

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to early childhood education; creating
3 part V of ch. 1002, F.S.; creating the Voluntary
4 Prekindergarten Education Program; implementing s. 1(b)
5 and (c), Art. IX of the State Constitution; providing
6 definitions for purposes of the program; providing
7 eligibility and enrollment requirements; authorizing
8 parents to enroll their children in a program delivered by
9 a child development provider, a summer program delivered
10 by a public school, or a school-year program delivered by
11 a public school; requiring school districts to admit all
12 eligible children in the summer program; prohibiting
13 specified acts of discrimination and certain limits on
14 enrollment; specifying eligibility requirements for child
15 development providers and public schools that deliver the
16 program; providing for the adoption of rules; requiring
17 the Department of Education establish a credential for
18 prekindergarten directors and an emergent literacy
19 training course for teachers and child care personnel of
20 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring
21 the credential and course to provide training and
22 resources containing strategies that maximize the
23 program's benefits for students with disabilities and
24 other special needs; providing that the credential and
25 course satisfy certain credentialing and training
26 requirements; specifying eligibility requirements for
27 school districts that deliver the school-year
28 prekindergarten program; creating a demonstration program

29 | in specified school districts; directing the Office of
30 | Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to
31 | evaluate the demonstration program; requiring the
32 | demonstration districts to submit data; providing for the
33 | future expiration of the demonstration program;
34 | authorizing providers and schools to select or design
35 | curricula used for the program under specified conditions;
36 | directing the Department of Education to adopt performance
37 | standards and approve curricula; requiring providers and
38 | schools to be placed on probation and use the approved
39 | curricula under certain circumstances; requiring
40 | improvement plans and corrective actions from providers
41 | and schools under certain circumstances; requiring
42 | regional child development boards and school districts to
43 | verify the compliance of child development providers and
44 | public schools; authorizing the removal of providers and
45 | schools from eligibility to deliver the program for
46 | noncompliance; requiring the Department of Education to
47 | adopt a statewide kindergarten screening; requiring
48 | certain students to take the statewide screening;
49 | specifying requirements for screening instruments and
50 | kindergarten readiness rates; providing funding and
51 | reporting requirements; specifying the calculation of per-
52 | student allocations; providing for advance payments to
53 | child development providers and public schools based upon
54 | student enrollment; providing for the documentation and
55 | certification of student attendance; requiring parents to
56 | verify student attendance and certify the choice of

57 provider or school; providing for the reconciliation of
58 advance payments based upon certified student attendance;
59 requiring students to comply with attendance policies and
60 authorizing the dismissal of students for noncompliance;
61 prohibiting regional child development boards from
62 withholding funds for administrative costs; providing for
63 the allocation of administrative funds among regional
64 child development boards; prohibiting certain fees or
65 charges; limiting the use of state funds; providing powers
66 and duties of the Department of Education; requiring the
67 department to adopt procedures for the Voluntary
68 Prekindergarten Education Program; authorizing interagency
69 agreements for the integration of, and requiring
70 interagency access to, certain databases; limiting the
71 department's authority; creating the Florida Child
72 Development Advisory Council; providing for the
73 appointment and membership of the advisory council;
74 providing membership and meeting requirements; authorizing
75 council members to receive per diem and travel expenses;
76 requiring the Department of Education to provide staff for
77 the advisory council; providing for the adoption of rules;
78 amending s. 411.01, F.S.; conforming provisions to the
79 transfer of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness
80 to the Agency for Workforce Innovation; deleting
81 provisions for the appointment and membership of the
82 partnership; redesignating school readiness coalitions as
83 regional child development boards; deleting obsolete
84 references to repealed programs; deleting obsolete

85 | provisions governing the phase in of school readiness
86 | programs; deleting provisions governing the measurement of
87 | school readiness, the school readiness uniform screening,
88 | and performance-based budgeting in school readiness
89 | programs; specifying requirements for school readiness
90 | performance standards; clarifying rulemaking requirements;
91 | limiting the Agency for Workforce Innovation's authority;
92 | revising requirements for school readiness programs;
93 | specifying that school readiness programs must enhance the
94 | progress of children in certain skills; requiring regional
95 | child development boards to obtain certain health
96 | information before enrolling a child in the school
97 | readiness program; requiring the Agency for Workforce
98 | Innovation to administer a quality-assurance system and
99 | identify best practices for regional child development
100 | boards; requiring a reduction in the number of boards in
101 | accordance with specified standards; directing the Agency
102 | for Workforce Innovation to adopt procedures for the
103 | merger of boards; revising appointment and membership
104 | requirements for the boards; directing the Agency for
105 | Workforce Innovation to adopt criteria for the appointment
106 | of certain members; requiring each board to specify terms
107 | of board members; prohibiting board members from voting
108 | under certain circumstances; providing a definition for
109 | purposes of the single point of entry; requiring regional
110 | child development boards to use a statewide information
111 | system; requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation to
112 | approve payment rates and consider the access of eligible

113 | children before approving proposals to increase rates;
114 | deleting requirements for the minimum number of children
115 | served; providing requirements for developmentally
116 | appropriate curriculum used for school readiness programs;
117 | authorizing contracts for the continuation of school
118 | readiness services under certain circumstances; requiring
119 | the Agency for Workforce Innovation to adopt criteria for
120 | the approval of school readiness plans; revising
121 | requirements for school readiness plans; providing
122 | requirements for the approval and implementation of plan
123 | revisions; revising competitive procurement requirements
124 | for regional child development boards; authorizing the
125 | boards to designate certified public accountants as fiscal
126 | agents; clarifying age and income eligibility requirements
127 | for school readiness programs; revising eligibility
128 | requirements for certain at-risk children; revising
129 | funding requirements; revising requirements for the
130 | adoption of a formula for the allocation of certain funds
131 | among the regional child development boards; specifying
132 | allocations for fiscal year 2004-2005; prohibiting certain
133 | transfers without specific legislative authority; deleting
134 | an obsolete provision requiring a report; deleting the
135 | expiration of eligibility requirements for certain
136 | children from families receiving temporary cash
137 | assistance; amending s. 11.45, F.S.; authorizing the
138 | Auditor General to conduct audits of the school readiness
139 | system; conforming provisions; amending s. 20.15, F.S.;
140 | specifying that the Commissioner of Education does not

141 | appoint members of the Florida Child Development Advisory
 142 | Council; amending s. 20.50, F.S.; creating the Office of
 143 | Child Development within the Agency for Workforce
 144 | Innovation; providing that the office administers the
 145 | school readiness system; amending s. 125.901, F.S.;
 146 | conforming provisions; amending ss. 216.133 and 216.136,
 147 | F.S.; redesignating the School Readiness Program
 148 | Estimating Conference as the Child Development Programs
 149 | Estimating Conference; requiring the estimating conference
 150 | to develop certain estimates and forecasts for the
 151 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; directing the
 152 | Department of Education to provide certain information to
 153 | the estimating conference; conforming provisions; creating
 154 | s. 402.265, F.S.; prohibiting certain transfers without
 155 | specific legislative authority; amending ss. 402.3016,
 156 | 411.011, 411.226, 411.227, 624.91, 1001.23, 1002.22, and
 157 | 1003.54, F.S.; conforming provisions to the transfer of
 158 | the Florida Partnership for School Readiness to the Agency
 159 | for Workforce Innovation and to the redesignation of the
 160 | school readiness coalitions as regional child development
 161 | boards; requiring the Department of Education to submit a
 162 | report; requiring the Governor to submit certain
 163 | recommendations as part of the Governor's recommended
 164 | budget; abolishing the Florida Partnership for School
 165 | Readiness and providing for the transfer of the
 166 | partnership to the Agency for Workforce Innovation;
 167 | repealing ss. 411.012 and 1008.21, F.S., relating to the
 168 | voluntary universal prekindergarten education program and

169 the school readiness uniform screening; providing
 170 appropriations; providing for the allocation of
 171 appropriations among certain school districts; requiring
 172 the Legislative Budget Commission to approve the
 173 allocation of certain appropriations; providing effective
 174 dates.

175

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

177

178 Section 1. Part V of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes,
 179 consisting of sections 1002.51, 1002.53, 1002.55, 1002.57,
 180 1002.59, 1002.61, 1002.63, 1002.65, 1002.67, 1002.69, 1002.71,
 181 1002.73, and 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

182

PART V

183

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM

184

1002.51 Definitions.--As used in this part, the term:

185

(1) "Advisory council" means the Florida Child Development

186

Advisory Council created under s. 1002.73.

187

(2) "Child development provider" means a provider eligible
 188 to deliver the prekindergarten program under s. 1002.55.

189

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

190

(4) "Kindergarten eligibility" means the eligibility of a
 191 child for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s.
 192 1003.21(1)(a)2.

193

(5) "Prekindergarten director" means an onsite person
 194 ultimately responsible for the overall operation of a child
 195 development provider or, alternatively, of the provider's

196 prekindergarten program, regardless of whether the person is the
 197 owner of the provider.

198 (6) "Regional child development board" or "board" means a
 199 regional child development board created under s. 411.01.

200 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
 201 eligibility and enrollment.--

202 (1) There is created the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 203 Education Program within the Department of Education. The
 204 program shall take effect in each county at the beginning of the
 205 2005-2006 school year and shall be organized, designed, and
 206 delivered in accordance with s. 1(b) and (c), Art. IX of the
 207 State Constitution.

208 (2) Each child who is a resident of the state who will
 209 have attained the age of 4 years on or before September 1 of the
 210 school year is eligible for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 211 Education Program during that school year. The child remains
 212 eligible until the child attains kindergarten eligibility or is
 213 admitted to kindergarten, whichever occurs first.

214 (3) The parent of each child eligible under subsection (2)
 215 may enroll the child in one of the following programs:

216 (a) A prekindergarten program delivered by a child
 217 development provider under s. 1002.55;

218 (b) A summer prekindergarten program delivered by a public
 219 school under s. 1002.61; or

220 (c) A school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a
 221 public school under s. 1002.63.

222

223 However, a child may not be enrolled in more than one of these
224 programs.

225 (4)(a) Each parent enrolling a child in the Voluntary
226 Prekindergarten Education Program must complete and submit an
227 application to the regional child development board through the
228 single point of entry established under s. 411.01.

229 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed
230 by the department and must be accompanied by a certified copy of
231 the child's birth certificate. The forms must include a
232 certification, in substantially the form provided in s.
233 1002.69(5)(b)2., that the parent chooses the child development
234 provider or public school in accordance with this section and
235 directs that payments for the program be made to the provider or
236 school. The department may authorize alternative methods for
237 submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a certified copy
238 of the child's birth certificate.

239 (c) Each regional child development board shall coordinate
240 with each of the school districts within the board's county or
241 multicounty region in the development of procedures for the
242 enrollment of children in prekindergarten programs delivered by
243 public schools.

244 (5) The regional child development board shall provide
245 each parent enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
246 Education Program with a profile of every child development
247 provider and public school delivering the program within the
248 board's county or multicounty region. The profiles shall be
249 provided to parents in a format prescribed by the department.

250 The profiles must include, at a minimum, the following
251 information about each provider and school:

252 (a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,
253 teacher credentials, and teacher-to-student ratio; and

254 (b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate
255 calculated in accordance with s. 1002.65(3)(c) and s. 1002.67,
256 based upon the most recent available results of the statewide
257 kindergarten screening.

258 (6)(a) A parent may enroll his or her child with any child
259 development provider that is eligible to deliver the Voluntary
260 Prekindergarten Education Program under this part; however, the
261 child development provider may determine whether to admit any
262 child. A regional child development board or the department may
263 not limit the number of students admitted by any child
264 development provider for enrollment in the program; however, a
265 child development provider may not exceed its licensed capacity
266 in accordance with ss. 402.301-402.319 as a result of admissions
267 in the prekindergarten program.

268 (b) A parent may enroll his or her child with any public
269 school within the school district which is eligible to deliver
270 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under this part,
271 subject to available space. Each school district may limit the
272 number of students admitted by any public school for enrollment
273 in the program; however, the school district must provide for
274 the admission of every eligible child within the district whose
275 parent enrolls the child in the summer prekindergarten program
276 under s. 1002.61.

277 (c) A child development provider or public school may not
 278 discriminate against a parent or child, including the refusal to
 279 admit a child for enrollment in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 280 Education Program, because of the parent's or child's race,
 281 color, or national origin.

282 1002.55 Prekindergarten program delivered by child
 283 development providers.--

284 (1) Each regional child development board shall administer
 285 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
 286 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(a) in a
 287 prekindergarten program delivered by a child development
 288 provider.

289 (2) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 290 a child development provider must meet each of the following
 291 requirements:

292 (a) The child development provider must be one of the
 293 following types of providers:

294 1. A nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.
 295 402.3025(2) which is accredited by an accrediting association in
 296 the National Council for Private School Accreditation, the
 297 Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation, or
 298 the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools or which
 299 holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s.
 300 402.281;

301 2. A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family
 302 day care home licensed under s. 402.313, or large family child
 303 care home licensed under s. 402.3131, which facility or home
 304 holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s.

305 | 402.281 or meets or exceeds the Gold Seal Quality Care program
 306 | standards, as verified by the regional child development board,
 307 | but does not hold the designation; or

308 | 3. A faith-based child care provider exempt from licensure
 309 | under s. 402.316 which is accredited by an accrediting
 310 | association in the National Council for Private School
 311 | Accreditation, the Commission on International and Trans-
 312 | Regional Accreditation, or the Florida Association of Academic
 313 | Nonpublic Schools or which holds a current Gold Seal Quality
 314 | Care designation under s. 402.281.

315 | (b) The child development provider must have, for each
 316 | prekindergarten class, at least one teacher or child care
 317 | personnel who meets each of the following requirements:

318 | 1. The teacher or child care personnel must hold, at a
 319 | minimum, one of the following credentials:

320 | a. A Child Development Associate credential issued by the
 321 | National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
 322 | Regulation; or

323 | b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and
 324 | Family Services as being equivalent to or greater than the
 325 | credential described in sub-subparagraph a.

326 |
 327 | The Department of Children and Family Services may adopt rules
 328 | under s. 120.536(1) and s. 120.54 which provide criteria and
 329 | procedures for the approval of equivalent credentials under sub-
 330 | subparagraph b.

331 | 2. The teacher or child care personnel must successfully
 332 | complete an emergent literacy training course approved by the

333 department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted
334 under s. 1002.59. This subparagraph does not apply to a teacher
335 or child care personnel who successfully completes approved
336 training in early literacy and language development under s.
337 402.305(2)(d)4., s. 402.313(6), or s. 402.3131(5) before the
338 establishment of the emergent literacy training course under s.
339 1002.59 or January 1, 2005, whichever occurs later.

340 (c) The child development provider must have a
341 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director
342 credential that is approved by the department as meeting or
343 exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57.
344 Successful completion of a child care facility director
345 credential under s. 402.305(2)(f) before the establishment of
346 the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July
347 1, 2005, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a
348 prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.

349 (d) The child development provider must register with the
350 regional child development board on forms prescribed by the
351 department.

352 (e) The child development provider must deliver the
353 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with
354 this part.

355 (3) A teacher or child care personnel, in lieu of the
356 minimum credentials and courses required under paragraph (2)(b),
357 may hold one of the following educational credentials:

358 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood
359 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool
360 education, or family and consumer science;

361 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,
 362 if the teacher or child care personnel has been certified to
 363 teach children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless
 364 of whether the teaching certificate is current;

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

366 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,
 367 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child
 368 development, and at least 480 hours experience in teaching or
 369 providing child care services for children any age from birth
 370 through 8 years of age; or

371 (e) An educational credential approved by the department
 372 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential
 373 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria
 374 and procedures for the approval of equivalent educational
 375 credentials under this paragraph.

376 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.--

377 (1) By July 1, 2005, the department, with the advice of
 378 the advisory council, shall adopt minimum standards for a
 379 credential for prekindergarten directors of child development
 380 providers delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 381 Program. The credential must encompass requirements for
 382 education and onsite experience.

383 (2) The educational requirements must include training in
 384 the following:

385 (a) Professionally accepted standards for prekindergarten
 386 programs, child development, and strategies and techniques to
 387 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students

388 in attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
389 under s. 1002.65;

390 (b) Strategies that allow students with disabilities and
391 other special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary
392 Prekindergarten Education Program; and

393 (c) Program administration and operations, including
394 management, organizational leadership, and financial and legal
395 issues.

396 (3) The prekindergarten director credential must meet or
397 exceed the requirements of the Department of Children and Family
398 Services for the child care facility director credential under
399 s. 402.305(2)(f), and successful completion of the
400 prekindergarten director credential satisfies these requirements
401 for the child care facility director credential.

402 (4) The department shall, to the maximum extent
403 practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes
404 the child care facility director credential under s.
405 402.305(2)(f) for those requirements of the prekindergarten
406 director credential which are duplicative of requirements for
407 the child care facility director credential.

408 1002.59 Emergent literacy training course.--By January 1,
409 2005, the department, with the advice of the advisory council,
410 shall adopt minimum standards for a training course in emergent
411 literacy for teachers and child care personnel of the Voluntary
412 Prekindergarten Education Program. The course shall comprise 5
413 clock hours and shall provide instruction in strategies and
414 techniques to address the age-appropriate progress of
415 prekindergarten students in the development of emergent literacy

416 skills, including oral communication, knowledge of print and
417 letters, phonemic and phonological awareness, and vocabulary and
418 comprehension development. The course shall also provide
419 resources containing strategies that allow students with
420 disabilities and other special needs to derive maximum benefit
421 from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The course
422 must meet or exceed the requirements of the Department of
423 Children and Family Services for approved training in early
424 literacy and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(d)4.,
425 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5), and successful completion of the
426 training course satisfies these requirements for approved
427 training.

428 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
429 schools; demonstration program.--

430 (1) Each school district shall administer the Voluntary
431 Prekindergarten Education Program at the district level for
432 students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a summer
433 prekindergarten program delivered by a public school.

434 (2) Each district school board shall determine which
435 public schools in the school district are eligible to deliver
436 the summer prekindergarten program. The school district shall
437 use educational facilities available in the public schools
438 during the summer term for the summer prekindergarten program.

439 (3) Each public school delivering the summer
440 prekindergarten program must have at least one certified teacher
441 for every 10 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
442 Program. As used in this subsection, the term "certified
443 teacher" means a teacher holding a valid Florida teaching

444 certificate under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required
445 by the district school board to instruct students in the summer
446 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for
447 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall
448 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in
449 early childhood education.

450 (4) Each public school delivering the summer
451 prekindergarten program must also:

452 (a) Register with the regional child development board on
453 forms prescribed by the department; and

454 (b) Deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
455 Program in accordance with this part.

456 (5)(a) There is created a summer prekindergarten
457 demonstration program that shall be implemented during summer
458 2004 in the Baker, Duval, Hillsborough, Martin, Miami-Dade,
459 Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Santa Rosa, and Wakulla school
460 districts. The demonstration program shall implement the summer
461 prekindergarten program delivered by public schools within the
462 demonstration districts.

463 (b) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
464 Accountability shall develop a research design for the
465 demonstration program which ensures that students in the
466 demonstration program are demographically representative of
467 students statewide and that the sample size is sufficient to
468 generate statistically valid conclusions. The sample must be
469 selected to ensure that the results obtained from the
470 demonstration program are applicable statewide with statistical
471 confidence.

472 (c) Each demonstration district and demonstration school
473 shall implement the demonstration program in accordance with the
474 research design developed under paragraph (b) and, to the
475 maximum extent practicable, in accordance with this part.

476 (d) Each demonstration district shall submit to the Office
477 of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability the
478 results of the statewide kindergarten screening administered
479 under s. 1002.67 for students who completed the summer
480 prekindergarten demonstration program.

481 (e) By January 15, 2005, the Office of Program Policy
482 Analysis and Government Accountability shall conduct an
483 evaluation of the demonstration program in consultation with the
484 Legislature. Each demonstration district shall submit data about
485 the demonstration program as requested by the Office of Program
486 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability for purposes of
487 the evaluation.

488 (f) This subsection expires July 1, 2005.

489 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
490 public schools.--

491 (1) Each school district eligible under subsection (3) may
492 administer the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at
493 the district level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(c)
494 in a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a public
495 school.

496 (2) The district school board of each school district
497 eligible under subsection (3) shall determine which public
498 schools in the district are eligible to deliver the
499 prekindergarten program during the school year.

500 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program
 501 during the school year, each school district must meet both of
 502 the following requirements:

503 (a) The district school board must certify to the State
 504 Board of Education:

505 1. That the school district has reduced the average class
 506 size in each classroom in accordance with s. 1003.03 and the
 507 schedule in s. 1(a), Art. IX of the State Constitution; and

508 2. That the school district has sufficient satisfactory
 509 educational facilities and capital outlay funds to continue
 510 reducing the average class size in each classroom in an
 511 elementary school for each year in accordance with the class-
 512 size reduction schedule and to achieve full compliance with the
 513 maximum class sizes in s. 1(a), Art. IX of the State
 514 Constitution by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

515 (b) The Commissioner of Education must certify to the
 516 State Board of Education that the department has reviewed the
 517 school district's educational facilities, capital outlay funds,
 518 and projected student enrollment and concurs with the district
 519 school board's certification under paragraph (a).

520 (4) Each public school delivering the school-year
 521 prekindergarten program must:

522 (a) Register with the regional child development board on
 523 forms prescribed by the department; and

524 (b) Deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 525 Program in accordance with this part.

526 1002.65 Performance standards; curriculum and
 527 accountability.--

528 (1) By January 1, 2005, the department, with the advice of
529 the advisory council, shall develop and adopt performance
530 standards for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
531 Education Program. The performance standards must address the
532 age-appropriate progress of students in the development of:

533 (a) The capabilities, capacities, and skills required
534 under s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; and

535 (b) Emergent literacy skills, including oral
536 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and
537 phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension
538 development.

539 (2)(a) Each child development provider and public school
540 may select or design the curriculum that the provider or school
541 uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
542 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school
543 that is placed on probation under paragraph (3)(c).

544 (b) Each child development provider's and public school's
545 curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and must:

546 1. Be based upon reading research;

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

550 3. Prepare students to be assessed as ready for
551 kindergarten based upon the statewide kindergarten screening
552 administered under s. 1002.67.

553 (c) The department shall review and approve curricula for
554 use by child development providers and public schools that are
555 placed on probation under paragraph (3)(c). The department shall

556 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.
557 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph
558 (b).

559 (3)(a) Each regional child development board and school
560 district shall verify compliance with this part of the child
561 development providers or public schools, as applicable,
562 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
563 within the district.

564 (b) A regional child development board or the department
565 may remove a child development provider, and a school district
566 or the department may remove a public school, from eligibility
567 to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
568 receive state funds for the program, if the provider or school
569 fails or refuses to comply with this part.

570 (c) Beginning with the kindergarten readiness rates for
571 students completing the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
572 Program during the 2005-2006 school year who are administered
573 the statewide kindergarten screening during the 2006-2007 school
574 year:

575 1. Of the students who are administered the statewide
576 kindergarten screening under s. 1002.67, if less than 85 percent
577 of the students from a child development provider's or public
578 school's prekindergarten program are assessed as ready for
579 kindergarten based upon the results of the statewide
580 kindergarten screening, the regional child development board or
581 school district, as applicable, shall require the provider or
582 school to submit an improvement plan for approval by the

583 regional child development board or school district, as
 584 applicable, and to implement the plan.

585 2. If a child development provider or public school fails
 586 to meet the 85-percent kindergarten readiness rate for 2
 587 consecutive years, the regional child development board or
 588 school district, as applicable, shall place the provider or
 589 school on probation and must require the provider or school to
 590 take certain corrective actions, including the use of a
 591 curriculum approved by the department under paragraph (2)(c).

592 3. A child development provider or public school that is
 593 placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
 594 required under subparagraph 2., including the use of a
 595 curriculum approved by the department, until the provider or
 596 school meets the 85-percent kindergarten readiness rate, based
 597 upon the results of the statewide kindergarten screening.

598 1002.67 Statewide kindergarten screening.--

599 (1) The department, with the advice of the advisory
 600 council, shall adopt a statewide kindergarten screening that
 601 assesses the readiness of each student for kindergarten based
 602 upon the performance standards adopted by the department under
 603 s. 1002.65(1) for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 604 Program. The department shall require that each school district
 605 administer the statewide kindergarten screening to every
 606 kindergarten student in the school district within 30 school
 607 days after the student's entry into kindergarten.

608 (2) The statewide kindergarten screening shall provide
 609 objective data on each student's progress in attaining the

610 performance standards adopted by the department under s.
611 1002.65(1).

612 (3) The statewide kindergarten screening shall incorporate
613 mechanisms for recognizing potential variations in kindergarten
614 readiness rates for students with disabilities.

615 (4) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the
616 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must submit the
617 child for the statewide kindergarten screening, regardless of
618 whether the child is admitted to kindergarten in a public school
619 or nonpublic school. Each school district shall designate public
620 schools to administer the statewide kindergarten screening for
621 children admitted to kindergarten in a nonpublic school.

622 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the
623 calculation of each child development provider's and public
624 school's kindergarten readiness rate. The kindergarten readiness
625 rates must be based exclusively upon the results of the
626 statewide kindergarten screening and must not consider students
627 who are not administered the statewide kindergarten screening.

628 (6)(a) During the 2004-2005 through 2006-2007 school
629 years, the department shall continue the statewide
630 administration of the Early Screening Inventory-Kindergarten
631 developmental screening instrument as the statewide kindergarten
632 screening. The department may administer additional instruments
633 but only if the instruments are administered statewide. For
634 purposes of s. 1002.65(3)(c), the Early Screening Inventory-
635 Kindergarten developmental screening instrument shall be used to
636 calculate kindergarten readiness rates.

637 (b) By January 15, 2006, the department, with the advice
638 of the advisory council, shall recommend to the Legislature
639 valid and reliable screening instruments for the statewide
640 kindergarten screening. The Legislature shall review the
641 recommendations of the department at the 2006 Regular Session
642 and shall adopt screening instruments for the statewide
643 kindergarten screening.

644 (c) Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, the
645 department shall administer the screening instruments adopted by
646 the Legislature under paragraph (b). During the 2006-2007 school
647 year, the department shall continue administration of the Early
648 Screening Inventory-Kindergarten developmental screening
649 instrument for purposes of obtaining baseline data that compares
650 the kindergarten readiness rates of the instruments.

651 (d) The Legislature shall review, at the 2007 Regular
652 Session, the baseline data obtained under paragraph (c) and the
653 85-percent kindergarten readiness rate in s. 1002.65(3)(c). The
654 screening instruments adopted by the Legislature under paragraph
655 (b) shall be used to calculate the kindergarten readiness rates
656 for students completing the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
657 Program during the 2006-2007 school year who are administered
658 the statewide kindergarten screening during the 2007-2008 school
659 year and for subsequent school years.

660 1002.69 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.--

661 (1) There is created a categorical fund for the Voluntary
662 Prekindergarten Education Program. Categorical funds
663 appropriated for the program shall be in addition to funds

664 appropriated based upon full-time equivalent student membership
665 in the Florida Education Finance Program.

666 (2) A full-time equivalent student in the Voluntary
667 Prekindergarten Education Program shall be calculated as
668 follows:

669 (a) For a student in a prekindergarten program delivered
670 by a child development provider: 540 hours.

671 (b) For a student in a summer prekindergarten program
672 delivered by a public school: 300 hours.

673 (c) For a student in a school-year prekindergarten program
674 delivered by a public school: 540 hours.

675

676 A student may not be reported for funding purposes as more than
677 one full-time equivalent student.

678 (3)(a) The base student allocation per full-time
679 equivalent student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
680 Program shall be provided in the General Appropriations Act and
681 shall be equal, regardless of whether the student is enrolled in
682 a prekindergarten program delivered by a child development
683 provider, a summer prekindergarten program delivered by a public
684 school, or a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a
685 public school.

686 (b) Each county's allocation per full-time equivalent
687 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program shall
688 be calculated annually by multiplying the base student
689 allocation provided in the General Appropriations Act by the
690 county's district cost differential provided in s. 1011.62(2).
691 Each child development provider and public school shall be paid

692 in accordance with the county's allocation per full-time
693 equivalent student.

694 (4)(a) Each regional child development board shall
695 maintain through the single point of entry established under s.
696 411.01 a current database of the students enrolled in the
697 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program for each county
698 within the board's region.

699 (b) The department shall adopt procedures for the payment
700 of child development providers and public schools delivering the
701 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The procedures
702 shall provide for the advance payment of providers and schools
703 based upon student enrollment in the program, the certification
704 of student attendance, and the reconciliation of advance
705 payments based upon the certified student attendance. The
706 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
707 by the department to the regional child development boards for
708 payment by the boards to child development providers and public
709 schools.

710 (5)(a) Each parent enrolling his or her child in the
711 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must agree to comply
712 with the attendance policy of the child development provider or
713 district school board, as applicable. Upon enrollment of the
714 child, the child development provider or public school, as
715 applicable, must provide the child's parent with a copy of the
716 provider's or school district's attendance policy, as
717 applicable.

718 (b)1. Each child development provider's and district
719 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each

720 | student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 721 | verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
 722 | month's certified student attendance.

723 | 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
 724 | student's attendance to the child development provider or public
 725 | school on forms prescribed by the department. The forms must
 726 | include, in addition to the verification of the student's
 727 | attendance, a certification, in substantially the following
 728 | form, that the parent continues to choose the child development
 729 | provider or public school in accordance with s. 1002.53 and
 730 | directs that payments for the program be made to the provider or
 731 | school:

732 | VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 733 | AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

734 |
 735 | I, . . . (Name of Parent) . . . , swear (or affirm) that my
 736 | child, . . . (Name of Student) . . . , attended the Voluntary
 737 | Prekindergarten Education Program on the days listed above and
 738 | certify that I continue to choose . . . (Name of Provider or
 739 | School) . . . to deliver the program for my child and direct
 740 | that program funds be paid to the provider or school for my
 741 | child.

742 |
 743 | . . . (Signature of Parent) . . .
 744 | . . . (Date) . . .

745 |
 746 | 3. The child development provider or public school must
 747 | submit each original signed form to the regional child

748 development board. The regional child development board shall
749 keep the original signed forms or reproductions of the forms,
750 such as digital images or microfilm, in accordance with chapter
751 119. The department shall adopt procedures for the review of the
752 original signed forms against the certified student attendance.
753 The review procedures shall provide for the use of selective
754 inspection techniques, including, but not limited to, random
755 sampling. Each regional child development board must comply with
756 the review procedures.

757 (c) A child development provider or school district, as
758 applicable, may dismiss a student who does not comply with the
759 provider's or district's attendance policy. A student dismissed
760 under this paragraph is not removed from the Voluntary
761 Prekindergarten Education Program and may continue in the
762 program through reenrollment with another child development
763 provider or public school. Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(6)(b), a
764 school district is not required to provide for the admission of
765 a student dismissed under this paragraph.

766 (6) A regional child development board may not withhold
767 for administrative costs any portion of the funds distributed to
768 the board for payment to child development providers and public
769 schools. The department shall annually allocate administrative
770 funds to each regional child development board from funds
771 provided in the General Appropriations Act for that purpose. The
772 administrative funds must only be used for administration of the
773 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The department
774 shall allocate the administrative funds based upon each regional
775 child development board's student enrollment in the program. The

776 amount of each regional child development board's administrative
 777 funds may not exceed 3 percent of the funds paid by the board to
 778 child development providers and public schools.

779 (7) Except as otherwise expressly authorized by law, a
 780 child development provider or public school may not:

781 (a) Impose or collect a fee or charge for services
 782 provided for a child enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 783 Education Program during a period reported for funding purposes;
 784 or

785 (b) Require a child to enroll for, or require the payment
 786 of any fee or charge for, supplemental services as a condition
 787 of admitting a child for enrollment in the Voluntary
 788 Prekindergarten Education Program.

789 (8) State funds provided for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 790 Education Program may not be used for the transportation of
 791 students to and from the program. A parent is responsible for
 792 the transportation of his or her child to and from the Voluntary
 793 Prekindergarten Education Program, regardless of whether the
 794 program is delivered by a child development provider or a public
 795 school.

796 1002.71 Department of Education; powers and duties.--

797 (1) The Department of Education, with the advice of the
 798 advisory council, shall administer the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 799 Education Program at the statewide level.

800 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for:

801 (a) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
 802 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 803 under s. 1002.53.

804 (b) Providing parents with profiles of child development
 805 providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

806 (c) Registering and determining the eligibility of child
 807 development providers to deliver the program under s. 1002.55.

808 (d) Verifying Gold Seal Quality Care program standards
 809 under s. 1002.55.

810 (e) Approving prekindergarten director credentials under
 811 s. 1002.55 and s. 1002.57.

812 (f) Approving emergent literacy training courses under s.
 813 1002.55 and s. 1002.59.

814 (g) Certifying the eligibility of school districts to
 815 deliver the school-year prekindergarten program under s.
 816 1002.63.

817 (h) Verifying the compliance of child development
 818 providers and public schools, and removing providers or schools
 819 from eligibility to deliver the program for noncompliance, under
 820 s. 1002.65.

821 (i) Approving improvement plans of child development
 822 providers and public schools under s. 1002.65.

823 (j) Placing child development providers and public schools
 824 on probation and requiring corrective actions under s. 1002.65.

825 (k) Administering the statewide kindergarten screening and
 826 calculating kindergarten readiness rates under s. 1002.67.

827 (l) Distributing funds to regional child development
 828 boards under s. 1002.69.

829 (m) Paying child development providers and public schools
 830 under s. 1002.69.

831 (n) Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
 832 student attendance under s. 1002.69.

833 (o) Reconciling advance payments in accordance under s.
 834 1002.69.

835 (p) Reenrolling students dismissed by a child development
 836 provider or public school for noncompliance with the provider's
 837 or school district's attendance policy under s. 1002.69.

838 (q) Allocating administrative funds among regional child
 839 development boards under s. 1002.69.

840 (3) Notwithstanding s. 402.265 and s. 411.01(10), the
 841 Department of Education, the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
 842 the Department of Children and Family Services, and the regional
 843 child development boards may enter into interagency agreements
 844 that provide for the integration of, and shall provide
 845 interagency access among these agencies to, databases containing
 846 records, data, or other information relating to the following:

847 (a) Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;

848 (b) School readiness programs; or

849 (c) Licensure or registration, inspection, and
 850 disciplinary actions of child care facilities, family day care
 851 homes, and large family child care homes.

852
 853 These databases may comprise individual records of students,
 854 child development providers, and public schools in the Voluntary
 855 Prekindergarten Education Program and individual records of
 856 students and providers in school readiness programs. The
 857 agencies must protect the confidentiality of school readiness
 858 records in accordance with s. 411.011. These databases may also

859 include the statewide child care resource and referral network
860 established under s. 402.27 and each regional child development
861 board's single point of entry established under s. 411.01.

862 (4) Except as otherwise provided by law, the department
863 does not have authority to:

864 (a) Impose requirements on a child development provider
865 that does not deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
866 Program or receive state funds under this part.

867 (b) Impose requirements on a regional child development
868 board which are not necessary for the administration of the
869 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under this part.

870 (c) Administer powers and duties assigned to the Agency
871 for Workforce Innovation or a regional child development board
872 under s. 411.01.

873 1002.73 Florida Child Development Advisory Council.--

874 (1) There is created the Florida Child Development
875 Advisory Council within the Department of Education. The purpose
876 of the advisory council is to advise the Department of Education
877 and the Agency for Workforce Innovation on the child development
878 policy of this state, including advice relating to
879 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
880 Program under this part and the school readiness programs under
881 s. 411.01.

882 (2) The advisory council shall be composed of the
883 following members:

884 (a) Eleven members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

885 1. The chair of the advisory council and one other member,
886 who must both meet the same qualifications as private-sector

887 business members appointed to a regional child development board
 888 under s. 411.01(5)(a)6.

889 2. A representative of nonpublic schools accredited by
 890 accrediting associations in either the National Council for
 891 Private School Accreditation or the Commission on International
 892 and Trans-Regional Accreditation.

893 3. A representative of nonpublic schools accredited by
 894 accrediting associations in the Florida Association of Academic
 895 Nonpublic Schools.

896 4. A representative of licensed child care facilities.

897 5. A representative of licensed or registered family day
 898 care homes.

899 6. A representative of licensed large family child care
 900 homes.

901 7. A representative of faith-based child care providers.

902 8. A representative of programs for prekindergarten
 903 children with disabilities under the federal Individuals with
 904 Disabilities Education Act.

905 9. A public school classroom teacher.

906 10. A district superintendent of schools.

907
 908 The members appointed under this paragraph must be
 909 geographically and demographically representative of the state.
 910 The members shall be appointed to terms of 3 years each, except
 911 that, to establish staggered terms, one-half of the members
 912 shall be appointed to initial terms of 2 years each. Appointed
 913 members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

- 914 (b) The director of the Florida Head Start-State
915 Collaboration Office.
- 916 (c) A chair of a regional child development board who
917 shall be selected by the chairs of the regional child
918 development boards.
- 919 (d) An executive director of a regional child development
920 board who shall be selected by the executive directors of the
921 regional child development boards.
- 922 (e) The chair of the Child Care Executive Partnership.
- 923 (f) The chair or executive director of Workforce Florida,
924 Inc., or his or her designee.
- 925 (g) The director of the Division of Community Colleges of
926 the Department of Education.
- 927 (h) The Secretary of Health or his or her designee.
- 928 (i) The director of the Child Care Services Program Office
929 of the Department of Children and Family Services.
- 930 (j) The Deputy Director for Child Development of the
931 Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- 932 (k) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.
- 933 (l) Two members appointed by and who serve at the pleasure
934 of the President of the Senate and two members appointed by and
935 who serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of
936 Representatives, who must each meet the same qualifications as
937 private-sector business members appointed to a regional child
938 development board under s. 411.01(5)(a)6.
- 939 (3) The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly but
940 may meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties and
941 responsibilities.

942 (4)(a) Each member of the advisory council shall serve
 943 without compensation but is entitled to per diem and travel
 944 expenses for attendance of council meetings as provided in s.
 945 112.061.

946 (b) Each member of the advisory council is subject to the
 947 ethics provisions in part III of chapter 112.

948 (c) For purposes of tort liability, each member of the
 949 advisory council shall be governed by s. 768.28.

950 (5) The department shall provide staff and administrative
 951 support for the advisory council.

952 1002.75 Rulemaking authority.--The State Board of
 953 Education shall adopt rules under s. 120.536(1) and s. 120.54 to
 954 administer the provisions of this part conferring duties upon
 955 the department. The state board shall adopt initial rules for
 956 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program by January 1,
 957 2005.

958 Section 2. Effective July 1, 2004, section 411.01, Florida
 959 Statutes, is amended to read:

960 411.01 ~~Florida Partnership for School readiness programs;~~
 961 regional child development boards school readiness coalitions.--

962 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section may be cited as the "School
 963 Readiness Act."

964 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

965 (a) The Legislature recognizes that school readiness
 966 programs increase children's chances of achieving future
 967 educational success and becoming productive members of society.
 968 It is the intent of the Legislature that the ~~such~~ programs be
 969 developmentally appropriate, research-based, involve parents as

970 their child's first teacher, serve as preventive measures for
 971 children at risk of future school failure, enhance the
 972 educational readiness of eligible children, and support family
 973 education. Each school readiness program shall provide the
 974 elements necessary to prepare at-risk children for school,
 975 including health screening and referral and an appropriate
 976 educational program.

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

981 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that school
 982 readiness programs not exist as isolated programs, but build
 983 upon existing services and work in cooperation with other
 984 programs for young children, and that school readiness programs
 985 be coordinated ~~and funding integrated~~ to achieve full
 986 effectiveness.

987 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
 988 administrative staff at the state level for school readiness
 989 programs be kept to the minimum necessary to administer ~~carry~~
 990 ~~out~~ the duties of the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 991 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~, as the school readiness
 992 programs are to be regionally ~~locally~~ designed, operated, and
 993 managed, with the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 994 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ ~~adopting a system for measuring~~
 995 ~~school readiness~~; developing school readiness program
 996 performance standards and; outcome measures ~~measurements~~; and
 997 ~~data design and review~~; and approving and reviewing regional

998 | child development boards and local school readiness coalitions
 999 | and plans.

1000 | (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that
 1001 | appropriations for combined school readiness programs shall not
 1002 | be less than the programs would receive in any fiscal year on an
 1003 | uncombined basis.

1004 | (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the school
 1005 | readiness program coordinate and operate in conjunction with the
 1006 | district school systems. However, it is also the intent of the
 1007 | Legislature that the school readiness program not be construed
 1008 | as part of the system of free public schools but rather as a
 1009 | separate program for children under the age of kindergarten
 1010 | eligibility, funded separately from the system of free public
 1011 | schools, utilizing a mandatory sliding fee scale, and providing
 1012 | an integrated and seamless system of school readiness services
 1013 | for the state's birth-to-kindergarten population.

1014 | (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the federal
 1015 | child care income tax credit be preserved for school readiness
 1016 | programs.

1017 | (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that school
 1018 | readiness services shall be an integrated and seamless system of
 1019 | services with a developmentally appropriate education component
 1020 | for the state's eligible birth-to-kindergarten population
 1021 | described in subsection (6) and shall not be construed as part
 1022 | of the seamless K-20 education system ~~except for the~~
 1023 | ~~administration of the uniform screening system upon entry into~~
 1024 | ~~kindergarten.~~

1025 (3) PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS
 1026 PROGRAM.--

1027 ~~(a) The school readiness program shall be phased in on a~~
 1028 ~~coalition-by-coalition basis. Each coalition's school readiness~~
 1029 ~~program shall have available to it funding from all the~~
 1030 ~~coalition's early education and child care programs that are~~
 1031 ~~funded with state, federal, lottery, or local funds, including~~
 1032 ~~but not limited to Florida First Start programs, Even Start~~
 1033 ~~literacy programs, prekindergarten early intervention programs,~~
 1034 ~~Head Start programs, programs offered by public and private~~
 1035 ~~providers of child care, migrant prekindergarten programs, Title~~
 1036 ~~I programs, subsidized child care programs, and teen parent~~
 1037 ~~programs, together with any additional funds appropriated or~~
 1038 ~~obtained for purposes of this section. These programs and their~~
 1039 ~~funding streams shall be components of the coalition's~~
 1040 ~~integrated school readiness program, with the goal of preparing~~
 1041 ~~children for success in school.~~

1042 ~~(b) Nothing contained in This section does not act is~~
 1043 ~~intended to:~~

1044 ~~(a)1.~~ Relieve parents and guardians of their own
 1045 obligations to prepare ready their children for school; or

1046 ~~(b)2.~~ Create any obligation to provide publicly funded
 1047 school readiness programs or services beyond those authorized by
 1048 the Legislature.

1049 (4) AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP
 1050 FOR SCHOOL READINESS.--

1051 (a) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall Florida
 1052 Partnership for School Readiness was created to fulfill three

1053 ~~major purposes: to~~ administer school readiness programs at the
 1054 statewide level and shall ~~program services that help parents~~
 1055 ~~prepare eligible children for school; to~~ coordinate the regional
 1056 child development boards in providing ~~provision of~~ school
 1057 readiness services on a full-day, full-year, full-choice basis
 1058 to the extent possible in order to enable parents to work and be
 1059 financially self-sufficient; ~~and to establish a uniform~~
 1060 ~~screening instrument to be implemented by the Department of~~
 1061 ~~Education and administered by the school districts upon entry~~
 1062 ~~into kindergarten to assess the readiness for school of all~~
 1063 ~~children. Readiness for kindergarten is the outcome measure of~~
 1064 ~~the success of each school readiness program that receives state~~
 1065 ~~or federal funds. The partnership is assigned to the Agency for~~
 1066 ~~Workforce Innovation for administrative purposes.~~

1067 (b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 1068 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ shall:

1069 1. Coordinate the birth-to-kindergarten services for
 1070 children who are eligible under ~~pursuant to~~ subsection (6) and
 1071 the programmatic, administrative, and fiscal standards under
 1072 ~~pursuant to~~ this section for all public providers of school
 1073 readiness programs.

1074 2. Continue to provide unified leadership for school
 1075 readiness through regional child development boards ~~local school~~
 1076 ~~readiness coalitions.~~

1077 3. Focus on improving the educational quality of all
 1078 publicly funded school readiness programs.

1079 ~~(c)1. The Florida Partnership for School Readiness shall~~
 1080 ~~include the Lieutenant Governor, the Commissioner of Education,~~

1081 ~~the Secretary of Children and Family Services, and the Secretary~~
1082 ~~of Health, or their designees, and the chair of the Child Care~~
1083 ~~Executive Partnership Board, and the chairperson of the Board of~~
1084 ~~Directors of Workforce Florida, Inc. When the Lieutenant~~
1085 ~~Governor or an agency head appoints a designee, the designee~~
1086 ~~must be an individual who attends consistently, and, in the~~
1087 ~~event that the Lieutenant Governor or agency head and his or her~~
1088 ~~designee both attend a meeting, only one of them may vote.~~

1089 ~~2. The partnership shall also include 14 members of the~~
1090 ~~public who shall be business, community, and civic leaders in~~
1091 ~~the state who are not elected to public office. These members~~
1092 ~~and their families must not have a direct contract with any~~
1093 ~~local coalition to provide school readiness services. The~~
1094 ~~members must be geographically and demographically~~
1095 ~~representative of the state. Each member shall be appointed by~~
1096 ~~the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the President~~
1097 ~~of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.~~
1098 ~~By July 1, 2001, four members shall be appointed as follows: two~~
1099 ~~members shall be from the child care industry, one representing~~
1100 ~~the private for-profit sector appointed by the Governor from a~~
1101 ~~list of two nominees submitted by the President of the Senate~~
1102 ~~and one representing faith-based providers appointed by the~~
1103 ~~Governor from a list of two nominees submitted by the Speaker of~~
1104 ~~the House of Representatives; and two members shall be from the~~
1105 ~~business community, one appointed by the Governor from a list of~~
1106 ~~two nominees submitted by the President of the Senate and one~~
1107 ~~appointed by the Governor from a list of two nominees submitted~~
1108 ~~by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members shall be~~

1109 ~~appointed to 4-year terms of office. The members of the~~
1110 ~~partnership shall elect a chairperson annually from the~~
1111 ~~nongovernmental members of the partnership. Any vacancy on the~~
1112 ~~partnership shall be filled in the same manner as the original~~
1113 ~~appointment.~~

1114 ~~(d) The partnership shall meet at least quarterly but may~~
1115 ~~meet as often as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and~~
1116 ~~responsibilities. Members of the partnership shall participate~~
1117 ~~without proxy at the quarterly meetings. The partnership may~~
1118 ~~take official action by a majority vote of the members present~~
1119 ~~at any meeting at which a quorum is present.~~

1120 ~~(e) Members of the partnership are subject to the ethics~~
1121 ~~provisions in part III of chapter 112, and no member may derive~~
1122 ~~any financial benefit from the funds administered by the Florida~~
1123 ~~Partnership for School Readiness.~~

1124 ~~(f) Members of the partnership shall serve without~~
1125 ~~compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and~~
1126 ~~travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as~~
1127 ~~provided in s. 112.061, and reimbursement for other reasonable,~~
1128 ~~necessary, and actual expenses.~~

1129 ~~(g) For the purposes of tort liability, the members of the~~
1130 ~~partnership and its employees shall be governed by s. 768.28.~~

1131 ~~(h) The partnership shall appoint an executive director~~
1132 ~~who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The executive~~
1133 ~~director shall perform the duties assigned to him or her by the~~
1134 ~~partnership. The executive director shall be responsible for~~
1135 ~~hiring, subject to the approval of the partnership, all~~

1136 ~~employees and staff members, who shall serve under his or her~~
 1137 ~~direction and control.~~

1138 (c)(i) For purposes of administration of the federal Child
 1139 Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99, the Agency
 1140 for Workforce Innovation partnership may be designated by the
 1141 Governor as the lead agency, and if so designated shall comply
 1142 with the lead agency responsibilities under ~~pursuant to~~ federal
 1143 law.

1144 (d)(j) The Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 1145 ~~Partnership for School Readiness is the principal organization~~
 1146 ~~responsible for the enhancement of school readiness for the~~
 1147 ~~state's children, and shall:~~

1148 1. Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
 1149 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
 1150 requirements.

1151 2. Provide final approval and periodic review of regional
 1152 child development boards coalitions and school readiness plans.

1153 3. Provide leadership for the enhancement of school
 1154 readiness in this state by aggressively establishing a unified
 1155 approach to the state's efforts toward enhancement of school
 1156 readiness. In support of this effort, the Agency for Workforce
 1157 Innovation partnership may develop and implement specific
 1158 strategies that address the state's school readiness programs.

1159 4. Safeguard the effective use of federal, state, local,
 1160 and private resources to achieve the highest possible level of
 1161 school readiness for the ~~state's~~ children in this state.

1162 5. Provide technical assistance to regional child
 1163 development boards coalitions.

1164 6. Assess gaps in service.

1165 7. Provide technical assistance to counties that form a
1166 regional child development board serving a multicounty region
1167 coalition.

1168 ~~8.a. Adopt a system for measuring school readiness that~~
1169 ~~provides objective data regarding the expectations for school~~
1170 ~~readiness, and establish a method for collecting the data and~~
1171 ~~guidelines for using the data. The measurement, the data~~
1172 ~~collection, and the use of the data must serve the statewide~~
1173 ~~school readiness goal. The criteria for determining which data~~
1174 ~~to collect should be the usefulness of the data to state~~
1175 ~~policymakers and local program administrators in administering~~
1176 ~~programs and allocating state funds, and must include the~~
1177 ~~tracking of school readiness system information back to~~
1178 ~~individual school readiness programs to assist in determining~~
1179 ~~program effectiveness.~~

1180 ~~b. Adopt a system for evaluating the performance of~~
1181 ~~students through the third grade to compare the performance of~~
1182 ~~those who participated in school readiness programs with the~~
1183 ~~performance of students who did not participate in school~~
1184 ~~readiness programs in order to identify strategies for continued~~
1185 ~~successful student performance.~~

1186 8.9. Develop and adopt, with the advice of the Florida
1187 Child Development Advisory Council created under s. 1002.73 and
1188 the Department of Education, performance standards and outcome
1189 measures for school readiness programs. The performance
1190 standards must address the age-appropriate progress of children
1191 in the development of the school readiness skills required under

1192 paragraph (j). The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
 1193 integrate the performance standards for school readiness
 1194 programs into the performance standards adopted by the
 1195 Department of Education for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1196 Education Program under s. 1002.65.

1197 (e)(k) The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ may
 1198 adopt rules under s. 120.536(1) and s. 120.54 necessary to
 1199 administer the provisions of law conferring duties upon the
 1200 agency, including, but not limited ~~this section which relate to,~~
 1201 rules governing the preparation ~~preparing~~ and implementation of
 1202 ~~implementing~~ the ~~system for~~ school readiness system, the
 1203 collection of ~~collecting~~ data, the approval of regional child
 1204 development boards and ~~approving local~~ school readiness
 1205 ~~coalitions and~~ plans, the provision of ~~providing~~ a method
 1206 whereby a regional child development board may ~~coalition can~~
 1207 serve two or more counties, the award of ~~awarding~~ incentives to
 1208 regional child development boards ~~coalitions~~, and the issuance
 1209 of ~~issuing~~ waivers.

1210 (f)(l) The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida~~
 1211 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ shall have all powers necessary
 1212 to administer ~~carry out the purposes of~~ this section, including,
 1213 but not limited to, the power to receive and accept grants,
 1214 loans, or advances of funds from any public or private agency
 1215 and to receive and accept from any source contributions of
 1216 money, property, labor, or any other thing of value, to be held,
 1217 used, and applied for ~~the~~ purposes of this section.

1218 (g) Except as otherwise provided by law, the Agency for
 1219 Workforce Innovation does not have authority:

1220 1. To impose requirements on a child care or early
 1221 childhood education provider that does not deliver services
 1222 under a school readiness program or receive state or federal
 1223 funds under this section.

1224 2. To administer powers and duties assigned to the
 1225 Department of Education or a regional child development board
 1226 under part V of chapter 1002.

1227 ~~(h)(m)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 1228 Partnership for School Readiness shall have a budget for the
 1229 school readiness system, which ~~and~~ shall be financed through an
 1230 annual appropriation made for purposes of this section ~~purpose~~
 1231 in the General Appropriations Act.

1232 ~~(i)(n)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation, with the
 1233 advice of the Florida Child Development Advisory Council,
 1234 ~~partnership~~ shall coordinate the efforts toward school readiness
 1235 in this state and provide independent policy analyses and
 1236 recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,
 1237 and the Legislature.

1238 ~~(j)(o)~~ Each regional child development board's The
 1239 ~~partnership shall prepare and submit to the State Board of~~
 1240 ~~Education a system for measuring~~ school readiness program. The
 1241 ~~system~~ must, at a minimum, enhance the age-appropriate progress
 1242 of each child in the development of ~~include a uniform screening,~~
 1243 ~~which shall provide objective data regarding~~ the following
 1244 ~~expectations for school readiness~~ skills ~~which shall include, at~~
 1245 ~~a minimum:~~

- 1246 ~~1. The child's immunizations and other health requirements~~
 1247 ~~as necessary, including appropriate vision and hearing screening~~
 1248 ~~and examinations.~~
- 1249 ~~2. The child's physical development.~~
- 1250 1.3. ~~The child's~~ Compliance with rules, limitations, and
 1251 routines.
- 1252 2.4. ~~The child's~~ Ability to perform tasks.
- 1253 3.5. ~~The child's~~ Interactions with adults.
- 1254 4.6. ~~The child's~~ Interactions with peers.
- 1255 5.7. ~~The child's~~ Ability to cope with challenges.
- 1256 6.8. ~~The child's~~ Self-help skills.
- 1257 7.9. ~~The child's~~ Ability to express the child's ~~his or her~~
 1258 needs.
- 1259 8.10. ~~The child's~~ Verbal communication skills.
- 1260 9.11. ~~The child's~~ Problem-solving skills.
- 1261 10.12. ~~The child's~~ Following of verbal directions.
- 1262 11.13. ~~The child's~~ Demonstration of curiosity,
 1263 persistence, and exploratory behavior.
- 1264 12.14. ~~The child's~~ Interest in books and other printed
 1265 materials.
- 1266 13.15. ~~The child's~~ Paying attention to stories.
- 1267 14.16. ~~The child's~~ Participation in art and music
 1268 activities.
- 1269 15.17. ~~The child's~~ Ability to identify colors, geometric
 1270 shapes, letters of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and
 1271 temporal relationships.
- 1272

1273 Each regional child development board shall also require that,
1274 before a child is enrolled in the board's school readiness
1275 program, information must first be obtained regarding the
1276 child's immunizations, physical development, and other health
1277 requirements as necessary, including appropriate vision and
1278 hearing screening and examinations.

1279 ~~(p) The partnership shall prepare a plan for implementing~~
1280 ~~the system for measuring school readiness in such a way that all~~
1281 ~~children in this state will undergo the uniform screening~~
1282 ~~established by the partnership when they enter kindergarten.~~
1283 ~~Children who enter public school for the first time in first~~
1284 ~~grade must undergo a uniform screening approved by the~~
1285 ~~partnership for use in first grade. Because children with~~
1286 ~~disabilities may not be able to meet all of the identified~~
1287 ~~expectations for school readiness, the plan for measuring school~~
1288 ~~readiness shall incorporate mechanisms for recognizing the~~
1289 ~~potential variations in expectations for school readiness when~~
1290 ~~servicing children with disabilities and shall provide for~~
1291 ~~communities to serve children with disabilities.~~

1292 (k)(g) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
1293 shall conduct studies and planning activities related to the
1294 overall improvement and effectiveness of the outcome school
1295 readiness measures adopted by the agency for school readiness
1296 programs.

1297 (l) The Agency for Workforce Innovation, with the advice
1298 of the Florida Child Development Advisory Council, shall adopt
1299 and administer a quality-assurance system. The Agency for
1300 Workforce Innovation shall use the quality-assurance system to

1301 monitor and evaluate the performance of each regional child
1302 development board in administering the school readiness program
1303 and implementing the board's school readiness plan. The quality-
1304 assurance system must include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring
1305 of each board's finances, management, operations, and programs.

1306 (m) The Agency for Workforce Innovation, with the advice
1307 of the Florida Child Development Advisory Council, shall
1308 identify best practices of regional child development boards in
1309 order to improve the outcomes of school readiness programs.

1310 ~~(r) The partnership shall establish procedures for~~
1311 ~~performance-based budgeting in school readiness programs.~~

1312 (n)(s) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
1313 shall submit an annual report of its activities conducted under
1314 this section to the Governor, the executive director of the
1315 Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, the President of the Senate,
1316 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority
1317 leaders of both houses of the Legislature. In addition, the
1318 Agency for Workforce Innovation's partnership's reports and
1319 recommendations shall be made available to the State Board of
1320 Education, the Florida Child Development Advisory Council, other
1321 appropriate state agencies and entities, district school boards,
1322 central agencies ~~for child care~~, and county health departments.
1323 The annual report must provide an analysis of school readiness
1324 activities across the state, including the number of children
1325 who were served in the programs ~~and the number of children who~~
1326 ~~were ready for school.~~

1327 (o)(t) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
1328 shall work with regional child development boards ~~school~~

1329 ~~readiness coalitions~~ to increase parents' training for and
 1330 involvement in their children's preschool education and to
 1331 provide family literacy activities and programs.

1332
 1333 ~~To ensure that the system for measuring school readiness is~~
 1334 ~~comprehensive and appropriate statewide, as the system is~~
 1335 ~~developed and implemented, the partnership must consult with~~
 1336 ~~representatives of district school systems, providers of public~~
 1337 ~~and private child care, health care providers, large and small~~
 1338 ~~employers, experts in education for children with disabilities,~~
 1339 ~~and experts in child development.~~

1340 (5) CREATION OF REGIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT BOARDS SCHOOL
 1341 ~~READINESS COALITIONS~~.--

1342 (a) Regional child development boards ~~School readiness~~
 1343 ~~coalitions~~.--

1344 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation, with the advice of
 1345 the Florida Child Development Advisory Council created under s.
 1346 1002.73, shall establish the minimum number of children to be
 1347 served by each regional child development board through the
 1348 board's school readiness program. The Agency for Workforce
 1349 Innovation may only approve school readiness plans in accordance
 1350 with this minimum number. The minimum number must be uniform for
 1351 every regional child development board and must:

- 1352 a. Permit 30 or fewer boards to be established; and
- 1353 b. Require each board to serve at least 2,000 children
 1354 based upon the average number of all children served per month
 1355 through the board's school readiness program during the previous
 1356 12 months.

1357
1358 The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for
1359 the merger of regional child development boards, including
1360 procedures for the consolidation of merging boards and for the
1361 early termination of the terms of board members, which are
1362 necessary to accomplish the mergers. Each regional child
1363 development board must comply with the merger procedures and
1364 shall be organized in accordance with this subparagraph by
1365 January 1, 2005. By June 30, 2005, each board must complete the
1366 transfer of powers, duties, functions, rules, records,
1367 personnel, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations,
1368 allocations, and other funds to the successor board, if
1369 applicable.

1370 ~~2.1. If a regional child development board coalition's~~
1371 ~~plan would serve fewer less than 400 birth-to-kindergarten age~~
1372 ~~children than the minimum number established under subparagraph~~
1373 ~~1., the board coalition must either join with another county to~~
1374 ~~form a multicounty board coalition, enter an agreement with a~~
1375 ~~fiscal agent to serve more than one coalition, or demonstrate to~~
1376 ~~the partnership its ability to effectively and efficiently~~
1377 ~~implement its plan as a single county coalition and meet all~~
1378 ~~required performance standards and outcome measures.~~

1379 3. Each regional child development board shall be composed
1380 of at least 18 members but not more than 35 members. The Agency
1381 for Workforce Innovation, with the advice of the Florida Child
1382 Development Advisory Council, shall adopt standards establishing
1383 within this range the minimum and maximum number of members that
1384 may be appointed to a regional child development board. These

1385 standards shall include variations for a board serving a
 1386 multicounty region. Each regional child development board must
 1387 comply with these standards.

1388 4. The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
 1389 members of each regional child development board, who must each
 1390 meet the same qualifications as private-sector business members
 1391 appointed by the board under subparagraph 6.

1392 5.2- ~~Each regional child development board coalition shall~~
 1393 ~~have at least 18 but not more than 25 members and such members~~
 1394 ~~must include the following members:~~

1395 a. A Department of Children and Family Services district
 1396 administrator or his or her designee who is authorized to make
 1397 decisions on behalf of the department.

1398 b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her
 1399 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the
 1400 district.

1401 c. A regional workforce ~~development~~ board executive chair
 1402 ~~or director or his or her designee, where applicable.~~

1403 d. A county health department director or his or her
 1404 designee.

1405 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board
 1406 chair or executive director, if applicable.

1407 f. An agency head of a local child-care ~~licensing agency~~
 1408 ~~as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable~~ head.

1409 g. A president of a community college or his or her
 1410 designee.

1411 ~~g. One member appointed by a Department of Children and~~
 1412 ~~Family Services district administrator.~~

1413 h. One member appointed by a board of county
1414 commissioners.

1415 ~~i. One member appointed by a district school board.~~

1416 ~~i.j.~~ A central ~~child care~~ agency administrator, where
1417 applicable.

1418 ~~j.k.~~ A Head Start director.

1419 ~~k.l.~~ A representative of private child care providers,
1420 including family day care homes.

1421 ~~l.m.~~ A representative of faith-based child care providers.

1422 m. A representative of programs for children with
1423 disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities
1424 Education Act.

1425 6. Including the members appointed by the Governor under
1426 subparagraph 4., more than one-third of the ~~coalition~~ members of
1427 each regional child development board must be private-sector
1428 business members who do not have, and none of whose relatives as
1429 defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in
1430 the design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1431 Education Program created under part V of chapter 1002 or the
1432 board's school readiness program from the private sector, and
1433 neither they nor their families may earn an income from the
1434 early education and child care industry. To meet this
1435 requirement a regional child development board ~~coalition~~ must
1436 appoint additional members from a list of nominees submitted
1437 presented to the board ~~coalition~~ by a chamber of commerce or
1438 economic development council within the geographic region served
1439 by area of the board ~~coalition~~. The Agency for Workforce
1440 Innovation shall adopt criteria for the appointment of private-

1441 sector business members. These criteria must include standards
1442 for determining whether a member or relative has a substantial
1443 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
1444 Prekindergarten Education Program or the board's school
1445 readiness program.

1446 7.3. A ~~No~~ member of a regional child development board
1447 ~~coalition~~ may not appoint a designee to act in his or her place.
1448 A member may send a representative to board coalition meetings,
1449 but that representative does not ~~will~~ have ~~no~~ voting privileges.
1450 When a district superintendent of schools or a district
1451 administrator for the Department of Children and Family Services
1452 appoints a designee to a regional child development board ~~school~~
1453 ~~readiness coalition~~, the designee is ~~will be~~ the voting member
1454 of the board coalition, and any individual attending in the
1455 designee's ~~his or her~~ place, including the district
1456 administrator or superintendent, does not ~~will~~ have ~~no~~ voting
1457 privileges.

1458 8.4. Each member ~~Members~~ of a regional child development
1459 board is the coalition are subject to s. 112.313, s. 112.3135,
1460 and s. 112.3143 ~~the ethics provisions in part III of chapter~~
1461 112. For purposes of s. 112.3143(3)(a), each member is a local
1462 public officer who must abstain from voting when a voting
1463 conflict exists.

1464 9.5. For the purposes of tort liability, each member or
1465 employee of a regional child development board ~~the members of~~
1466 ~~the school readiness coalition and its employees~~ shall be
1467 governed by s. 768.28.

1468 10.6. A regional child development board serving a
 1469 multicounty region ~~coalitions~~ shall include representation from
 1470 each county.

1471 11.7. Each regional child development board shall
 1472 establish ~~The terms for~~ of all appointed members of the board.
 1473 The terms ~~coalition~~ must be staggered and must be a uniform
 1474 length that does not exceed 4 years per term. Appointed members
 1475 may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy
 1476 occurs in an appointed position, the board ~~coalition~~ must
 1477 advertise the vacancy.

1478 (b) Program participation.--The school readiness program
 1479 shall be established for children younger than ~~from birth to 5~~
 1480 ~~years of age or until the child enters~~ kindergarten eligibility
 1481 as defined in s. 1002.51. The program shall be administered by
 1482 the regional child development board ~~school-readiness coalition~~.
 1483 Within funding limitations, the regional child development board
 1484 ~~school-readiness coalition~~, along with all providers, shall make
 1485 reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of children for
 1486 extended-day and extended-year services without compromising the
 1487 quality of the program.

1488 (c) Program expectations.--

1489 1. The school readiness program must meet the following
 1490 expectations:

1491 a. The program must, at a minimum, enhance the age-
 1492 appropriate progress of each child in the development of the
 1493 school readiness skills required under paragraph (4)(j) ~~prepare~~
 1494 ~~preschool children to enter kindergarten ready to learn, as~~
 1495 measured by the performance standards and outcome measures

1496 adopted criteria established by the Agency for Workforce
 1497 Innovation Florida Partnership for School Readiness.

1498 b. The program must provide extended-day and extended-year
 1499 services to the maximum extent possible to meet the needs of
 1500 parents who work.

1501 c. There must be coordinated staff development and
 1502 teaching opportunities.

1503 d. There must be expanded access to community services and
 1504 resources for families to help achieve economic self-
 1505 sufficiency.

1506 e. There must be a single point of entry and unified
 1507 waiting list. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term "single
 1508 point of entry" means an integrated information system that
 1509 allows a parent to enroll his or her child in the school
 1510 readiness program at various locations throughout the county or
 1511 multicounty region served by a regional child development board,
 1512 that may allow a parent to enroll his or her child by telephone
 1513 or through an Internet website, and that uses a unified waiting
 1514 list to track eligible children waiting for enrollment in the
 1515 school readiness program. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1516 shall establish a single statewide information system that
 1517 integrates each regional child development board's single point
 1518 of entry, and each board must use the statewide system.

1519 f. The Agency for Workforce Innovation must consider the
 1520 access of eligible children to the school readiness program, as
 1521 demonstrated in part by waiting lists, before approving a
 1522 proposed increase in payment rates submitted by a regional child
 1523 development board.

1524 ~~f. As long as funding or eligible populations do not~~
 1525 ~~decrease, the program must serve at least as many children as~~
 1526 ~~were served prior to implementation of the program.~~

1527 g. There must be a community plan to address the needs of
 1528 all eligible children.

1529 h. The program must meet all state licensing guidelines,
 1530 where applicable.

1531 2. The regional child development board school readiness
 1532 ~~coalition~~ must implement a comprehensive program of school
 1533 readiness services that enhance the cognitive, social, and
 1534 physical development of children to achieve the performance
 1535 standards and outcome measures adopted ~~specified~~ by the Agency
 1536 for Workforce Innovation partnership. At a minimum, these
 1537 programs must contain the following elements:

1538 a. Developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to
 1539 enhance the age-appropriate progress of children in attaining
 1540 the performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce
 1541 Innovation under subparagraph (4)(d)8.

1542 b. A character development program to develop basic
 1543 values.

1544 c. An age-appropriate assessment of each child's
 1545 development.

1546 d. A pretest administered to children when they enter a
 1547 program and a posttest administered to children when they leave
 1548 the program.

1549 e. An appropriate staff-to-children ~~staff-to-child~~ ratio.

1550 f. A healthy ~~healthful~~ and safe environment.

1551 g. A resource and referral network to assist parents in
1552 making an informed choice.

1553 (d) Implementation.--

1554 1. A regional child development board may not implement
1555 the school readiness program ~~is to be phased in.~~ until the board
1556 is authorized ~~coalition implements its plan,~~ the county shall
1557 ~~continue to receive the services identified in subsection (3)~~
1558 ~~through the various agencies that would be responsible for~~
1559 ~~delivering those services under current law.~~ Plan
1560 ~~implementation is subject to approval of the~~ board's school
1561 readiness coalition ~~and the plan by the~~ Agency for Workforce
1562 Innovation Florida Partnership for School Readiness.

1563 2. Each regional child development board ~~school readiness~~
1564 ~~coalition~~ shall develop a plan for implementing the school
1565 readiness program to meet the requirements of this section and
1566 the performance standards and outcome measures adopted
1567 established by the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership.
1568 ~~The plan must include a written description of the role of the~~
1569 ~~program in the coalition's effort to meet the first state~~
1570 ~~education goal, readiness to start school, including a~~
1571 ~~description of the plan to involve the prekindergarten early~~
1572 ~~intervention programs, Head Start Programs, programs offered by~~
1573 ~~public or private providers of child care, preschool programs~~
1574 ~~for children with disabilities, programs for migrant children,~~
1575 ~~Title I programs, subsidized child care programs, and teen~~
1576 ~~parent programs.~~ The plan must also demonstrate how the program
1577 will ensure that each 3-year-old and 4-year-old child in a
1578 publicly funded school readiness program receives scheduled

1579 | activities and instruction designed to enhance the age-
1580 | appropriate progress of the ~~prepare~~ children in attaining the
1581 | performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce
1582 | Innovation under subparagraph (4)(d)8 ~~to enter kindergarten~~
1583 | ~~ready to learn.~~ Before ~~Prior~~ to implementation of the school
1584 | readiness program, the regional child development board ~~school~~
1585 | ~~readiness coalition~~ must submit the plan to the Agency for
1586 | Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ for approval. The Agency for
1587 | Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ may approve the plan, reject
1588 | the plan, or approve the plan with conditions. The Agency for
1589 | Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School Readiness~~
1590 | shall review school readiness ~~coalition~~ plans at least annually.

1591 | 3. If the Agency for Workforce Innovation determines
1592 | during the annual review of school readiness plans, or through
1593 | monitoring and performance evaluations conducted under the
1594 | quality-assurance system, that a regional child development
1595 | board has not substantially implemented its plan or has not
1596 | substantially met the performance standards and outcome measures
1597 | adopted by the agency, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may
1598 | reject the board's plan and contract with a qualified entity to
1599 | continue school readiness services in the board's county or
1600 | multicounty region until the board is reestablished through
1601 | resubmission of a school readiness plan and approval by the
1602 | agency.

1603 | 4.3- The Agency for Workforce Innovation, with the advice
1604 | of the Florida Child Development Advisory Council, shall adopt
1605 | criteria for the approval of school readiness plans. The
1606 | criteria must be consistent with the performance standards and

1607 outcome measures adopted by the agency and must require each
1608 approved plan to ~~for the school readiness program~~ must include
1609 the following minimum standards and provisions:

1610 a. A sliding fee scale establishing a copayment for
1611 parents based upon their ability to pay, which is the same for
1612 all program providers, to be implemented and reflected in each
1613 program's budget.

1614 b. A choice of settings and locations in licensed,
1615 registered, religious-exempt, or school-based programs to be
1616 provided to parents.

1617 c. Instructional staff who have completed the training
1618 course as required in s. 402.305(2)(d)1., as well as staff who
1619 have additional training or credentials as required by the
1620 Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership. The plan must
1621 provide a method for assuring the qualifications of all
1622 personnel in all program settings.

1623 d. Specific eligibility priorities for children within the
1624 regional child development board's coalition's county or
1625 multicounty region in accordance with ~~pursuant to~~ subsection
1626 (6).

1627 e. Performance standards and outcome measures adopted
1628 established by the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
1629 ~~or alternatively, standards and outcome measures to be used~~
1630 ~~until such time as the partnership adopts such standards and~~
1631 ~~outcome measures.~~

1632 f. Payment Reimbursement rates adopted that have been
1633 developed by the regional child development board and approved
1634 by the Agency for Workforce Innovation coalition. Payment

1635 ~~Reimbursement~~ rates shall not have the effect of limiting
 1636 parental choice or creating standards or levels of services that
 1637 have not been authorized by the Legislature.

1638 g. Systems support services, including a central agency,
 1639 child care resource and referral, eligibility determinations,
 1640 training of providers, and parent support and involvement.

1641 h. Direct enhancement services to families and children.
 1642 System support and direct enhancement services shall be in
 1643 addition to payments for the placement of children in school
 1644 readiness programs.

1645 i. The A business organization of the regional child
 1646 development board plan, which must include the board's articles
 1647 of incorporation and bylaws if the board is organized as a
 1648 corporation. If the board is not organized as a corporation or
 1649 other business entity, the plan must include the contract with a
 1650 fiscal school readiness agent if the coalition is not a legally
 1651 established corporate entity. A regional child development board
 1652 Coalitions may contract with other regional child development
 1653 boards coalitions to achieve efficiency in multicounty multiple-
 1654 county services, and these ~~such~~ contracts may be part of the
 1655 board's school readiness coalition's business plan.

1656 j. Strategies to meet the needs of unique populations,
 1657 such as migrant workers.

1658
 1659 As part of the school readiness plan, the regional child
 1660 development board coalition may request the Governor to apply
 1661 for a waiver to allow the board coalition to administer the Head
 1662 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness

1663 program. If a ~~any~~ school readiness plan demonstrates ~~can~~
1664 ~~demonstrate~~ that specific statutory goals may ~~can~~ be achieved
1665 more effectively by using procedures that require modification
1666 of existing rules, policies, or procedures, a request for a
1667 waiver to the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership may be
1668 submitted ~~made~~ as part of the plan. Upon review, the Agency for
1669 Workforce Innovation partnership may grant the proposed
1670 modification.

1671 5.4- Persons with an early childhood teaching certificate
1672 may provide support and supervision to other staff in the school
1673 readiness program.

1674 6.5- A regional child development board ~~The coalition~~ may
1675 not implement its school readiness plan until the board ~~it~~
1676 submits the plan to and receives approval from the Agency for
1677 Workforce Innovation partnership. Once the plan is ~~has been~~
1678 approved, the plan and the services provided under the plan
1679 shall be controlled by the regional child development board
1680 ~~coalition rather than by the state agencies or departments~~. The
1681 plan shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but at least
1682 biennially. A regional child development board may not implement
1683 the revisions until the board submits the revised plan to and
1684 receives approval from the Agency for Workforce Innovation. If
1685 the Agency for Workforce Innovation rejects a revised plan, the
1686 board must continue to operate under its prior approved plan.

1687 7.6- Sections ~~The following statutes will not apply to~~
1688 ~~local coalitions with approved plans: ss. 125.901(2)(a)3.,~~
1689 411.221, and 411.232 do not apply to a regional child
1690 development board with an approved school readiness plan. To

1691 facilitate innovative practices and to allow the regional local
 1692 establishment of school readiness programs, a regional child
 1693 development board ~~school readiness coalition~~ may apply to the
 1694 Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the Governor and
 1695 Cabinet may waive, any of the provisions of ss. 411.223,
 1696 411.232, and 1003.54, if the waiver is necessary for
 1697 implementation of the board's ~~coalition's~~ school readiness plan.

1698 8.7. Two or more counties may join for purposes ~~the~~
 1699 ~~purpose~~ of planning and implementing a school readiness program.

1700 9.8. A regional child development board ~~coalition~~ may,
 1701 subject to approval ~~by~~ of the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1702 partnership as part of the board's school readiness ~~coalition's~~
 1703 plan, receive subsidized child care funds for all children
 1704 eligible for any federal subsidized child care program ~~and be~~
 1705 ~~the provider of the program services.~~

1706 10.9. A regional child development board ~~may~~ Coalitions
 1707 ~~are authorized to~~ enter into multiparty contracts with
 1708 multicounty service providers in order to meet the needs of
 1709 unique populations such as migrant workers.

1710 (e) Requests for proposals; payment schedule.--

1711 1. ~~At least once every 3 years, beginning July 1, 2001,~~
 1712 Each regional child development board ~~coalition~~ must comply with
 1713 ~~follow the competitive procurement requirements of~~ s. 287.057
 1714 for the procurement of commodities or contractual services from
 1715 the funds described in paragraph (9)(d) school readiness
 1716 programs. The period of a contract for purchase of these
 1717 commodities or contractual services, together with any renewal
 1718 of the original contract, may not exceed 3 years.

1719 2. Each regional child development board ~~coalition~~ shall
 1720 adopt ~~develop~~ a payment schedule that encompasses all programs
 1721 funded by the board under this section ~~that coalition~~. The
 1722 payment schedule must take into consideration the relevant
 1723 market rate, must include the projected number of children to be
 1724 served, and must be submitted for approval by ~~to~~ the Agency for
 1725 Workforce Innovation ~~partnership for information~~. Informal child
 1726 care arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50
 1727 percent of the rate developed for a family day care home
 1728 ~~childcare~~.

1729 (f) Requirements relating to fiscal agents.--If a regional
 1730 child development board ~~the local coalition~~ is not a legally
 1731 organized as a corporation or other business ~~established~~
 1732 ~~corporate~~ entity, the board ~~coalition~~ must designate a fiscal
 1733 agent, which may be a public entity, ~~or~~ a private nonprofit
 1734 organization, or a certified public accountant who holds a
 1735 license under chapter 473. The fiscal agent must ~~shall be~~
 1736 ~~required to~~ provide financial and administrative services under
 1737 ~~pursuant to~~ a contract ~~or agreement~~ with the regional child
 1738 development board ~~school readiness coalition~~. The fiscal agent
 1739 may not provide direct early childhood education or child care
 1740 services; however, a fiscal agent may provide those ~~such~~
 1741 services upon written request of the regional child development
 1742 board ~~coalition~~ to the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1743 ~~partnership~~ and upon the approval of the ~~such~~ request by the
 1744 agency ~~partnership~~. The cost of the financial and administrative
 1745 services shall be negotiated between the fiscal agent and the
 1746 regional child development board ~~school readiness coalition~~. If

1747 the fiscal agent is a provider of early childhood education and
 1748 child care programs, the contract must specify that the fiscal
 1749 agent shall ~~will~~ act on policy direction from the regional child
 1750 development board ~~coalition~~ and must ~~will~~ not receive policy
 1751 direction from its own corporate board regarding disbursement of
 1752 the regional child development board's ~~coalition~~ funds. The
 1753 fiscal agent shall disburse funds in accordance with the
 1754 regional child development board's approved ~~coalition~~ school
 1755 readiness plan and based on billing and disbursement procedures
 1756 approved by the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~. The
 1757 fiscal agent must conform to all data-reporting requirements
 1758 established by the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~.

1759 (g) Evaluation and annual report.--Each regional child
 1760 development board ~~school readiness coalition~~ shall conduct an
 1761 evaluation of the effectiveness of the school readiness program,
 1762 including performance standards and outcome measures, and shall
 1763 provide an annual report and fiscal statement to the Agency for
 1764 Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School Readiness~~.
 1765 This report must conform to the content and format
 1766 specifications set by the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1767 ~~Florida Partnership for School Readiness~~. The Agency for
 1768 Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ must include an analysis of the
 1769 regional child development board's ~~coalition~~ reports in the
 1770 agency's ~~its~~ annual report.

1771 (6) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.--Each regional child development
 1772 board's ~~The~~ school readiness program shall be established for
 1773 children younger than ~~under the age of~~ kindergarten eligibility
 1774 as defined in s. 1002.51. Priority for participation in the

1775 school readiness program shall be given to children age 3 years
 1776 to school entry who are served by the Family Safety Program
 1777 Office of the Department of Children and Family Services or a
 1778 community-based lead agency under ~~pursuant to~~ chapter 39 and for
 1779 whom child care is needed to minimize risk of further abuse,
 1780 neglect, or abandonment. Other eligible populations include
 1781 children who meet one or more of the following criteria:

1782 (a) Children under the age of kindergarten eligibility who
 1783 are:

1784 1. Children determined to be at risk of abuse, neglect, or
 1785 exploitation who are currently clients of the Family Safety
 1786 Program Office of the Department of Children and Family
 1787 Services, but who are not otherwise given priority under this
 1788 subsection.

1789 ~~2.1.~~ Children at risk of welfare dependency, including
 1790 economically disadvantaged children, children of participants in
 1791 the welfare transition program, children of migrant farmworkers,
 1792 and children of teen parents.

1793 ~~3.2.~~ Children of working families whose family income does
 1794 not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

1795 ~~4.3.~~ Children for whom the state is paying a relative
 1796 caregiver payment under s. 39.5085.

1797 (b) Three-year-old children and 4-year-old children who
 1798 may not be economically disadvantaged but who have disabilities,
 1799 have been served in a specific part-time or combination of part-
 1800 time exceptional education programs with required special
 1801 services, aids, or equipment, and were previously reported for

1802 funding part time with the Florida Education Finance Program as
 1803 exceptional students.

1804 (c) Economically disadvantaged children, children with
 1805 disabilities, and children at risk of future school failure,
 1806 from birth to 4 years of age, who are served at home through
 1807 home visitor programs and intensive parent education programs
 1808 ~~such as the Florida First Start Program.~~

1809 (d) Children who meet federal and state eligibility
 1810 requirements ~~for eligibility~~ for the migrant preschool program
 1811 but who do not meet the criteria of economically disadvantaged.
 1812

1813 As used in this subsection, the term ~~An~~ "economically
 1814 disadvantaged" child means a child whose family income does not
 1815 exceed ~~is below~~ 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
 1816 Notwithstanding any change in a family's economic status, but
 1817 subject to additional family contributions in accordance with
 1818 the sliding fee scale, a child who meets the eligibility
 1819 requirements upon initial registration for the program remains
 1820 ~~shall be considered~~ eligible until the child reaches
 1821 kindergarten eligibility as defined in s. 1002.51 ~~age~~.

1822 (7) PARENTAL CHOICE.--

1823 (a) The school readiness program shall provide parental
 1824 choice through ~~pursuant to~~ a purchase service order that
 1825 ensures, to the maximum extent possible, flexibility in school
 1826 readiness programs and payment arrangements. According to
 1827 federal regulations requiring parental choice, a parent may
 1828 choose an informal child care arrangement. The purchase order
 1829 must bear the name of the beneficiary and the program provider

1830 and, when redeemed, must bear the signature of both the
 1831 beneficiary and an authorized representative of the provider.

1832 (b) If it is determined that a provider has provided any
 1833 cash to the beneficiary in return for receiving the purchase
 1834 order, the regional child development board coalition or its
 1835 fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Division of Public
 1836 Assistance Fraud for investigation.

1837 (c) The office of the Chief Financial Officer shall
 1838 establish an electronic transfer system for the disbursement of
 1839 funds in accordance with this subsection. Each regional child
 1840 development board School readiness coalitions shall fully
 1841 implement the electronic funds transfer system within 2 years
 1842 after ~~plan~~ approval of the board's school readiness plan, unless
 1843 a waiver is obtained from the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1844 ~~partnership~~.

1845 (8) STANDARDS; OUTCOME MEASURES.--All publicly funded
 1846 school readiness programs must ~~shall be required to~~ meet the
 1847 performance standards and outcome measures adopted ~~developed and~~
 1848 ~~approved~~ by the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership. The
 1849 Agency for Workforce Innovation shall consult with the Office of
 1850 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability ~~shall~~
 1851 ~~provide consultation to the partnership~~ in the development of
 1852 the measures and standards. These performance standards and
 1853 outcome measures shall apply ~~be applicable~~ on a statewide basis.

1854 (9) FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM.--

1855 (a) It is the intent of this section to establish an
 1856 integrated and quality seamless service delivery system for all

1857 publicly funded early childhood education and child care
 1858 programs operating in this state.

1859 (b) ~~Notwithstanding s. 20.50:~~

1860 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer
 1861 school readiness funds, plans, and policies ~~pursuant to the~~
 1862 ~~contract with the Florida Partnership for School Readiness~~ and
 1863 shall prepare and submit a unified budget request for the school
 1864 readiness system program in accordance with chapter 216.

1865 2. All instructions to regional child development boards
 1866 for the administration of this section ~~local school readiness~~
 1867 ~~coalitions~~ shall emanate from the Agency for Workforce
 1868 Innovation in accordance with the ~~pursuant to~~ policies of the
 1869 Legislature, ~~plans of the Florida Partnership for School~~
 1870 ~~Readiness, and the contract between the Florida Partnership for~~
 1871 ~~School Readiness and the agency.~~

1872 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
 1873 ~~prepare a~~ formula plan that provides for the allocation among
 1874 the regional child development boards ~~distribution and~~
 1875 ~~expenditure~~ of all state and federal school readiness funds for
 1876 children participating in public or private school readiness
 1877 programs based upon ~~an~~ equity and performance ~~funding formula.~~
 1878 The allocation formula must ~~plan shall~~ be submitted to the
 1879 Governor and the Legislative Budget Commission. Upon approval,
 1880 the Legislative Budget Commission shall authorize ~~the transfer~~
 1881 ~~of funds to~~ the Agency for Workforce Innovation to distribute
 1882 funds for distribution in accordance with the allocation
 1883 ~~provisions of the~~ formula. For fiscal year 2004-2005, the Agency
 1884 for Workforce Innovation shall allocate funds to the regional

1885 child development boards consistent with the fiscal year 2003-
 1886 2004 funding allocations to the local school readiness
 1887 coalitions.

1888 (d) ~~All state funds budgeted for a county for the programs~~
 1889 ~~specified in subsection (3), along with the pro rata share of~~
 1890 ~~the state administrative costs of those programs in the amount~~
 1891 ~~as determined by the partnership, all federal, funds and~~
 1892 required local maintenance-of-effort or matching funds provided
 1893 to a regional child development board for a county for programs
 1894 ~~specified in subsection (3), and any additional funds~~
 1895 ~~appropriated or obtained~~ for purposes of this section, shall be
 1896 used by transferred for the benefit of the board coalition for
 1897 implementation of its school readiness plan, including the
 1898 hiring of staff to effectively operate the board's coalition's
 1899 school readiness program. As part of plan approval and periodic
 1900 plan review, the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
 1901 shall require that administrative costs be kept to the minimum
 1902 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
 1903 school readiness plan, but total administrative expenditures
 1904 must shall not exceed 5 percent unless specifically waived by
 1905 the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership. The Agency for
 1906 Workforce Innovation partnership shall annually report to the
 1907 Legislature any problems relating to administrative costs.

1908 (e) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership shall
 1909 annually distribute, to a maximum extent practicable, all
 1910 eligible funds provided under this section as block grants to
 1911 the regional child development boards. ~~assist coalitions in~~
 1912 ~~integrating services and funding to develop a quality service~~

1913 ~~delivery system. Subject to appropriation, the partnership may~~
 1914 ~~also provide financial awards to coalitions demonstrating~~
 1915 ~~success in merging and integrating funding streams to serve~~
 1916 ~~children and school readiness programs.~~

1917 (f) State funds appropriated for the school readiness
 1918 program may not be used for the construction of new facilities
 1919 or the purchase of buses. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1920 ~~partnership~~ shall present to the Legislature recommendations for
 1921 providing necessary transportation services for school readiness
 1922 programs.

1923 (g) All cost savings and all revenues received through a
 1924 mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to help fund each
 1925 regional child development board's ~~the local~~ school readiness
 1926 program.

1927 (10) UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFERS.--Notwithstanding any other
 1928 law to the contrary, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may not
 1929 transfer to the Department of Education, through an interagency
 1930 agreement or through any other means, any of the agency's
 1931 powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property,
 1932 or unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other
 1933 funds, any of which have been or which may be authorized for
 1934 administration of s. 402.25, s. 402.27, s. 402.3016, s.
 1935 402.3017, s. 402.3018, s. 402.3051, s. 409.178, or this section,
 1936 without specific legislative authority by express reference to
 1937 this subsection.

1938 ~~(10) SCHOOL READINESS UNIFORM SCREENING.--The Department~~
 1939 ~~of Education shall implement a school readiness uniform~~
 1940 ~~screening, including a pilot program during the 2001-2002 school~~

1941 ~~year, to validate the system recommended by the Florida~~
1942 ~~Partnership for School Readiness as part of a comprehensive~~
1943 ~~evaluation design. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the~~
1944 ~~department shall require that all school districts administer~~
1945 ~~the school readiness uniform screening to each kindergarten~~
1946 ~~student in the district school system upon the student's entry~~
1947 ~~into kindergarten. Children who enter public school for the~~
1948 ~~first time in first grade must undergo a uniform screening~~
1949 ~~adopted for use in first grade. The department shall incorporate~~
1950 ~~school readiness data into the K-20 data warehouse for~~
1951 ~~longitudinal tracking. Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, the~~
1952 ~~department shall provide the partnership and the Agency for~~
1953 ~~Workforce Innovation with complete and full access to~~
1954 ~~kindergarten uniform screening data at the student, school,~~
1955 ~~district, and state levels in a format that will enable the~~
1956 ~~partnership and the agency to prepare reports needed by state~~
1957 ~~policymakers and local school readiness coalitions to access~~
1958 ~~progress toward school readiness goals and provide input for~~
1959 ~~continuous improvement of local school readiness services and~~
1960 ~~programs.~~

1961 ~~(11) REPORTS.—The Office of Program Policy Analysis and~~
1962 ~~Government Accountability shall assess the implementation,~~
1963 ~~efficiency, and outcomes of the school readiness program and~~
1964 ~~report its findings to the President of the Senate and the~~
1965 ~~Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2002.~~
1966 ~~Subsequent reviews shall be conducted at the direction of the~~
1967 ~~Joint Legislative Auditing Committee.~~

1968 | ~~(11)(12)~~ CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.--In the event of a
 1969 | conflict between ~~the provisions of~~ this section and federal
 1970 | requirements, the federal requirements shall control.

1971 | ~~(12)(13)~~ PLACEMENTS.--Notwithstanding any other provision
 1972 | of this section to the contrary, ~~and for fiscal year 2003-2004~~
 1973 | ~~only~~, the first children to be placed in the school readiness
 1974 | program shall be those from families receiving temporary cash
 1975 | assistance and subject to federal work requirements. Subsequent
 1976 | placements shall be made in accordance with subsection (6)
 1977 | ~~pursuant to the provisions of this section. This subsection~~
 1978 | ~~expires July 1, 2004.~~

1979 | Section 3. Effective July 1, 2004, paragraph (a) of
 1980 | subsection (3) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 1981 | read:

1982 | 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.--

1983 | (3) AUTHORITY FOR AUDITS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.--

1984 | (a) The Auditor General may, by ~~pursuant to~~ his or her own
 1985 | authority, or at the direction of the Legislative Auditing
 1986 | Committee, conduct audits or other engagements as determined
 1987 | appropriate by the Auditor General of:

1988 | 1. The accounts and records of any governmental entity
 1989 | created or established by law.

1990 | 2. The information technology programs, activities,
 1991 | functions, or systems of any governmental entity created or
 1992 | established by law.

1993 | 3. The accounts and records of any charter school created
 1994 | or established by law.

1995 4. The accounts and records of any direct-support
 1996 organization or citizen support organization created or
 1997 established by law. The Auditor General may ~~is authorized to~~
 1998 require and receive any records from the direct-support
 1999 organization or citizen support organization, or from its
 2000 independent auditor.

2001 5. The public records associated with any appropriation
 2002 made by the General Appropriations Act to a nongovernmental
 2003 agency, corporation, or person. All records of a nongovernmental
 2004 agency, corporation, or person for ~~with respect to~~ the receipt
 2005 and expenditure of the ~~such an~~ appropriation are ~~shall be~~ public
 2006 records and shall be treated in the same manner as other public
 2007 records ~~are~~ under general law.

2008 6. State financial assistance provided to any nonstate
 2009 entity.

2010 7. The Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation created
 2011 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 215.56005.

2012 8. The Florida Virtual School created under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
 2013 1002.37.

2014 9. Any purchases of federal surplus lands for use as sites
 2015 for correctional facilities as described in s. 253.037.

2016 10. Enterprise Florida, Inc., including any of its boards,
 2017 advisory committees, or similar groups created by Enterprise
 2018 Florida, Inc., and programs. The audit report may not reveal the
 2019 identity of any person who has anonymously made a donation to
 2020 Enterprise Florida, Inc., under ~~pursuant to~~ this subparagraph.
 2021 The identity of a donor or prospective donor to Enterprise
 2022 Florida, Inc., who desires to remain anonymous and all

2023 information identifying the ~~such~~ donor or prospective donor are
 2024 confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and
 2025 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The ~~Such~~ anonymity
 2026 shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

2027 11. The Florida Development Finance Corporation or the
 2028 capital development board or the programs or entities created by
 2029 the board. The audit or report may not reveal the identity of
 2030 any person who has anonymously made a donation to the board
 2031 under ~~pursuant to~~ this subparagraph. The identity of a donor or
 2032 prospective donor to the board who desires to remain anonymous
 2033 and all information identifying the ~~such~~ donor or prospective
 2034 donor are confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s.
 2035 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The
 2036 ~~Such~~ anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report.

2037 12. The records pertaining to the use of funds from
 2038 voluntary contributions on a motor vehicle registration
 2039 application or on a driver's license application authorized
 2040 under ~~pursuant to~~ ss. 320.023 and 322.081.

2041 13. The records pertaining to the use of funds from the
 2042 sale of specialty license plates described in chapter 320.

2043 14. The transportation corporations under contract with
 2044 the Department of Transportation that are acting on behalf of
 2045 the state to secure and obtain rights-of-way for urgently needed
 2046 transportation systems and to assist in the planning and design
 2047 of the ~~such~~ systems under ~~pursuant to~~ ss. 339.401-339.421.

2048 15. The acquisitions and divestitures related to the
 2049 Florida Communities Trust Program created under ~~pursuant to~~
 2050 chapter 380.

- 2051 16. The Florida Water Pollution Control Financing
 2052 Corporation created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 403.1837.
- 2053 17. The school readiness system, including the regional
 2054 child development boards, Florida Partnership for School
 2055 Readiness created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 411.01.
- 2056 18. The Florida Special Disability Trust Fund Financing
 2057 Corporation created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 440.49.
- 2058 19. Workforce Florida, Inc., or the programs or entities
 2059 created by Workforce Florida, Inc., created under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
 2060 445.004.
- 2061 20. The corporation defined in s. 455.32 which ~~that~~ is
 2062 under contract with the Department of Business and Professional
 2063 Regulation to provide administrative, investigative,
 2064 examination, licensing, and prosecutorial support services in
 2065 accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 455.32 and the practice act
 2066 of the relevant profession.
- 2067 21. The Florida Engineers Management Corporation created
 2068 under ~~pursuant to~~ chapter 471.
- 2069 22. The Investment Fraud Restoration Financing Corporation
 2070 created under ~~pursuant to~~ chapter 517.
- 2071 23. The books and records of any permitholder that
 2072 conducts race meetings or jai alai exhibitions under chapter
 2073 550.
- 2074 24. The corporation defined in part II of chapter 946,
 2075 cited ~~known~~ as the Prison Rehabilitative Industries and
 2076 Diversified Enterprises, Inc., or PRIDE Enterprises.
- 2077 Section 4. Subsection (6) of section 20.15, Florida
 2078 Statutes, is amended to read:

2079 20.15 Department of Education.--There is created a
2080 Department of Education.

2081 (6) COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES.--Notwithstanding any ~~anything~~
2082 ~~contained in~~ law to the contrary, the commissioner shall appoint
2083 all members of all councils and committees of the Department of
2084 Education, except for the Commission for Independent Education,
2085 ~~and~~ the Education Practices Commission, and the Florida Child
2086 Development Advisory Council.

2087 Section 5. Effective July 1, 2004, subsection (2) of
2088 section 20.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2089 20.50 Agency for Workforce Innovation.--There is created
2090 the Agency for Workforce Innovation within the Department of
2091 Management Services. The agency shall be a separate budget
2092 entity, and the director of the agency shall be the agency head
2093 for all purposes. The agency shall not be subject to control,
2094 supervision, or direction by the Department of Management
2095 Services in any manner, including, but not limited to,
2096 personnel, purchasing, transactions involving real or personal
2097 property, and budgetary matters.

2098 (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation is ~~shall be~~ the
2099 ~~designated~~ administrative agency designated for receipt of
2100 federal workforce development grants and other federal funds.
2101 The agency, ~~and~~ shall administer ~~carry out~~ the duties and
2102 responsibilities assigned by the Governor under each federal
2103 grant assigned to the agency. The agency shall be a separate
2104 budget entity and shall expend each revenue source as provided
2105 by federal and state law and as provided in plans developed by
2106 and agreements with Workforce Florida, Inc. The agency shall

2107 | prepare and submit as a separate budget entity a unified budget
 2108 | request for workforce development, in accordance with chapter
 2109 | 216 for, and in conjunction with, Workforce Florida, Inc., and
 2110 | its board. The head of the agency is the director of Workforce
 2111 | Innovation, who shall be appointed by the Governor. The
 2112 | accountability and reporting functions of the agency shall be
 2113 | administered by the director or his or her designee. ~~Included in~~
 2114 | These functions shall include ~~are~~ budget management, financial
 2115 | management, audit, performance management standards and
 2116 | controls, assessing outcomes of service delivery, and financial
 2117 | administration of workforce programs under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
 2118 | 445.004(5) and (9). ~~Within the agency's overall organizational~~
 2119 | ~~structure,~~ The agency shall include the following offices within
 2120 | its organizational structure, which shall have the specified
 2121 | responsibilities:

2122 | (a) The Office of Workforce Services shall administer the
 2123 | unemployment compensation program, the Rapid Response program,
 2124 | the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program, the Alien Labor
 2125 | Certification program, and any other programs that are delivered
 2126 | directly by agency staff rather than through the one-stop
 2127 | delivery system. The office shall be directed by the Deputy
 2128 | Director for Workforce Services, who shall be appointed by and
 2129 | serve at the pleasure of the director.

2130 | (b) The Office of Program Support and Accountability shall
 2131 | administer state merit system program staff within the workforce
 2132 | service delivery system, under the ~~pursuant to~~ policies of
 2133 | Workforce Florida, Inc. The office is ~~shall be~~ responsible for
 2134 | delivering services through the one-stop delivery system and for

2135 ensuring that participants in welfare transition programs
 2136 receive case management services, diversion assistance, support
 2137 services, including ~~subsidized~~ child care and transportation
 2138 services, Medicaid services, and transition assistance to enable
 2139 them to succeed in the workforce. The office is ~~shall~~ also ~~be~~
 2140 responsible for program quality assurance, grants and contract
 2141 management, contracting, financial management, and reporting.
 2142 The office shall be directed by the Deputy Director for Program
 2143 Support and Accountability, who shall be appointed by and serve
 2144 at the pleasure of the director. The office is ~~shall be~~
 2145 responsible for:

2146 1. Establishing monitoring, quality assurance, and quality
 2147 improvement systems that routinely assess the quality and
 2148 effectiveness of contracted programs and services.

2149 2. Annual review of each regional workforce board and
 2150 administrative entity to ensure that adequate systems of
 2151 reporting and control are in place; that, ~~and~~ monitoring,
 2152 quality assurance, and quality improvement activities are
 2153 conducted routinely; ~~;~~ and that corrective action is taken to
 2154 eliminate deficiencies.

2155 (c) The Office of Child Development shall administer the
 2156 school readiness system in accordance with s. 411.01. The office
 2157 shall be directed by the Deputy Director for Child Development,
 2158 who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the
 2159 director.

2160 (d)~~(e)~~ The Office of Agency Support Services is ~~shall be~~
 2161 responsible for procurement, human resource services, and
 2162 information services including delivering information on labor

2163 markets, employment, occupations, and performance, and shall
 2164 implement and maintain information systems that are required for
 2165 the effective operation of the one-stop delivery system and the
 2166 school readiness ~~services~~ system, including, but not limited to,
 2167 those systems described in s. 445.009. The office shall ~~will~~ be
 2168 directed by ~~under the direction of~~ the Deputy Director for
 2169 Agency Support Services, who shall be appointed by and serve at
 2170 the pleasure of the director. The office is ~~shall be~~ responsible
 2171 for establishing:

2172 1. Information systems and controls that report reliable,
 2173 timely and accurate fiscal and performance data for assessing
 2174 outcomes, service delivery, and financial administration of
 2175 workforce programs under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 445.004(5) and (9).

2176 2. Information systems that support service integration
 2177 and case management by providing for case tracking for
 2178 participants in welfare transition programs.

2179 3. Information systems that support the school readiness
 2180 system ~~services~~.

2181 ~~(e)(d)~~ The Unemployment Appeals Commission, authorized by
 2182 s. 443.012, is ~~shall~~ not be subject to ~~the~~ control, supervision,
 2183 or direction by the Agency for Workforce Innovation in the
 2184 performance of its powers and duties but shall receive any and
 2185 all support and assistance from the agency that is ~~may be~~
 2186 required for the performance of its duties.

2187 Section 6. Effective July 1, 2004, paragraph (b) of
 2188 subsection (1) of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2189 to read:

2190 125.901 Children's services; independent special district;
2191 council; powers, duties, and functions.--

2192 (1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent
2193 special district, as defined in ss. 189.403(3) and
2194 200.001(8)(e), to provide funding for children's services
2195 throughout the county in accordance with this section. The
2196 boundaries of such district shall be coterminous with the
2197 boundaries of the county. The county governing body shall obtain
2198 approval, by a majority vote of those electors voting on the
2199 question, to annually levy ad valorem taxes which shall not
2200 exceed the maximum millage rate authorized by this section. Any
2201 district created pursuant to the provisions of this subsection
2202 shall be required to levy and fix millage subject to the
2203 provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is approved by the
2204 electorate, the district shall not be required to seek approval
2205 of the electorate in future years to levy the previously
2206 approved millage.

2207 (b) However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may
2208 instead have a governing board consisting of 33 members,
2209 including: the superintendent of schools; two representatives of
2210 public postsecondary education institutions located in the
2211 county; the county manager or the equivalent county officer; the
2212 district administrator from the appropriate district of the
2213 Department of Children and Family Services, or the
2214 administrator's designee who is a member of the Senior
2215 Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service; the director
2216 of the county health department or the director's designee; the
2217 state attorney for the county or the state attorney's designee;

2218 | the chief judge assigned to juvenile cases, or another juvenile
 2219 | judge who is the chief judge's designee and who shall sit as a
 2220 | voting member of the board, except that the judge may not vote
 2221 | or participate in setting ad valorem taxes under this section;
 2222 | an individual who is selected by the board of the local United
 2223 | Way or its equivalent; a member of a locally recognized faith-
 2224 | based coalition, selected by that coalition; a member of the
 2225 | local chamber of commerce, selected by that chamber or, if more
 2226 | than one chamber exists within the county, a person selected by
 2227 | a coalition of the local chambers; a member of the regional
 2228 | child development board ~~local school readiness coalition,~~
 2229 | selected by that board ~~coalition~~; a representative of a labor
 2230 | organization or union active in the county; a member of a local
 2231 | alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system planning for
 2232 | health and social service delivery in the county, selected by
 2233 | that alliance or coalition; a member of the local Parent-
 2234 | Teachers Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association,
 2235 | selected by that association; a youth representative selected by
 2236 | the local school system's student government; a local school
 2237 | board member appointed by the chair of the school board; the
 2238 | mayor of the county or the mayor's designee; one member of the
 2239 | county governing body, appointed by the chair of that body; a
 2240 | member of the state Legislature who represents residents of the
 2241 | county, selected by the chair of the local legislative
 2242 | delegation; an elected official representing the residents of a
 2243 | municipality in the county, selected by the county municipal
 2244 | league; and 4 members-at-large, appointed to the council by the
 2245 | majority of sitting council members. The remaining 7 members

2246 shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with procedures
 2247 set forth in paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove
 2248 a member for cause or upon the written petition of the council.
 2249 Appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably
 2250 possible, represent the geographic and demographic diversity of
 2251 the population of the county. Members who are appointed to the
 2252 council by reason of their position are not subject to the
 2253 length of terms and limits on consecutive terms as provided in
 2254 this section. The remaining appointed members of the governing
 2255 board shall be appointed to serve 2-year terms, except that
 2256 those members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to
 2257 serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative and the
 2258 legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year terms. A
 2259 member may be reappointed; however, a member may not serve for
 2260 more than three consecutive terms. A member is eligible to be
 2261 appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the council.

2262 Section 7. Effective July 1, 2004, subsection (1) of
 2263 section 216.133, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2264 216.133 Definitions; ss. 216.133-216.137.--As used in ss.
 2265 216.133-216.137:

2266 (1) "Consensus estimating conference" includes the
 2267 Economic Estimating Conference, the Demographic Estimating
 2268 Conference, the Revenue Estimating Conference, the Education
 2269 Estimating Conference, the Criminal Justice Estimating
 2270 Conference, the Juvenile Justice Estimating Conference, the
 2271 Child Welfare System Estimating Conference, the Occupational
 2272 Forecasting Conference, the Child Development Programs School
 2273 ~~Readiness Program~~ Estimating Conference, the Self-Insurance

2274 Estimating Conference, the Florida Retirement System Actuarial
 2275 Assumption Conference, and the Social Services Estimating
 2276 Conference.

2277 Section 8. Effective July 1, 2004, subsection (10) of
 2278 section 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2279 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and
 2280 principals.--

2281 (10) CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ~~SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM~~
 2282 ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.--

2283 (a) Duties.--

2284 1. The Child Development Programs ~~School Readiness Program~~
 2285 Estimating Conference shall develop estimates and forecasts of
 2286 the unduplicated count of children eligible for school readiness
 2287 programs in accordance with the standards of eligibility
 2288 established in s. 411.01(6), and of children eligible for the
 2289 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with
 2290 s. 1002.53(2), as the conference determines are needed to
 2291 support the state planning, budgeting, and appropriations
 2292 processes.

2293 2. The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership~~
 2294 ~~for School Readiness~~ shall provide information on needs and
 2295 waiting lists for school readiness programs as ~~program services~~
 2296 requested by the Child Development Programs ~~School Readiness~~
 2297 ~~Program~~ Estimating Conference or individual conference
 2298 principals in a timely manner.

2299 3. The Department of Education shall provide information
 2300 on needs for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program as
 2301 requested by the Child Development Programs Estimating

2302 Conference or individual conference principals in a timely
 2303 manner.

2304 (b) Principals.--The Executive Office of the Governor, the
 2305 Director of Economic and Demographic Research, and professional
 2306 staff who have forecasting expertise from ~~the Florida~~
 2307 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~, the Agency for Workforce
 2308 Innovation, the Department of Children and Family Services, the
 2309 Department of Education, the Senate, and the House of
 2310 Representatives, or their designees, are the principals of the
 2311 Child Development Programs ~~School Readiness Program~~ Estimating
 2312 Conference. The principal representing the Executive Office of
 2313 the Governor shall preside over sessions of the conference.

2314 Section 9. Section 402.265, Florida Statutes, is created
 2315 to read:

2316 402.265 Unauthorized transfers.--Notwithstanding any other
 2317 law to the contrary, the Department of Children and Family
 2318 Services may not transfer to the Department of Education,
 2319 through an interagency agreement or through any other means, any
 2320 of the department's powers, duties, functions, rules, records,
 2321 personnel, property, or unexpended balances of appropriations,
 2322 allocations, or other funds, any of which have been or which may
 2323 be authorized for the Child Care Services Program Office or for
 2324 administration of ss. 402.25-402.319, without specific
 2325 legislative authority by express reference to this section.

2326 Section 10. Effective July 1, 2004, section 402.3016,
 2327 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2328 402.3016 Early Head Start collaboration grants.--

2329 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriations, the Agency
 2330 for Workforce Innovation Florida Partnership for School
 2331 ~~Readiness~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration
 2332 grants to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start
 2333 programs through Early Head Start program federal grants. The
 2334 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds
 2335 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been
 2336 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

2337 (2) Public and private nonprofit agencies providing Early
 2338 Head Start programs applying for collaborative grants must:

2339 (a) Ensure quality performance by meeting the requirements
 2340 in the Head Start program performance standards and other
 2341 applicable rules and regulations;

2342 (b) Ensure collaboration with other service providers at
 2343 the local level; and

2344 (c) Ensure that a comprehensive array of health,
 2345 nutritional, and other services are provided to the program's
 2346 pregnant women and very young children, and their families.

2347 (3) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership shall
 2348 report to the Legislature on an annual basis the number of
 2349 agencies receiving Early Head Start collaboration grants and the
 2350 number of children served.

2351 (4) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership may
 2352 adopt rules under s. 120.536(1) and s. 120.54 as necessary for
 2353 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
 2354 administration of the collaboration grants program under this
 2355 section.

2356 Section 11. Effective, July 1, 2004, section 411.011,
2357 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2358 411.011 Records of children in school readiness programs.-
2359 -The individual records of children enrolled in school readiness
2360 programs provided under s. 411.01, when held in the possession
2361 of the regional child development board ~~school readiness~~
2362 ~~coalition~~ or the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
2363 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~, are confidential and exempt
2364 from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the
2365 State Constitution. For ~~the~~ purposes of this section, records
2366 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
2367 observations, and identifying data, including the child's social
2368 security number. A parent, guardian, or individual acting as a
2369 parent in the absence of a parent or guardian has the right to
2370 inspect and review the individual school readiness program
2371 record of his or her child and to obtain a copy of the record.
2372 School readiness records may be released to the United States
2373 Secretary of Education, the United States Secretary of Health
2374 and Human Services, and the Comptroller General of the United
2375 States for the purpose of federal audits; to individuals or
2376 organizations conducting studies for institutions to develop,
2377 validate, or administer assessments or improve instruction; to
2378 accrediting organizations in order to carry out their
2379 accrediting functions; to appropriate parties in connection with
2380 an emergency if the information is necessary to protect the
2381 health or safety of the student or other individuals; to the
2382 Auditor General in connection with his or her official
2383 functions; to a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance

2384 | with an order of that court in accordance with ~~pursuant to~~ a
 2385 | lawfully issued subpoena; and to parties to an interagency
 2386 | agreement among regional child development boards ~~school~~
 2387 | ~~readiness coalitions~~, local governmental agencies, providers of
 2388 | school readiness programs, state agencies, and the Agency for
 2389 | Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School Readiness~~
 2390 | for the purpose of implementing the school readiness program.
 2391 | Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school
 2392 | readiness records in order to carry out their official functions
 2393 | must protect the data in a manner that does ~~will~~ not permit the
 2394 | personal identification of students and their parents by persons
 2395 | other than those authorized to receive the records. This section
 2396 | is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in
 2397 | accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2,
 2398 | 2005, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment
 2399 | by the Legislature.

2400 | Section 12. Effective July 1, 2004, paragraph (e) of
 2401 | subsection (2) of section 411.226, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2402 | to read:

2403 | 411.226 Learning Gateway.--

2404 | (2) LEARNING GATEWAY STEERING COMMITTEE.--

2405 | (e) To support and facilitate system improvements, the
 2406 | steering committee must consult with representatives from the
 2407 | Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Agency
 2408 | for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School~~
 2409 | ~~Readiness~~, the Department of Children and Family Services, the
 2410 | Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of
 2411 | Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Corrections and with the

2412 | director of the Learning Development and Evaluation Center of
 2413 | Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

2414 | Section 13. Effective July 1, 2004, paragraph (d) of
 2415 | subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (2), and paragraph
 2416 | (c) of subsection (3) of section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are
 2417 | amended to read:

2418 | 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.--The Learning
 2419 | Gateway system consists of the following components:

2420 | (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED
 2421 | ACCESS.--

2422 | (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the
 2423 | demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies
 2424 | to disseminate information about developmental milestones,
 2425 | precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,
 2426 | and the service system that is available. The information should
 2427 | target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should
 2428 | be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers
 2429 | of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should
 2430 | be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a
 2431 | community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such
 2432 | as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child
 2433 | checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide
 2434 | technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in
 2435 | developing and distributing educational materials and
 2436 | information.

2437 | 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
 2438 | children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide
 2439 | information to public and private preschool programs, child care

2440 ~~childcare~~ providers, pediatricians, parents, and local
 2441 businesses and organizations. These strategies should include
 2442 information on the school readiness performance standards ~~for~~
 2443 ~~kindergarten~~ adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 2444 ~~School Readiness Partnership Board~~.

2445 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
 2446 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate
 2447 training materials and brochures to parents and public and
 2448 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local
 2449 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in
 2450 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain
 2451 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades
 2452 K-3.

2453 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.--

2454 (a) In coordination with the Agency for Workforce
 2455 Innovation Partnership for School Readiness, the Department of
 2456 Education, and the Florida Pediatric Society, and using
 2457 information learned from the local demonstration projects, the
 2458 Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish guidelines
 2459 for screening children from birth through age 9. The guidelines
 2460 should incorporate recent research on the indicators most likely
 2461 to predict early learning problems, mild developmental delays,
 2462 child-specific precursors of school failure, and other related
 2463 developmental indicators in the domains of cognition;
 2464 communication; attention; perception; behavior; and social,
 2465 emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

2466 (3) EARLY EDUCATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.--

2467 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the
2468 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of
2469 Education, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
2470 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~, shall identify the elements of
2471 an effective research-based curriculum for early care and
2472 education programs.

2473 Section 14. Effective July 1, 2004, paragraph (a) of
2474 subsection (2) of section 624.91, Florida Statutes, is amended
2475 to read:

2476 624.91 The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Act.--

2477 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

2478 (a) The Legislature finds that increased access to health
2479 care services could improve children's health and reduce the
2480 incidence and costs of childhood illness and disabilities among
2481 children in this state. Many children do not have comprehensive,
2482 affordable health care services available. It is the intent of
2483 the Legislature that the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation
2484 provide comprehensive health insurance coverage to these ~~such~~
2485 children. The corporation is encouraged to cooperate with any
2486 existing health service programs funded by the public or the
2487 private sector and to work cooperatively with the Agency for
2488 Workforce Innovation Florida ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~.

2489 Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida
2490 Statutes, is amended to read:

2491 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of
2492 Education.--In addition to all other duties assigned to it by
2493 law or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department
2494 shall:

2495 (1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten ~~school readiness~~
 2496 ~~uniform~~ screening ~~developed by the Florida Partnership for~~
 2497 ~~School Readiness~~, in accordance with s. 1002.67 ~~the criteria~~
 2498 ~~itemized in chapter 1008.~~

2499 Section 16. Effective July 1, 2004, paragraph (d) of
 2500 subsection (3) of section 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2501 to read:

2502 1002.22 Student records and reports; rights of parents and
 2503 students; notification; penalty.--

2504 (3) RIGHTS OF PARENT OR STUDENT.--The parent of any
 2505 student who attends or has attended any public school, area
 2506 technical center, or public postsecondary educational
 2507 institution shall have the following rights with respect to any
 2508 records or reports created, maintained, and used by any public
 2509 educational institution in the state. However, whenever a
 2510 student has attained 18 years of age, or is attending a
 2511 postsecondary educational institution, the permission or consent
 2512 required of, and the rights accorded to, the parents of the
 2513 student shall thereafter be required of and accorded to the
 2514 student only, unless the student is a dependent student of such
 2515 parents as defined in 26 U.S.C. s. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal
 2516 Revenue Code of 1954). The State Board of Education shall adopt
 2517 rules whereby parents or students may exercise these rights:

2518 (d) Right of privacy.--Every student has ~~shall have~~ a
 2519 right of privacy with respect to the educational records kept on
 2520 him or her. Personally identifiable records or reports of a
 2521 student, and any personal information contained therein, are
 2522 confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1). No

2523 state or local educational agency, board, public school,
2524 technical center, or public postsecondary educational
2525 institution shall permit the release of the ~~such~~ records,
2526 reports, or information without the written consent of the
2527 student's parent, or of the student himself or herself if he or
2528 she is qualified as provided in this subsection, to any
2529 individual, agency, or organization. However, personally
2530 identifiable records or reports of a student may be released to
2531 the following persons or organizations without the consent of
2532 the student or the student's parent:

2533 1. Officials of schools, school systems, technical
2534 centers, or public postsecondary educational institutions in
2535 which the student seeks or intends to enroll; and a copy of the
2536 ~~such~~ records or reports shall be furnished to the parent or
2537 student upon request.

2538 2. Other school officials, including teachers within the
2539 educational institution or agency, who have legitimate
2540 educational interests in the information contained in the
2541 records.

2542 3. The United States Secretary of Education, the Director
2543 of the National Institute of Education, the Assistant Secretary
2544 for Education, the Comptroller General of the United States, or
2545 state or local educational authorities who are authorized to
2546 receive such information subject to the conditions set forth in
2547 applicable federal statutes and regulations of the United States
2548 Department of Education, or in applicable state statutes and
2549 rules of the State Board of Education.

2550 4. Other school officials, in connection with a student's
 2551 application for or receipt of financial aid.

2552 5. Individuals or organizations conducting studies for or
 2553 on behalf of an institution or a board of education for the
 2554 purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive
 2555 tests, administering student aid programs, or improving
 2556 instruction, if the ~~such~~ studies are conducted in ~~such~~ a manner
 2557 that does as will not permit the personal identification of
 2558 students and their parents by persons other than representatives
 2559 of the ~~such~~ organizations and if the ~~such~~ information will be
 2560 destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose of conducting
 2561 the ~~such~~ studies.

2562 6. Accrediting organizations, in order to carry out their
 2563 accrediting functions.

2564 7. Regional child development boards ~~School readiness~~
 2565 ~~coalitions~~ and the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida~~
 2566 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ in order to carry out their
 2567 assigned duties.

2568 8. For use as evidence in student expulsion hearings
 2569 conducted by a district school board under ~~pursuant to the~~
 2570 ~~provisions of~~ chapter 120.

2571 9. Appropriate parties in connection with an emergency, if
 2572 knowledge of the information in the student's educational
 2573 records is necessary to protect the health or safety of the
 2574 student or other individuals.

2575 10. The Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy
 2576 Analysis and Government Accountability in connection with their
 2577 official functions; however, except when the collection of

2578 personally identifiable information is specifically authorized
2579 by law, any data collected by the Auditor General and the Office
2580 of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is
2581 confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and
2582 shall be protected in ~~such~~ a way that does as will not permit
2583 the personal identification of students and their parents by
2584 other than the Auditor General, the Office of Program Policy
2585 Analysis and Government Accountability, and their staff, and the
2586 ~~such~~ personally identifiable data shall be destroyed when no
2587 longer needed for the Auditor General's and the Office of
2588 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability's official
2589 use.

2590 11.a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with
2591 an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance
2592 with ~~pursuant to~~ a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition
2593 that the student and the student's parent are notified of the
2594 order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the
2595 educational institution or agency.

2596 b. A person or entity pursuant to a court of competent
2597 jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the
2598 attorney of record in accordance with ~~pursuant to~~ a lawfully
2599 issued subpoena, upon the condition that the student, or his or
2600 her parent if the student is either a minor and not attending a
2601 postsecondary educational institution or a dependent of such
2602 parent as defined in 26 U.S.C. s. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal
2603 Revenue Code of 1954), is notified of the order or subpoena in
2604 advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution
2605 or agency.

2606 12. Credit bureaus, in connection with an agreement for
 2607 financial aid that the student has executed, if the ~~provided~~
 2608 ~~that such~~ information is ~~may be~~ disclosed only to the extent
 2609 necessary to enforce the terms or conditions of the financial
 2610 aid agreement. Credit bureaus shall not release any information
 2611 obtained under ~~pursuant to~~ this paragraph to any person.

2612 13. Parties to an interagency agreement among the
 2613 Department of Juvenile Justice, school and law enforcement
 2614 authorities, and other signatory agencies for the purpose of
 2615 reducing juvenile crime and especially motor vehicle theft by
 2616 promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the sharing of
 2617 appropriate information in a joint effort to improve school
 2618 safety, to reduce truancy and in-school and out-of-school
 2619 suspensions, and to support alternatives to in-school and out-
 2620 of-school suspensions and expulsions that provide structured and
 2621 well-supervised educational programs supplemented by a
 2622 coordinated overlay of other appropriate services designed to
 2623 correct behaviors that lead to truancy, suspensions, and
 2624 expulsions, and that support students in successfully completing
 2625 their education. Information provided in furtherance of the
 2626 ~~such~~ interagency agreements is intended solely for use in
 2627 determining the appropriate programs and services for each
 2628 juvenile or the juvenile's family, or for coordinating the
 2629 delivery of the ~~such~~ programs and services, and as such is
 2630 inadmissible in any court proceedings before ~~prior to~~ a
 2631 dispositional hearing unless written consent is provided by a
 2632 parent or other responsible adult on behalf of the juvenile.

2634 | This paragraph does not prohibit any educational institution
 2635 | from publishing and releasing to the general public directory
 2636 | information relating to a student if the institution elects to
 2637 | do so. However, no educational institution shall release, to
 2638 | any individual, agency, or organization that is not listed in
 2639 | subparagraphs 1.-13., directory information relating to the
 2640 | student body in general or a portion thereof unless it is
 2641 | normally published for the purpose of release to the public in
 2642 | general. Any educational institution making directory
 2643 | information public shall give public notice of the categories of
 2644 | information that it has designated as directory information for
 2645 | ~~with respect to~~ all students attending the institution and shall
 2646 | allow a reasonable period of time after the ~~such~~ notice has been
 2647 | given for a parent or student to inform the institution in
 2648 | writing that any or all of the information designated should not
 2649 | be released.

2650 | Section 17. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
 2651 | 1003.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2652 | 1003.54 Teenage parent programs.--

2653 | (3)

2654 | (c) Provision for necessary child care, health care,
 2655 | social services, parent education, and transportation shall be
 2656 | ancillary service components of teenage parent programs.
 2657 | Ancillary services may be provided through the coordination of
 2658 | existing programs and services and through joint agreements
 2659 | between district school boards and regional child development
 2660 | boards ~~local school readiness coalitions~~ or other appropriate
 2661 | public and private providers.

2662 Section 18. By January 15, 2005, the Department of
 2663 Education, with the advice of the Florida Child Development
 2664 Advisory Council created under section 1002.73, Florida
 2665 Statutes, shall submit recommendations to the Legislature on
 2666 professional development programs for the Voluntary
 2667 Prekindergarten Education Program. The recommendations must
 2668 comprise options for the professional development of
 2669 prekindergarten directors, teachers, and child care personnel.
 2670 The recommendations shall address curricula and appropriate
 2671 delivery systems for the programs and shall consider the use of
 2672 Internet-based applications for instruction or assessment. The
 2673 recommendations must also include the estimated costs of the
 2674 professional development programs, including nonrecurring
 2675 startup costs and recurring operational costs.

2676 Section 19. Notwithstanding sections 216.162-216.168,
 2677 Florida Statutes, and under section 216.351, Florida Statutes,
 2678 the Governor shall submit to the Legislature, as part of the
 2679 Governor's recommended budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the
 2680 Governor's annual cost projections for the Voluntary
 2681 Prekindergarten Education Program for the 5-year period ending
 2682 with the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The cost projections must be
 2683 based upon the Governor's estimate of the number of children to
 2684 be served annually in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2685 Program, including annual estimates for the potential shift of
 2686 children to the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program from
 2687 school readiness programs provided under section 411.01, Florida
 2688 Statutes.

2689 Section 20. (1) Effective July 1, 2004, the Florida
2690 Partnership for School Readiness is abolished. All powers,
2691 duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property, and
2692 unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other
2693 funds of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness are
2694 transferred, effective July 1, 2004, by a type two transfer, as
2695 defined in section 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Agency for
2696 Workforce Innovation.

2697 (2) This act does not abolish the school readiness
2698 coalitions but, effective July 1, 2004, redesignates the
2699 coalitions as regional child development boards and, effective
2700 January 1, 2005, requires a reduction in the number of boards.
2701 All powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel,
2702 property, and unexpended balances of appropriations,
2703 allocations, and other funds of each school readiness coalition
2704 are not transferred but shall be retained by the coalition upon
2705 its redesignation as a regional child development board.

2706 Section 21. Sections 411.012 and 1008.21, Florida
2707 Statutes, are repealed.

2708 Section 22. (1) The sum of \$7 million in nonrecurring
2709 funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the
2710 Department of Education for implementation of the summer
2711 prekindergarten demonstration program under section 1002.61(5),
2712 Florida Statutes, during the 2003-2004 fiscal year, and for
2713 nonrecurring startup costs for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2714 Education Program during fiscal year 2004-2005. The Department
2715 of Education may use any funds remaining after implementation of
2716 the summer prekindergarten demonstration program in accordance

2717 with the research design developed under section 1002.61(5)(b),
2718 Florida Statutes, for nonrecurring startup costs for the
2719 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, subject to approval
2720 by the Legislative Budget Commission of the allocation among
2721 specific appropriation categories of funds for these
2722 nonrecurring startup costs.

2723 (2) Notwithstanding section 1002.69, Florida Statutes,
2724 each demonstration district's allocation of funds appropriated
2725 under subsection (1) shall be based upon the district's student
2726 enrollment in the demonstration program. Each demonstration
2727 district's student enrollment in the demonstration program, and
2728 the demographic composition of the student enrollment, must be
2729 consistent with the research design developed under section
2730 1002.61(5)(b), Florida Statutes. A full-time equivalent student
2731 in the summer prekindergarten demonstration program shall be 300
2732 hours, and the base student allocation for the demonstration
2733 program shall be \$2,500 per full-time equivalent student. Each
2734 district's allocation per full-time equivalent student shall be
2735 calculated by multiplying the base student allocation by the
2736 district cost differential provided in section 1011.62(2),
2737 Florida Statutes.

2738 (3) Each demonstration school must have at least one
2739 certified teacher for every 10 students in the demonstration
2740 program. As used in this subsection, the term "certified
2741 teacher" has the same meaning ascribed in section 1002.61(3),
2742 Florida Statutes.

2743 (4) Each demonstration district must submit all
2744 information requested by the Department of Education for
2745 reporting and funding purposes.

2746 (5) Any unexpended balance at the end of the 2003-2004
2747 fiscal year from the funds appropriated under subsection (1)
2748 shall be certified forward to the 2004-2005 fiscal year and
2749 shall be used to continue implementation of the demonstration
2750 program during summer 2004.

2751 Section 23. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
2752 act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

2753