~~9.8.~~ The president of the Enterprise Florida workforce  
22 development board, established under s. 288.9620.

23 ~~10.9.~~ The chief executive officer of the Florida  
24 Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, established under s.  
25 288.1226.

26 ~~11.10.~~ Nine members appointed by the Governor, as  
27 follows:

- 28 a. Six members shall be appointed from a list of ten  
29 nominees, of which five must be submitted by the President of  
30 the Senate and five must be submitted by the Speaker of the  
31 House of Representatives. The list of five nominees submitted

1 by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
2 Representatives must each contain at least three individuals  
3 employed in the private sector, two of whom must have  
4 management experience. One of the five nominees submitted by  
5 the President of the Senate and one of the five nominees  
6 submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives must  
7 be an elected local government official who shall serve as an  
8 ex officio nonvoting member.

9           b. Three members shall be at-large members appointed  
10 by the Governor.

11           c. Of the nine members appointed by the Governor, at  
12 least six must be employed in the private sector and of these,  
13 at least five must have management experience.

14  
15 The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to  
16 4-year, staggered terms. Within 60 days after a vacancy occurs  
17 on the board, the Governor shall fill the vacancy of a member  
18 appointed from the nominees submitted by the President of the  
19 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the  
20 remainder of the unexpired term from one nominee submitted by  
21 the President of the Senate and one nominee submitted by the  
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives. Within 60 days after  
23 a vacancy of a member appointed at-large by the Governor  
24 occurs on the board, the Governor shall fill the vacancy for  
25 the remainder of the unexpired term. The composition of the  
26 board must generally reflect the racial, gender, and ethnic  
27 diversity of the state as a whole.

28           (b) The board of directors shall annually elect a  
29 chairperson from among the members appointed by the Governor.  
30 The board of directors shall meet at least once each quarter.  
31 A member appointed by the Governor may not authorize a

1 designee to attend a meeting of the board in place of the  
2 member. The Governor may remove an appointed member for cause,  
3 and an absence from three consecutive meetings results in  
4 automatic removal, unless the member is excused by the  
5 chairperson.

6 (c) Members of the board shall serve without  
7 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem  
8 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

9 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
10 624.91, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

11 624.91 The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Act.--

12 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

13 (a) The Legislature finds that increased access to  
14 health care services could improve children's health and  
15 reduce the incidence and costs of childhood illness and  
16 disabilities among children in this state. Many children do  
17 not have comprehensive, affordable health care services  
18 available. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
19 Florida Healthy Kids Corporation provide comprehensive health  
20 insurance coverage to such children. The corporation is  
21 encouraged to cooperate with any existing health service  
22 programs funded by the public or the private sector and to  
23 work cooperatively with the State School Readiness Governing  
24 Board.

25 Section 7. The Governor is authorized to transfer  
26 funds from the relevant state departments or agencies to the  
27 State School Readiness Governing Board to fund local school  
28 readiness coalitions during the phase-in period.

29 Section 8. The State School Readiness Governing Board  
30 may recommend to the Legislature by February 15, 2000, that  
31 the current appropriations and positions for Department of

1 Children and Family Services contract managers be transferred  
2 to the governing board to provide for school readiness program  
3 staffing.

4           Section 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
5 law.

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