

1  
2 An act relating to school readiness; amending  
3 s. 411.01, F.S.; revising the composition of  
4 the Florida Partnership for School Readiness;  
5 revising the membership of school readiness  
6 coalitions; providing sovereign immunity for  
7 school readiness coalitions; changing  
8 terminology relating to payment; amending s.  
9 230.2305, F.S.; revising funding for  
10 prekindergarten early intervention programs;  
11 authorizing the Governor at the request of the  
12 Florida Partnership for School Readiness to  
13 request approval of the Administration  
14 Commission for transfer of funds by the  
15 Department of Children and Family Services and  
16 the Department of Education to the partnership  
17 for school readiness programs; providing a  
18 qualification for school readiness coalitions  
19 to receive an increase in such funds; providing  
20 that specified positions be co-located within  
21 the office of the Florida Partnership for  
22 School Readiness not later than July 1, 2000;  
23 requiring an interagency agreement to guide  
24 implementation; providing for discontinuation  
25 of state funding for the State Coordinating  
26 Council for School Readiness Services;  
27 repealing s. 402.3015(6)(a), F.S., which  
28 requires competitive bids for community child  
29 care coordinating agencies; providing an  
30 effective date.  
31

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

2

3 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and  
4 paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (5) of section 411.01,  
5 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

6 411.01 Florida Partnership for School Readiness;  
7 school readiness coalitions.--

8 (4) FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL READINESS.--

9 (b)1. The Florida Partnership for School Readiness  
10 shall include the Lieutenant Governor ~~or his or her designee~~,  
11 the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Children and  
12 Family Services, and the Secretary of Health, or their  
13 designees, and the chair of the Child Care Executive  
14 Partnership Board, and the chairperson of the ~~WAGES Program~~  
15 State Board of Directors of Workforce Florida, Inc. When the  
16 Lieutenant Governor or an agency head appoints a designee, the  
17 designee must be an individual who attends consistently, and,  
18 in the event that the Lieutenant Governor or agency head and  
19 his or her designee both attend a meeting, only one of them  
20 may vote.

21 2. The partnership shall also include 10 members of  
22 the public who shall be business, community, and civic leaders  
23 in the state who are not elected to public office. These  
24 members and their families must not be providers in the early  
25 education and child care industry. The members must be  
26 geographically and demographically representative of the  
27 state. Each member shall be appointed by the Governor. Eight  
28 of the members shall be appointed from a list of 10 nominees,  
29 of which five must be submitted by the President of the Senate  
30 and five must be submitted by the Speaker of the House of  
31 Representatives. Members shall be appointed to 4-year terms of

1 office. However, of the initial appointees, two shall be  
2 appointed to 1-year terms, two shall be appointed to 2-year  
3 terms, three shall be appointed to 3-year terms, and three  
4 shall be appointed to 4-year terms. The members of the  
5 partnership shall elect a chairperson annually from the  
6 nongovernmental members of the partnership. Any vacancy on the  
7 partnership shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
8 appointment.

9 (5) CREATION OF SCHOOL READINESS COALITIONS.--

10 (a) School readiness coalitions.--

11 1. If a coalition's plan would serve less than 400  
12 birth-to-kindergarten age children, the coalition must either  
13 join with another county to form a multicounty coalition,  
14 enter an agreement with a fiscal agent to serve more than one  
15 coalition, or demonstrate to the partnership its ability to  
16 effectively and efficiently implement its plan as a  
17 single-county coalition and meet all required performance  
18 standards and outcome measures.

19 2. Each coalition shall have at least 18 but not more  
20 than 25 members and such members must include the following:

21 a. A Department of Children and Family Services  
22 district administrator or his or her designee who is  
23 authorized to make decisions on behalf of the department.

24 b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her  
25 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the  
26 district.

27 c. A regional workforce development board chair or  
28 director, where applicable.

29 d. A county health department director or his or her  
30 designee.

31

1 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare  
2 board chair or executive director, if applicable.

3 f. A child care licensing agency head.

4 g. One member appointed by a Department of Children  
5 and Family Services district administrator.

6 h. One member appointed by a board of county  
7 commissioners.

8 i. One member appointed by a district school board.

9 j. A central child care agency administrator.

10 k. A Head Start director.

11 l. A representative of private child care providers.

12 m. A representative of faith-based child care  
13 providers.

14

15 More than one-third of the coalition members must be from the  
16 private sector, and neither they nor their families may earn  
17 an income from the early education and child care industry. To  
18 meet this requirement a coalition must appoint additional  
19 members from a list of nominees presented to the coalition by  
20 a chamber of commerce or economic development council within  
21 the geographic area of the coalition.

22 3. No member of a coalition may appoint a designee to  
23 act in his or her place. A member may send a representative to  
24 coalition meetings, but that representative will have no  
25 voting privileges. When a district superintendent of schools  
26 or a district administrator for the Department of Children and  
27 Family Services appoints a designee to a school readiness  
28 coalition, the designee will be the voting member of the  
29 coalition, and any individual attending in his or her place,  
30 including the district administrator or superintendent, will  
31 have no voting privileges.

1           4. The school readiness coalition shall replace the  
2 district interagency coordinating council required under s.  
3 230.2305.

4           5. Members of the coalition are subject to the ethics  
5 provisions in part III of chapter 112.

6           6. For the purposes of tort liability, the members of  
7 the school readiness coalition and its employees shall be  
8 governed by s. 768.28.

9           ~~7.6.~~ Multicounty coalitions shall include  
10 representation from each county.

11           ~~8.7.~~ The terms of all appointed members of the  
12 coalition must be staggered. Appointed members may serve a  
13 maximum of two terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed  
14 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

15           (e) Requests for proposals; payment schedule.  
16 ~~Reimbursement rate.--~~

17           1. At least once every 3 years, beginning July 1,  
18 2001, each coalition must follow the competitive procurement  
19 requirements of s. 287.057 for school readiness programs.

20           2. Each coalition shall develop a payment  
21 ~~reimbursement rate~~ schedule that encompasses all programs  
22 funded by that coalition. The payment reimbursement rate  
23 schedule must take into consideration the relevant market  
24 rate, must include the projected number of children to be  
25 served, and must be submitted to the partnership for  
26 information. Informal child care arrangements shall be  
27 reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate developed  
28 for family childcare.

29           Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 230.2305, Florida  
30 Statutes, is amended to read:

31           230.2305 Prekindergarten early intervention program.--

1           (6) FUNDING.--

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

9           1. At least 70 percent of the total funds allocated to  
10 each school readiness coalition ~~district~~ under this section  
11 must be used for implementing and conducting a prekindergarten  
12 early intervention program or contracting with other public or  
13 nonpublic entities for programs to serve eligible children.  
14 The maximum amount to be spent per child for this purpose is  
15 to be designated annually by the Florida Partnership for  
16 School Readiness ~~in the General Appropriations Act.~~

17           2. No more than 30 percent of the funds allocated to  
18 each school readiness coalition under ~~district pursuant to~~  
19 this section may be used to enhance existing public and  
20 nonpublic programs for eligible children, to provide  
21 before-school and after-school care for children served under  
22 this section, to remodel or renovate existing facilities under  
23 chapter 235, to lease or lease-purchase facilities, to  
24 purchase classroom equipment to allow the implementation of  
25 the prekindergarten early intervention program, and to provide  
26 training for program teachers and administrative personnel  
27 ~~employed by the school district and by agencies with which the~~  
28 ~~school district contracts for the provision of prekindergarten~~  
29 ~~services.~~

30  
31

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

4           (b) A minimum grant for each school readiness  
5 coalition district is to be determined annually by the Florida  
6 Partnership for School Readiness in the General Appropriations  
7 Act. The funds remaining after allocating the minimum grants  
8 must be prorated based on an allocation factor for each  
9 coalition district and must be added to each coalition's  
10 district's minimum grant. The allocation factor is to be  
11 calculated as follows:

12				
13	<u>Coalition District</u>		<u>School district</u>	
14	percentage of state	x 1/4	+percentage	x 3/4
15	3-year-old and		of state total free	
16	4-year-old children		lunches served	

17  
18 The calculation of each coalition's district's allocation  
19 factor is to be based upon the official estimate of the total  
20 number of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children by the school  
21 district or districts in the coalition's service area and the  
22 official record of the Department of Education for K-12  
23 student total free lunches served by the school district for  
24 the prior fiscal year. For the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
25 2000, nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the  
26 Department of Education's authority to distribute funds under  
27 this program to local school districts if the local school  
28 district is authorized by the local school readiness coalition  
29 plan to be the provider.

30           Section 3. Notwithstanding section 411.01(5)(g)5. and  
31 (9)(d), Florida Statutes, for fiscal year 2000-2001, the

1 Governor, at the request of the Florida Partnership for School  
2 Readiness and subject to notice and review procedures set  
3 forth in section 216.177, Florida Statutes, shall request  
4 approval of the Administration Commission for transfer of  
5 funds from the Department of Children and Family Services and  
6 the Department of Education to the partnership for school  
7 readiness programs. No school readiness coalition may receive  
8 any increase in such funds unless its plan has been  
9 conditionally approved by the partnership. For coalitions  
10 whose plans have been conditionally approved, any increase in  
11 funds shall be used only to increase the number of children  
12 served. School readiness coalitions whose plans have been  
13 fully approved by the partnership may use up to 5 percent of  
14 their total allocation for any purpose other than increasing  
15 the number of children served, as authorized by the  
16 partnership.

17       Section 4. Positions currently assigned to the  
18 subsidized child care program in the Department of Children  
19 and Family Services and to the Prekindergarten Early  
20 Intervention program in the Department of Education which are  
21 recommended by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness  
22 and approved by the Executive Office of the Governor shall be  
23 physically co-located within the office of the Florida  
24 Partnership for School Readiness not later than July 1, 2000.  
25 Prior to July 1, 2000, the Secretary of Children and Family  
26 Services, the Commissioner of Education, and the chairman of  
27 the Partnership for School Readiness shall sign an interagency  
28 agreement to guide implementation of the co-location required  
29 by this section.

30       Section 5. Effective July 1, 2000, no state funding  
31 shall be provided to support activities of the State



1 Coordinating Council for School Readiness Services established  
2 pursuant to section 411.222(4), Florida Statutes.

3 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section  
4 402.3015, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

5 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
6 law.

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