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A bill to be entitled

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

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in specified school districts; directing the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to evaluate the demonstration program; requiring the demonstration districts to submit data; providing for the future expiration of the demonstration program; authorizing providers and schools to select or design curricula used for the program under specified conditions; directing the Department of Education to adopt performance standards and approve curricula; requiring providers and schools to be placed on probation and use the approved curricula under certain circumstances; requiring improvement plans and corrective actions from providers and schools under certain circumstances; requiring regional child development boards and school districts to verify the compliance of child development providers and public schools; authorizing the removal of providers and schools from eligibility to deliver the program for noncompliance; requiring the Department of Education to adopt a statewide kindergarten screening; requiring certain students to take the statewide screening; specifying requirements for screening instruments and kindergarten readiness rates; providing funding and reporting requirements; specifying the calculation of per-student allocations; providing for advance payments to child development providers and public schools based upon student enrollment; providing for the documentation and certification of student attendance; requiring parents to verify student attendance and certify the choice of

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provider or school; providing for the reconciliation of advance payments based upon certified student attendance; requiring students to comply with attendance policies and authorizing the dismissal of students for noncompliance; prohibiting regional child development boards from withholding funds for administrative costs; providing for the allocation of administrative funds among regional child development boards; prohibiting certain fees or charges; limiting the use of state funds; providing powers and duties of the Department of Education; requiring the department to adopt procedures for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; authorizing interagency agreements for the integration of, and requiring interagency access to, certain databases; limiting the department's authority; creating the Florida Child Development Advisory Council; providing for the appointment and membership of the advisory council; providing membership and meeting requirements; authorizing council members to receive per diem and travel expenses; requiring the Department of Education to provide staff for the advisory council; providing for the adoption of rules; amending s. 411.01, F.S.; conforming provisions to the transfer of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness to the Agency for Workforce Innovation; deleting provisions for the appointment and membership of the partnership; redesignating school readiness coalitions as regional child development boards; deleting obsolete references to repealed programs; deleting obsolete

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provisions governing the phase in of school readiness programs; deleting provisions governing the measurement of school readiness, the school readiness uniform screening, and performance-based budgeting in school readiness programs; specifying requirements for school readiness performance standards; clarifying rulemaking requirements; limiting the Agency for Workforce Innovation's authority; revising requirements for school readiness programs; specifying that school readiness programs must enhance the progress of children in certain skills; requiring regional child development boards to obtain certain health information before enrolling a child in the school readiness program; requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation to administer a quality-assurance system and identify best practices for regional child development boards; requiring a reduction in the number of boards in accordance with specified standards; directing the Agency for Workforce Innovation to adopt procedures for the merger of boards; revising appointment and membership requirements for the boards; directing the Agency for Workforce Innovation to adopt criteria for the appointment of certain members; requiring each board to specify terms of board members; prohibiting board members from voting under certain circumstances; providing a definition for purposes of the single point of entry; requiring regional child development boards to use a statewide information system; requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation to approve payment rates and consider the access of eligible

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children before approving proposals to increase rates; deleting requirements for the minimum number of children served; providing requirements for developmentally appropriate curriculum used for school readiness programs; authorizing contracts for the continuation of school readiness services under certain circumstances; requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation to adopt criteria for the approval of school readiness plans; revising requirements for school readiness plans; providing requirements for the approval and implementation of plan revisions; revising competitive procurement requirements for regional child development boards; authorizing the boards to designate certified public accountants as fiscal agents; clarifying age and income eligibility requirements for school readiness programs; revising eligibility requirements for certain at-risk children; revising funding requirements; revising requirements for the adoption of a formula for the allocation of certain funds among the regional child development boards; specifying allocations for fiscal year 2004-2005; prohibiting certain transfers without specific legislative authority; deleting an obsolete provision requiring a report; deleting the expiration of eligibility requirements for certain children from families receiving temporary cash assistance; amending s. 11.45, F.S.; authorizing the Auditor General to conduct audits of the school readiness system; conforming provisions; amending s. 20.15, F.S.; specifying that the Commissioner of Education does not

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appoint members of the Florida Child Development Advisory Council; amending s. 20.50, F.S.; creating the Office of Child Development within the Agency for Workforce Innovation; providing that the office administers the school readiness system; amending s. 125.901, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending ss. 216.133 and 216.136, F.S.; redesignating the School Readiness Program Estimating Conference as the Child Development Programs Estimating Conference; requiring the estimating conference to develop certain estimates and forecasts for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; directing the Department of Education to provide certain information to the estimating conference; conforming provisions; creating s. 402.265, F.S.; prohibiting certain transfers without specific legislative authority; amending ss. 402.3016, 411.011, 411.226, 411.227, 624.91, 1001.23, 1002.22, and 1003.54, F.S.; conforming provisions to the transfer of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness to the Agency for Workforce Innovation and to the redesignation of the school readiness coalitions as regional child development boards; requiring the Department of Education to submit a report; requiring the Governor to submit certain recommendations as part of the Governor's recommended budget; abolishing the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and providing for the transfer of the partnership to the Agency for Workforce Innovation; repealing ss. 411.012 and 1008.21, F.S., relating to the voluntary universal prekindergarten education program and

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the school readiness uniform screening; providing appropriations; providing for the allocation of appropriations among certain school districts; requiring the Legislative Budget Commission to approve the allocation of certain appropriations; providing effective dates.

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

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

PART V

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

(1) "Advisory council" means the Florida Child Development Advisory Council created under s. 1002.73.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1002.55 Prekindergarten program delivered by child development providers.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) This subsection expires July 1, 2005.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1002.65 Performance standards; curriculum and accountability.--

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

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

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

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

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

1. Be based upon reading research;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1002.67 Statewide kindergarten screening.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1002.69 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

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

. . . (Signature of Parent) . . .
 . . . (Date) . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1002.71 Department of Education; powers and duties.--

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

(2) The department shall adopt procedures for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;

(b) School readiness programs; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1002.73 Florida Child Development Advisory Council.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. A representative of licensed child care facilities.

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

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

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

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

9. A public school classroom teacher.

10. A district superintendent of schools.

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

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(b) The director of the Florida Head Start-State
 Collaboration Office.

(c) A chair of a regional child development board who
 shall be selected by the chairs of the regional child
 development boards.

(d) An executive director of a regional child development
 board who shall be selected by the executive directors of the
 regional child development boards.

(e) The chair of the Child Care Executive Partnership.

(f) The chair or executive director of Workforce Florida,
 Inc., or his or her designee.

(g) The director of the Division of Community Colleges of
 the Department of Education.

(h) The Secretary of Health or his or her designee.

(i) The director of the Child Care Services Program Office
 of the Department of Children and Family Services.

(j) The Deputy Director for Child Development of the
 Agency for Workforce Innovation.

(k) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

(l) Two members appointed by and who serve at the pleasure
 of the President of the Senate and two members appointed by and
 who serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of
 Representatives, who must each meet the same qualifications as
 private-sector business members appointed to a regional child
 development board under s. 411.01(5)(a)6.

(3) The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly but
 may meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties and
 responsibilities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

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

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

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

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

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

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child development boards and local school readiness coalitions
and plans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Provide technical assistance to regional child development boards ~~coalitions~~.

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6. Assess gaps in service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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~~1. The child's immunizations and other health requirements as necessary, including appropriate vision and hearing screening and examinations.~~

~~2. The child's physical development.~~

~~1.3. The child's Compliance with rules, limitations, and routines.~~

~~2.4. The child's Ability to perform tasks.~~

~~3.5. The child's Interactions with adults.~~

~~4.6. The child's Interactions with peers.~~

~~5.7. The child's Ability to cope with challenges.~~

~~6.8. The child's Self-help skills.~~

~~7.9. The child's Ability to express the child's his or her needs.~~

~~8.10. The child's Verbal communication skills.~~

~~9.11. The child's Problem-solving skills.~~

~~10.12. The child's Following of verbal directions.~~

~~11.13. The child's Demonstration of curiosity, persistence, and exploratory behavior.~~

~~12.14. The child's Interest in books and other printed materials.~~

~~13.15. The child's Paying attention to stories.~~

~~14.16. The child's Participation in art and music activities.~~

~~15.17. The child's Ability to identify colors, geometric shapes, letters of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and temporal relationships.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Program expectations.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b. A character development program to develop basic values.

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Implementation.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) PARENTAL CHOICE.--

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

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

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

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

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

(9) FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. State financial assistance provided to any nonstate entity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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16. The Florida Water Pollution Control Financing Corporation created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 403.1837.

17. The school readiness system, including the regional child development boards, ~~Florida Partnership for School Readiness~~ created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 411.01.

18. The Florida Special Disability Trust Fund Financing Corporation created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 440.49.

19. Workforce Florida, Inc., or the programs or entities created by Workforce Florida, Inc., created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 445.004.

20. The corporation defined in s. 455.32 which ~~that~~ is under contract with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to provide administrative, investigative, examination, licensing, and prosecutorial support services in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 455.32 and the practice act of the relevant profession.

21. The Florida Engineers Management Corporation created under ~~pursuant to~~ chapter 471.

22. The Investment Fraud Restoration Financing Corporation created under ~~pursuant to~~ chapter 517.

23. The books and records of any permitholder that conducts race meetings or jai alai exhibitions under chapter 550.

24. The corporation defined in part II of chapter 946, cited ~~known~~ as the Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc., or PRIDE Enterprises.

Section 4. Subsection (6) of section 20.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and principals.--

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

(a) Duties.--

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

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

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

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Conference or individual conference principals in a timely manner.

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

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

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

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

402.3016 Early Head Start collaboration grants.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

411.226 Learning Gateway.--

(2) LEARNING GATEWAY STEERING COMMITTEE.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.--

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

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

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

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

624.91 The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Act.--

(2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1003.54 Teenage parent programs.--

(3)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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