

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

29 providing that the credential and course satisfy certain
30 credentialing and training requirements; providing limits
31 on when a provider or school may deliver the summer
32 prekindergarten program; specifying eligibility
33 requirements for school districts that deliver the school-
34 year prekindergarten program; providing legislative
35 intent; authorizing providers and schools to select or
36 design curricula used for the program; directing the
37 Department of Education to adopt performance standards and
38 approve curricula under specified conditions; requiring
39 providers and schools to be placed on probation and use
40 the approved curricula under certain circumstances;
41 requiring improvement plans and corrective actions from
42 providers and schools under certain circumstances;
43 providing for the removal of providers or schools that
44 remain on probation beyond specified time limits;
45 requiring early learning coalitions and school districts
46 to verify the compliance of private prekindergarten
47 providers and public schools; authorizing the removal of
48 providers and schools for noncompliance or misconduct;
49 requiring interagency coordination for monitoring
50 providers; requiring the Department of Education to adopt
51 a statewide kindergarten screening; requiring certain
52 students to take the statewide screening; specifying
53 requirements for screening instruments and kindergarten
54 readiness rates; directing the State Board of Education to
55 establish minimum rates; providing funding and reporting
56 requirements; specifying the calculation of per-student

57 | allocations; authorizing students to withdraw, reenroll,
58 | and receive additional per-student allocations under
59 | specified conditions; providing for advance payments to
60 | private prekindergarten providers and public schools based
61 | upon student enrollment; providing for the documentation
62 | and certification of student attendance; requiring parents
63 | to verify student attendance and certify the choice of
64 | provider or school; providing for the reconciliation of
65 | advance payments based upon attendance; requiring students
66 | to comply with attendance policies and authorizing the
67 | dismissal of students for noncompliance; requiring the
68 | Agency for Workforce Innovation to adopt a uniform
69 | attendance policy for funding purposes; providing for
70 | administrative funds to be used by early learning
71 | coalitions; prohibiting certain fees or charges; limiting
72 | the use of state funds; providing powers and duties of the
73 | Department of Education and the Agency for Workforce
74 | Innovation; requiring the department and the agency to
75 | adopt procedures for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
76 | Education Program; creating the Florida Early Learning
77 | Advisory Council; providing for the appointment and
78 | membership of the advisory council; providing membership
79 | and meeting requirements; authorizing council members to
80 | receive per diem and travel expenses; requiring the Agency
81 | for Workforce Innovation to provide staff for the advisory
82 | council; providing for the adoption of rules; amending s.
83 | 411.01, F.S.; conforming provisions to the transfer of the
84 | Florida Partnership for School Readiness to the Agency for

85 Workforce Innovation; deleting provisions for the
86 appointment and membership of the partnership;
87 redesignating school readiness coalitions as early
88 learning coalitions; deleting obsolete references to
89 repealed programs; deleting obsolete provisions governing
90 the phase in of school readiness programs; deleting
91 provisions governing the measurement of school readiness,
92 the school readiness uniform screening, and performance-
93 based budgeting in school readiness programs; specifying
94 requirements for school readiness performance standards;
95 clarifying rulemaking requirements; revising requirements
96 for school readiness programs; specifying that school
97 readiness programs must enhance the progress of children
98 in certain skills; requiring early learning coalitions to
99 obtain certain health information before enrolling a child
100 in the school readiness program; requiring the Agency for
101 Workforce Innovation to monitor and evaluate the
102 performance of early learning coalitions and to identify
103 best practices for the coalitions; requiring a reduction
104 in the number of coalitions in accordance with specified
105 standards; directing the Agency for Workforce Innovation
106 to adopt procedures for the merger of coalitions;
107 providing exceptions; authorizing the Agency for Workforce
108 Innovation to dissolve a coalition under specified
109 conditions; revising appointment and membership
110 requirements for the coalitions; specifying that certain
111 members are nonvoting; directing the Agency for Workforce
112 Innovation to adopt criteria for the appointment of

113 certain members; requiring each coalition to specify terms
114 of coalition members; requiring a quorum of coalition
115 members; prohibiting coalition members from voting under
116 certain circumstances; providing a definition for purposes
117 of the single point of entry; requiring early learning
118 coalitions to use a statewide information system;
119 requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation to approve
120 payment rates and consider the access of eligible children
121 before approving proposals to increase rates; prioritizing
122 the use of school readiness funds under certain
123 circumstances; deleting requirements for the minimum
124 number of children served; providing requirements for
125 developmentally appropriate curriculum used for school
126 readiness programs; authorizing contracts for the
127 continuation of school readiness services under certain
128 circumstances; requiring the Agency for Workforce
129 Innovation to adopt criteria for the approval of school
130 readiness plans; revising requirements for school
131 readiness plans; providing requirements for the approval
132 and implementation of plan revisions; revising competitive
133 procurement requirements for early learning coalitions;
134 authorizing the coalitions to designate certified public
135 accountants as fiscal agents; clarifying age and income
136 eligibility requirements for school readiness programs;
137 revising eligibility requirements for certain at-risk
138 children; deleting a requirement for consultation on
139 performance standards and outcome measures; revising
140 funding requirements; revising requirements for the

141 adoption of a formula for the allocation of certain funds
142 among the early learning coalitions; specifying
143 allocations for fiscal year 2004-2005; deleting an
144 obsolete provision requiring a report; deleting the
145 expiration of eligibility requirements for certain
146 children from families receiving temporary cash
147 assistance; amending s. 11.45, F.S.; authorizing the
148 Auditor General to conduct audits of the school readiness
149 system; amending s. 20.50, F.S.; creating the Office of
150 Early Learning within the Agency for Workforce Innovation;
151 requiring the office to administer the school readiness
152 system and operational requirements of the Voluntary
153 Prekindergarten Education Program; amending s. 125.901,
154 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
155 amending ss. 216.133 and 216.136, F.S.; redesignating the
156 School Readiness Program Estimating Conference as the
157 Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference; requiring
158 the estimating conference to develop certain estimates and
159 forecasts for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
160 Program; directing the Agency for Workforce Innovation to
161 provide certain information to the estimating conference;
162 amending ss. 402.3016, 411.011, 411.226, 411.227, 1001.23,
163 1002.22, and 1003.54, F.S.; conforming provisions to the
164 transfer of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness
165 to the Agency for Workforce Innovation and to the
166 redesignation of the school readiness coalitions as early
167 learning coalitions; authorizing the agency to adopt
168 rules; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring the

169 articulation of certain programs into credit toward a
 170 postsecondary degree; abolishing the Florida Partnership
 171 for School Readiness; transferring all powers, rules,
 172 personnel, and property of the partnership to the Agency
 173 for Workforce Innovation; repealing ss. 411.012 and
 174 1008.21, F.S., relating to the voluntary universal
 175 prekindergarten education program and the school readiness
 176 uniform screening; providing appropriations and
 177 authorizing additional positions; requiring that the
 178 Executive Office of the Governor provide prior notice to
 179 the Legislative Budget Commission of allocations from the
 180 lump-sum appropriations to appropriation categories;
 181 providing an effective date.

182
 183 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 184

185 Section 1. Part V of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes,
 186 consisting of sections 1002.51, 1002.53, 1002.55, 1002.57,
 187 1002.59, 1002.61, 1002.63, 1002.65, 1002.67, 1002.69, 1002.71,
 188 1002.73, 1002.75, 1002.77, and 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is
 189 created to read:

- 190 PART V
 191 VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM
 192 1002.51 Definitions.--As used in this part, the term:
 193 (1) "Department" means the Department of Education.
 194 (2) "Early learning coalition" or "coalition" means an
 195 early learning coalition created under s. 411.01.
 196 (3) "Prekindergarten director" means an onsite person

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

197 ultimately responsible for the overall operation of a private
 198 prekindergarten provider or, alternatively, of the provider's
 199 prekindergarten program, regardless of whether the person is the
 200 owner of the provider.

201 (4) "Prekindergarten instructor" means a teacher or child
 202 care personnel as defined in s. 402.302 who provide instruction
 203 to students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

204 (5) "Private prekindergarten provider" means a provider
 205 other than a public school which is eligible to deliver the
 206 school-year prekindergarten program under s. 1002.55 or the
 207 summer prekindergarten program under s. 1002.61.

208 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
 209 eligibility and enrollment.--

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

215 (2) Each child who resides in this state who will have
 216 attained the age of 4 years on or before September 1 of the
 217 school year is eligible for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 218 Education Program during that school year. The child remains
 219 eligible until the beginning of the school year for which the
 220 child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public
 221 school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. or until the child is admitted
 222 to kindergarten, whichever occurs first.

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

225 (a) A school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a
 226 private prekindergarten provider under s. 1002.55;

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

229 (c) A school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a
 230 public school, if offered by a school district that is eligible
 231 under s. 1002.63.

232
 233 Except as provided in s. 1002.71(4), a child may not enroll in
 234 more than one of these programs.

235 (4)(a) Each parent enrolling a child in the Voluntary
 236 Prekindergarten Education Program must complete and submit an
 237 application to the early learning coalition through the single
 238 point of entry established under s. 411.01.

239 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed
 240 by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and must be accompanied
 241 by a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. The forms
 242 must include a certification, in substantially the form provided
 243 in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the parent chooses the private
 244 prekindergarten provider or public school in accordance with
 245 this section and directs that payments for the program be made
 246 to the provider or school. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
 247 may authorize alternative methods for submitting proof of the
 248 child's age in lieu of a certified copy of the child's birth
 249 certificate.

250 (c) Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with
 251 each of the school districts within the coalition's county or
 252 multicounty region in the development of procedures for

253 enrolling children in prekindergarten programs delivered by
 254 public schools.

255 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
 256 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 257 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
 258 and public school delivering the program within the coalition's
 259 county or multicounty region. The profiles shall be provided to
 260 parents in a format prescribed by the Agency for Workforce
 261 Innovation. The profiles must include, at a minimum, the
 262 following information about each provider and school:

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

265 (b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate
 266 calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most
 267 recent available results of the statewide kindergarten
 268 screening.

269 (6)(a) A parent may enroll his or her child with any
 270 private prekindergarten provider that is eligible to deliver the
 271 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under this part;
 272 however, the provider may determine whether to admit any child.
 273 An early learning coalition may not limit the number of students
 274 admitted by any private prekindergarten provider for enrollment
 275 in the program. However, this paragraph does not authorize an
 276 early learning coalition to allow a provider to exceed any
 277 staff-to-children ratio, square footage per child, or other
 278 requirement imposed under ss. 402.301-402.319 as a result of
 279 admissions in the prekindergarten program.

280 (b) A parent may enroll his or her child with any public

281 school within the school district which is eligible to deliver
 282 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under this part,
 283 subject to available space. Each school district may limit the
 284 number of students admitted by any public school for enrollment
 285 in the program; however, the school district must provide for
 286 the admission of every eligible child within the district whose
 287 parent enrolls the child in a summer prekindergarten program
 288 delivered by a public school under s. 1002.61.

289 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
 290 school must comply with the antidiscrimination requirements of
 291 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d, regardless of whether the provider or school
 292 receives federal financial assistance. A private prekindergarten
 293 provider or public school may not discriminate against a parent
 294 or child, including the refusal to admit a child for enrollment
 295 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, in violation
 296 of these antidiscrimination requirements.

297 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 298 private prekindergarten providers.--

299 (1) Each early learning coalition shall administer the
 300 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
 301 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(a) in a
 302 school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a private
 303 prekindergarten provider.

304 (2) Each school-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 305 a private prekindergarten provider must comprise at least 540
 306 instructional hours.

307 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 308 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the

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309 following requirements:

310 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
311 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
312 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
313 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under
314 s. 402.3025(2), or faith-based child care provider exempt from
315 licensure under s. 402.316.

316 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

317 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
318 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
319 the Commission on International and Trans-Regional
320 Accreditation, or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic
321 Schools;

322 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
323 s. 402.281; or

324 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
325 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary
326 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early
327 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
328 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
329 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
330 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
331 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (e),
332 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (f), and a
333 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

334 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
335 each prekindergarten class, at least one prekindergarten
336 instructor who meets each of the following requirements:

337 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,
338 one of the following credentials:

339 a. A child development associate credential issued by the
340 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
341 Recognition; or

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

345
346 The Department of Children and Family Services may adopt rules
347 under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and
348 procedures for approving equivalent credentials under sub-
349 paragraph b.

350 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully
351 complete an emergent literacy training course approved by the
352 department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted
353 under s. 1002.59. This subparagraph does not apply to a
354 prekindergarten instructor who successfully completes approved
355 training in early literacy and language development under s.
356 402.305(2)(d)5., s. 402.313(6), or s. 402.3131(5) before the
357 establishment of one or more emergent literacy training courses
358 under s. 1002.59 or April 1, 2005, whichever occurs later.

359 (d) Each prekindergarten instructor employed by the
360 private prekindergarten provider must be of good moral
361 character, must be screened using the level 2 screening
362 standards in s. 435.04 before employment and rescreened at least
363 once every 5 years, must be denied employment or terminated if
364 required under s. 435.06, and must not be ineligible to teach in

365 a public school because his or her educator certificate is
366 suspended or revoked.

367 (e) Each of the private prekindergarten provider's
368 prekindergarten classes must be composed of at least 4 students
369 but may not exceed 18 students. In order to protect the health
370 and safety of students, each private prekindergarten provider
371 must also provide appropriate adult supervision for students at
372 all times. This paragraph does not supersede any requirement
373 imposed on a provider under ss. 402.301-402.319.

374 (f) Before the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, the
375 private prekindergarten provider must have a prekindergarten
376 director who has a prekindergarten director credential that is
377 approved by the department as meeting or exceeding the minimum
378 standards adopted under s. 1002.57. Successful completion of a
379 child care facility director credential under s. 402.305(2)(f)
380 before the establishment of the prekindergarten director
381 credential under s. 1002.57 or July 1, 2006, whichever occurs
382 later, satisfies the requirement for a prekindergarten director
383 credential under this paragraph.

384 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must register
385 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the
386 Agency for Workforce Innovation.

387 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must deliver the
388 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with
389 this part.

390 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum
391 credentials and courses required under paragraph (3)(c), may
392 hold one of the following educational credentials:

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

396 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,
 397 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach
 398 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of
 399 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if
 400 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school
 401 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

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

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

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

413 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.--

414 (1) By July 1, 2006, the department shall adopt minimum
 415 standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of
 416 private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary
 417 Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass
 418 requirements for education and onsite experience.

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

421 (a) Professionally accepted standards for prekindergarten
422 programs, early learning, and strategies and techniques to
423 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students
424 in attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
425 under s. 1002.67;

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

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

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

438 (4) The department shall, to the maximum extent
439 practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes
440 the child care facility director credential under s.
441 402.305(2)(f) for those requirements of the prekindergarten
442 director credential which are duplicative of requirements for
443 the child care facility director credential.

444 1002.59 Emergent literacy training courses.--By April 1,
445 2005, the department shall adopt minimum standards for one or
446 more training courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten
447 instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock hours and provide
448 instruction in strategies and techniques to address the age-

449 appropriate progress of prekindergarten students in developing
450 emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,
451 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological
452 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development. Each
453 course must also provide resources containing strategies that
454 allow students with disabilities and other special needs to
455 derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary Prekindergarten
456 Education Program. Successful completion of an emergent literacy
457 training course approved under this section satisfies
458 requirements for approved training in early literacy and
459 language development under ss. 402.305(2)(d)5., 402.313(6), and
460 402.3131(5).

461 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
462 schools and private prekindergarten providers.--

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

467 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the
468 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
469 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a
470 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private
471 prekindergarten provider.

472 (2) Each summer prekindergarten program delivered by a
473 public school or private prekindergarten provider must:

474 (a) Comprise at least 300 instructional hours;

475 (b) Not begin earlier than May 1 of the school year; and

476 (c) Not deliver the program for a child earlier than the

477 summer immediately before the school year for which the child is
 478 eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under
 479 s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.

480 (3)(a) Each district school board shall determine which
 481 public schools in the school district are eligible to deliver
 482 the summer prekindergarten program. The school district shall
 483 use educational facilities available in the public schools
 484 during the summer term for the summer prekindergarten program.

485 (b) Except as provided in this section, to be eligible to
 486 deliver the summer prekindergarten program, a private
 487 prekindergarten provider must meet each requirement in s.
 488 1002.55.

489 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(5),
 490 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
 491 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
 492 prekindergarten instructor who:

493 (a) Is a certified teacher; or

494 (b) Holds one of the educational credentials specified in
 495 s. 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).

496
 497 As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher" means a
 498 teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate under s.
 499 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the district
 500 school board to instruct students in the summer prekindergarten
 501 program. In selecting instructional staff for the summer
 502 prekindergarten program, each school district shall give
 503 priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in early
 504 childhood education.

505 (5) Each prekindergarten instructor employed by a public
506 school or private prekindergarten provider delivering the summer
507 prekindergarten program must be of good moral character, must be
508 screened using the level 2 screening standards in s. 435.04
509 before employment and rescreened at least once every 5 years,
510 must be denied employment or terminated if required under s.
511 435.06, and must not be ineligible to teach in a public school
512 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked.
513 This subsection does not supersede employment requirements for
514 instructional personnel in public schools which are more
515 stringent than the requirements of this subsection.

516 (6) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(e) and 1002.63(7), each
517 prekindergarten class in the summer prekindergarten program,
518 regardless of whether the class is a public school's or private
519 prekindergarten provider's class, must be composed of at least 4
520 students but may not exceed 10 students. In order to protect the
521 health and safety of students, each public school or private
522 prekindergarten provider must also provide appropriate adult
523 supervision for students at all times. This subsection does not
524 supersede any requirement imposed on a provider under ss.
525 402.301-402.319.

526 (7) Each public school delivering the summer
527 prekindergarten program must also:

528 (a) Register with the early learning coalition on forms
529 prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation; and

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

532 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by

533 public schools.--

534 (1) Each school district eligible under subsection (4) may
 535 administer the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at
 536 the district level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(c)
 537 in a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a public
 538 school.

539 (2) Each school-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 540 a public school must comprise at least 540 instructional hours.

541 (3) The district school board of each school district
 542 eligible under subsection (4) shall determine which public
 543 schools in the district are eligible to deliver the
 544 prekindergarten program during the school year.

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

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

550 1. Has reduced the average class size in each classroom in
 551 accordance with s. 1003.03 and the schedule in s. 1(a), Art. IX
 552 of the State Constitution; and

553 2. Has sufficient satisfactory educational facilities and
 554 capital outlay funds to continue reducing the average class size
 555 in each classroom in the district's elementary schools for each
 556 year in accordance with the schedule for class-size reduction
 557 and to achieve full compliance with the maximum class sizes in
 558 s. 1(a), Art. IX of the State Constitution by the beginning of
 559 the 2010-2011 school year.

560 (b) The Commissioner of Education must certify to the

561 State Board of Education that the department has reviewed the
562 school district's educational facilities, capital outlay funds,
563 and projected student enrollment and concurs with the district
564 school board's certification under paragraph (a).

565 (5) Each public school must have, for each prekindergarten
566 class, at least one prekindergarten instructor who meets each
567 requirement in s. 1002.55(3)(c) for a prekindergarten instructor
568 of a private prekindergarten provider.

569 (6) Each prekindergarten instructor employed by a public
570 school delivering the school-year prekindergarten program must
571 be of good moral character, must be screened using the level 2
572 screening standards in s. 435.04 before employment and
573 rescreened at least once every 5 years, must be denied
574 employment or terminated if required under s. 435.06, and must
575 not be ineligible to teach in a public school because his or her
576 educator certificate is suspended or revoked. This subsection
577 does not supersede employment requirements for instructional
578 personnel in public schools which are more stringent than the
579 requirements of this subsection.

580 (7) Each prekindergarten class in a public school
581 delivering the school-year prekindergarten program must be
582 composed of at least 4 students but may not exceed 18 students.
583 In order to protect the health and safety of students, each
584 school must also provide appropriate adult supervision for
585 students at all times.

586 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year
587 prekindergarten program must:

588 (a) Register with the early learning coalition on forms

589 prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation; and

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

592 1002.65 Professional credentials of prekindergarten
593 instructors; aspirational goals; legislative intent.--

594 (1) The Legislature recognizes that there is a strong
595 relationship between the skills and preparation of
596 prekindergarten instructors and the educational outcomes of
597 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

598 (2) To improve these educational outcomes, the Legislature
599 intends that all prekindergarten instructors will continue to
600 improve their skills and preparation through education and
601 training, so that the following aspirational goals will be
602 achieved:

603 (a) By the 2010-2011 school year:

604 1. Each prekindergarten class will have at least one
605 prekindergarten instructor who holds an associate's or higher
606 degree in the field of early childhood education or child
607 development; and

608 2. For each prekindergarten class composed of 11 or more
609 students, in addition to a prekindergarten instructor who meets
610 the requirements of subparagraph 1., the class will have at
611 least one prekindergarten instructor who meets the requirements
612 of s. 1002.55(3)(c).

613 (b) By the 2013-2014 school year, each prekindergarten
614 class will have at least one prekindergarten instructor who
615 holds a bachelor's or higher degree in the field of early
616 childhood education or child development.

617 1002.67 Performance standards; curricula and
618 accountability.--

619 (1) By April 1, 2005, the department shall develop and
620 adopt performance standards for students in the Voluntary
621 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards
622 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the
623 development of:

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

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

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

635 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
636 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
637 must:

638 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy;

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

642 3. Prepare students to be ready for kindergarten based
643 upon the statewide kindergarten screening administered under s.
644 1002.69.

645 (c) The department shall review and approve curricula for
646 use by private prekindergarten providers and public schools that
647 are placed on probation under paragraph (3)(c). The department
648 shall maintain a list of the curricula approved under this
649 paragraph. Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements
650 of paragraph (b).

651 (3)(a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
652 each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
653 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
654 or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district
655 school board shall verify that each public school delivering the
656 program within the school district complies with this part.

657 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
658 fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or
659 school engages in misconduct, the Agency for Workforce
660 Innovation shall require the early learning coalition to remove
661 the provider, and the Department of Education shall require the
662 school district to remove the school, from eligibility to
663 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
664 receive state funds under this part.

665 (c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private
666 prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the
667 minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education as
668 satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6), the early learning coalition
669 or school district, as applicable, shall require the provider or
670 school to submit an improvement plan for approval by the
671 coalition or school district, as applicable, and to implement
672 the plan.

673 2. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
674 fails to meet the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of
675 Education as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6) for 2 consecutive
676 years, the early learning coalition or school district, as
677 applicable, shall place the provider or school on probation and
678 must require the provider or school to take certain corrective
679 actions, including the use of a curriculum approved by the
680 department under paragraph (2)(c).

681 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school
682 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
683 required under subparagraph 2., including the use of a
684 curriculum approved by the department, until the provider or
685 school meets the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of
686 Education as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).

687 4. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
688 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
689 the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education as
690 satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6), the Agency for Workforce
691 Innovation shall require the early learning coalition or the
692 Department of Education shall require the school district, as
693 applicable, to remove the provider or school from eligibility to
694 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
695 receive state funds for the program.

696 (d) Each early learning coalition, the Agency for
697 Workforce Innovation, and the department shall coordinate with
698 the Child Care Services Program Office of the Department of
699 Children and Family Services to minimize interagency duplication
700 of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten providers

701 for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary
702 Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school
703 readiness programs under s. 411.01, and the licensing of
704 providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.

705 1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten
706 readiness rates.--

707 (1) The department shall adopt a statewide kindergarten
708 screening that assesses the readiness of each student for
709 kindergarten based upon the performance standards adopted by the
710 department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
711 Education Program. The department shall require that each school
712 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each
713 kindergarten student in the school district within the first 30
714 school days of each school year.

715 (2) The statewide kindergarten screening shall provide
716 objective data concerning each student's readiness for
717 kindergarten and progress in attaining the performance standards
718 adopted by the department under s. 1002.67(1).

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

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

729 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt procedures
 730 for the department to annually calculate each private
 731 prekindergarten provider's and public school's kindergarten
 732 readiness rate, which must be expressed as the percentage of the
 733 provider's or school's students who are assessed as ready for
 734 kindergarten. The kindergarten readiness rates must be based
 735 exclusively upon the results of the statewide kindergarten
 736 screening for students completing the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 737 Education Program, beginning with students completing the
 738 program during the 2005-2006 school year who are administered
 739 the statewide kindergarten screening during the 2006-2007 school
 740 year. The rates must not include students who are not
 741 administered the statewide kindergarten screening.

742 (6)(a) The State Board of Education shall periodically
 743 adopt a minimum kindergarten readiness rate that, if achieved by
 744 a private prekindergarten provider or public school, would
 745 demonstrate the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of
 746 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

747 (b) The minimum rate must not exceed the rate at which
 748 more than 15 percent of the kindergarten readiness rates of all
 749 private prekindergarten providers and public schools delivering
 750 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in the state
 751 would fall below the minimum rate.

752 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.--

753 (1) Funds appropriated for the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 754 Education Program may be used only for the program in accordance
 755 with this part. If the student enrollment in the program for a
 756 fiscal year exceeds the estimated enrollment upon which the

757 appropriation for that fiscal year is provided, thereby causing
 758 a shortfall, funds appropriated to the program for the
 759 subsequent fiscal year must be used first to fund the shortfall.

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

763 (a) For a student in a school-year prekindergarten program
 764 delivered by a private prekindergarten provider: 540
 765 instructional hours.

766 (b) For a student in a summer prekindergarten program
 767 delivered by a public school or private prekindergarten
 768 provider: 300 instructional hours.

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

771
 772 Except as provided in subsection (4), a student may not be
 773 reported for funding purposes as more than one full-time
 774 equivalent student.

775 (3)(a) The base student allocation per full-time
 776 equivalent student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 777 Program shall be provided in the General Appropriations Act and
 778 shall be equal for each student, regardless of whether the
 779 student is enrolled in a school-year prekindergarten program
 780 delivered by a private prekindergarten provider, a summer
 781 prekindergarten program delivered by a public school or private
 782 prekindergarten provider, or a school-year prekindergarten
 783 program delivered by a public school.

784 (b) Each county's allocation per full-time equivalent

785 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program shall
 786 be calculated annually by multiplying the base student
 787 allocation provided in the General Appropriations Act by the
 788 county's district cost differential provided in s. 1011.62(2).
 789 Each private prekindergarten provider and public school shall be
 790 paid in accordance with the county's allocation per full-time
 791 equivalent student.

792 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

793 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs
 794 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 10 percent
 795 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under
 796 subsection (2) may withdraw from the program for good cause,
 797 reenroll in one of the programs, and be reported for funding
 798 purposes as a full-time equivalent student in the program for
 799 which the child is reenrolled.

800 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the
 801 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
 802 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
 803 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the programs,
 804 and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time equivalent
 805 student in the program for which the child is reenrolled.

806
 807 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program
 808 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten
 809 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
 810 the program and reenroll. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
 811 shall establish criteria specifying whether a good cause exists
 812 for a child to withdraw from a program under paragraph (a),

813 whether a child has substantially completed a program under
814 paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship exists which is
815 beyond the child's or parent's control under paragraph (b).

816 (5)(a) Each early learning coalition shall maintain
817 through the single point of entry established under s. 411.01 a
818 current database of the students enrolled in the Voluntary
819 Prekindergarten Education Program for each county within the
820 coalition's region.

821 (b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
822 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers
823 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
824 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance
825 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment
826 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the
827 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the
828 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6)(d). The
829 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
830 by the Agency for Workforce Innovation to the early learning
831 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private
832 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The department
833 shall transfer to the Agency for Workforce Innovation at least
834 once each quarter the funds available for payment to private
835 prekindergarten providers and public schools in accordance with
836 this paragraph from the funds appropriated for that purpose.

837 (6)(a) Each parent enrolling his or her child in the
838 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must agree to comply
839 with the attendance policy of the private prekindergarten
840 provider or district school board, as applicable. Upon

841 enrollment of the child, the private prekindergarten provider or
 842 public school, as applicable, must provide the child's parent
 843 with a copy of the provider's or school district's attendance
 844 policy, as applicable.

845 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district
 846 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each
 847 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 848 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
 849 month's certified student attendance.

850 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
 851 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
 852 public school on forms prescribed by the Agency for Workforce
 853 Innovation. The forms must include, in addition to the
 854 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
 855 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
 856 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in
 857 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
 858 program be made to the provider or school:

860 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 861 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

862
 863 I, . . . (Name of Parent) . . . , swear (or affirm) that my
 864 child, . . . (Name of Student) . . . , attended the Voluntary
 865 Prekindergarten Education Program on the days listed above and
 866 certify that I continue to choose . . . (Name of Provider or
 867 School) . . . to deliver the program for my child and direct
 868 that program funds be paid to the provider or school for my

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869 child.

870 . . . (Signature of Parent) . . .

871 . . . (Date) . . .

872

873 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school
 874 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each
 875 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning
 876 coalition, and each public school must permit the school
 877 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal
 878 business hours. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
 879 procedures for early learning coalitions and school districts to
 880 review the original signed forms against the certified student
 881 attendance. The review procedures shall provide for the use of
 882 selective inspection techniques, including, but not limited to,
 883 random sampling. Each early learning coalition and school
 884 district must comply with the review procedures.

885 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or school district,
 886 as applicable, may dismiss a student who does not comply with
 887 the provider's or district's attendance policy. A student
 888 dismissed under this paragraph is not removed from the Voluntary
 889 Prekindergarten Education Program and may continue in the
 890 program through reenrollment with another private
 891 prekindergarten provider or public school. Notwithstanding s.
 892 1002.53(6)(b), a school district is not required to provide for
 893 the admission of a student dismissed under this paragraph.

894 (d) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt, for
 895 funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the Voluntary
 896 Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance policy must

897 apply statewide and apply equally to all private prekindergarten
898 providers and public schools. The attendance policy must
899 establish a minimum requirement for student attendance and
900 include the following provisions:

901 1. A student who meets the minimum requirement may be
902 reported as a full-time equivalent student for funding purposes.

903 2. A student who does not meet the minimum requirement may
904 be reported only as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent
905 student, reduced pro rata based on the student's attendance.

906 3. A student who does not meet the minimum requirement may
907 be reported as a full-time equivalent student if the student is
908 absent for good cause in accordance with exceptions specified in
909 the uniform attendance policy.

910
911 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding
912 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten
913 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its
914 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

915 (7) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall require that
916 administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for
917 efficient and effective administration of the Voluntary
918 Prekindergarten Education Program. Each early learning coalition
919 may retain and expend no more than 5 percent of the funds paid
920 by the coalition to private prekindergarten providers and public
921 schools under paragraph (5)(b). Funds retained by an early
922 learning coalition under this subsection may be used only for
923 administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
924 and may not be used for the school readiness program or other

925 programs.

926 (8) Except as otherwise expressly authorized by law, a
 927 private prekindergarten provider or public school may not:

928 (a) Require payment of a fee or charge for services
 929 provided for a child enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 930 Education Program during a period reported for funding purposes;
 931 or

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

936 (9) A parent is responsible for the transportation of his
 937 or her child to and from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 938 Program, regardless of whether the program is delivered by a
 939 private prekindergarten provider or a public school. However, a
 940 provider or school may use part of the funds it is paid under
 941 paragraph (5)(b) for transporting students to and from the
 942 program. A student enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 943 Education Program may not be reported under s. 1011.68 for
 944 student transportation funds.

945 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;
 946 accountability requirements.--

947 (1) The department shall administer the accountability
 948 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 949 at the state level.

950 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for the
 951 department's:

952 (a) Approval of prekindergarten director credentials under

953 ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

954 (b) Approval of emergent literacy training courses under

955 ss. 1002.55 and 1002.59.

956 (c) Certification of school districts that are eligible to

957 deliver the school-year prekindergarten program under s.

958 1002.63.

959 (d) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening

960 and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.

961 1002.69.

962 (3) Except as provided by law, the department may not

963 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider that

964 does not deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

965 or receive state funds under this part.

966 1002.75 Agency for Workforce Innovation; powers and

967 duties; operational requirements.--

968 (1) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer

969 the operational requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten

970 Education Program at the state level.

971 (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt

972 procedures governing the administration of the Voluntary

973 Prekindergarten Education Program by the early learning

974 coalitions and school districts for:

975 (a) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility

976 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

977 under s. 1002.53.

978 (b) Providing parents with profiles of private

979 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

980 (c) Registering private prekindergarten providers and

981 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,
 982 1002.61, and 1002.63.

983 (d) Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten
 984 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61.

985 (e) Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
 986 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
 987 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
 988 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

989 (f) Paying private prekindergarten providers and public
 990 schools under s. 1002.71.

991 (g) Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
 992 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

993 (h) Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the
 994 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

995 (i) Reenrolling students dismissed by a private
 996 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with
 997 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.
 998 1002.71.

999 (3) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt, in
 1000 consultation with and subject to approval by the department,
 1001 procedures governing the administration of the Voluntary
 1002 Prekindergarten Education Program by the early learning
 1003 coalitions and school districts for:

1004 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
 1005 providers and public schools under s. 1002.67.

1006 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
 1007 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
 1008 1002.67.

1009 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public
 1010 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the
 1011 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time
 1012 permitted under s. 1002.67.

1013 (4) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall also adopt
 1014 procedures for the agency's distribution of funds to early
 1015 learning coalitions under s. 1002.71.

1016 (5) Except as provided by law, the Agency for Workforce
 1017 Innovation may not impose requirements on a private
 1018 prekindergarten provider or public school that does not deliver
 1019 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state
 1020 funds under this part.

1021 1002.77 Florida Early Learning Advisory Council.--

1022 (1) There is created the Florida Early Learning Advisory
 1023 Council within the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The purpose
 1024 of the advisory council is to submit recommendations to the
 1025 department and the Agency for Workforce Innovation on the early
 1026 learning policy of this state, including recommendations
 1027 relating to administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1028 Education Program under this part and the school readiness
 1029 programs under s. 411.01.

1030 (2) The advisory council shall be composed of the
 1031 following members:

1032 (a) The chair of the advisory council who shall be
 1033 appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

1034 (b) The chair of each early learning coalition.

1035 (c) One member who shall be appointed by and serve at the
 1036 pleasure of the President of the Senate.

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1037 (d) One member who shall be appointed by and serve at the
1038 pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1039
1040 The chair of the advisory council appointed by the Governor and
1041 the members appointed by the presiding officers of the
1042 Legislature must each have a background in early learning.

1043 (3) The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly but
1044 may meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties and
1045 responsibilities.

1046 (4)(a) Each member of the advisory council shall serve
1047 without compensation but is entitled to receive reimbursement
1048 for per diem and travel expenses for attendance at council
1049 meetings as provided in s. 112.061.

1050 (b) Each member of the advisory council is subject to the
1051 ethics provisions in part III of chapter 112.

1052 (c) For purposes of tort liability, each member of the
1053 advisory council shall be governed by s. 768.28.

1054 (5) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall provide
1055 staff and administrative support for the advisory council.

1056 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.--

1057 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules under
1058 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this
1059 part conferring duties upon the department.

1060 (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt rules
1061 under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the provisions of
1062 this part conferring duties upon the agency.

1063 Section 2. Section 411.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to
1064 read:

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1065 411.01 ~~Florida Partnership for~~ School readiness programs;
 1066 early learning ~~school readiness~~ coalitions.--

1067 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section may be cited as the "School
 1068 Readiness Act."

1069 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--

1070 (a) The Legislature recognizes that school readiness
 1071 programs increase children's chances of achieving future
 1072 educational success and becoming productive members of society.
 1073 It is the intent of the Legislature that the ~~such~~ programs be
 1074 developmentally appropriate, research-based, involve parents as
 1075 their child's first teacher, serve as preventive measures for
 1076 children at risk of future school failure, enhance the
 1077 educational readiness of eligible children, and support family
 1078 education. Each school readiness program shall provide the
 1079 elements necessary to prepare at-risk children for school,
 1080 including health screening and referral and an appropriate
 1081 educational program.

1082 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that school
 1083 readiness programs be operated on a full-day, year-round basis
 1084 to the maximum extent possible to enable parents to work and
 1085 become financially self-sufficient.

1086 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that school
 1087 readiness programs not exist as isolated programs, but build
 1088 upon existing services and work in cooperation with other
 1089 programs for young children, and that school readiness programs
 1090 be coordinated ~~and funding integrated~~ to achieve full
 1091 effectiveness.

1092 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the

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1093 administrative staff at the state level for school readiness
 1094 programs be kept to the minimum necessary to administer ~~carry~~
 1095 ~~out~~ the duties of the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 1096 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~, as the school readiness
 1097 programs are to be regionally ~~locally~~ designed, operated, and
 1098 managed, with the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 1099 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ ~~adopting a system for measuring~~
 1100 ~~school readiness~~; developing school readiness program
 1101 performance standards and, ~~outcome~~ measures ~~measurements~~, ~~and~~
 1102 ~~data design and review~~; and approving and reviewing early
 1103 learning coalitions and ~~local~~ school readiness ~~coalitions and~~
 1104 plans.

1105 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that
 1106 appropriations for combined school readiness programs shall not
 1107 be less than the programs would receive in any fiscal year on an
 1108 uncombined basis.

1109 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the school
 1110 readiness program coordinate and operate in conjunction with the
 1111 district school systems. However, it is also the intent of the
 1112 Legislature that the school readiness program not be construed
 1113 as part of the system of free public schools but rather as a
 1114 separate program for children under the age of kindergarten
 1115 eligibility, funded separately from the system of free public
 1116 schools, utilizing a mandatory sliding fee scale, and providing
 1117 an integrated and seamless system of school readiness services
 1118 for the state's birth-to-kindergarten population.

1119 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the federal
 1120 child care income tax credit be preserved for school readiness

1121 programs.

1122 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that school
 1123 readiness services shall be an integrated and seamless system of
 1124 services with a developmentally appropriate education component
 1125 for the state's eligible birth-to-kindergarten population
 1126 described in subsection (6) and shall not be construed as part
 1127 of the seamless K-20 education system ~~except for the~~
 1128 ~~administration of the uniform screening system upon entry into~~
 1129 ~~kindergarten.~~

1130 (3) PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS
 1131 PROGRAM.--

1132 ~~(a) The school readiness program shall be phased in on a~~
 1133 ~~coalition-by-coalition basis. Each coalition's school readiness~~
 1134 ~~program shall have available to it funding from all the~~
 1135 ~~coalition's early education and child care programs that are~~
 1136 ~~funded with state, federal, lottery, or local funds, including~~
 1137 ~~but not limited to Florida First Start programs, Even Start~~
 1138 ~~literacy programs, prekindergarten early intervention programs,~~
 1139 ~~Head Start programs, programs offered by public and private~~
 1140 ~~providers of child care, migrant prekindergarten programs, Title~~
 1141 ~~I programs, subsidized child care programs, and teen parent~~
 1142 ~~programs, together with any additional funds appropriated or~~
 1143 ~~obtained for purposes of this section. These programs and their~~
 1144 ~~funding streams shall be components of the coalition's~~
 1145 ~~integrated school readiness program, with the goal of preparing~~
 1146 ~~children for success in school.~~

1147 (b) ~~Nothing contained in This section does not act is~~
 1148 ~~intended to:~~

1149 (a)1. Relieve parents and guardians of their own
 1150 obligations to prepare ~~ready~~ their children for school; or

1151 (b)2. Create any obligation to provide publicly funded
 1152 school readiness programs or services beyond those authorized by
 1153 the Legislature.

1154 (4) AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION ~~FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP~~
 1155 ~~FOR SCHOOL READINESS.~~--

1156 (a) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall ~~Florida~~
 1157 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ was created to fulfill three
 1158 ~~major purposes:~~ to administer school readiness programs at the
 1159 state level and shall ~~program services that help parents prepare~~
 1160 ~~eligible children for school;~~ to coordinate the early learning
 1161 coalitions in providing ~~provision of~~ school readiness services
 1162 on a full-day, full-year, full-choice basis to the extent
 1163 possible in order to enable parents to work and be financially
 1164 self-sufficient; ~~and to establish a uniform screening instrument~~
 1165 ~~to be implemented by the Department of Education and~~
 1166 ~~administered by the school districts upon entry into~~
 1167 ~~kindergarten to assess the readiness for school of all children.~~
 1168 ~~Readiness for kindergarten is the outcome measure of the success~~
 1169 ~~of each school readiness program that receives state or federal~~
 1170 ~~funds. The partnership is assigned to the Agency for Workforce~~
 1171 ~~Innovation for administrative purposes.~~

1172 (b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida~~
 1173 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ shall:

1174 1. Coordinate the birth-to-kindergarten services for
 1175 children who are eligible under ~~pursuant to~~ subsection (6) and
 1176 the programmatic, administrative, and fiscal standards under

1177 ~~pursuant to~~ this section for all public providers of school
1178 readiness programs.

1179 2. Continue to provide unified leadership for school
1180 readiness through early learning ~~local school readiness~~
1181 coalitions.

1182 3. Focus on improving the educational quality of all
1183 publicly funded school readiness programs.

1184 ~~(c)1. The Florida Partnership for School Readiness shall~~
1185 ~~include the Lieutenant Governor, the Commissioner of Education,~~
1186 ~~the Secretary of Children and Family Services, and the Secretary~~
1187 ~~of Health, or their designees, and the chair of the Child Care~~
1188 ~~Executive Partnership Board, and the chairperson of the Board of~~
1189 ~~Directors of Workforce Florida, Inc. When the Lieutenant~~
1190 ~~Governor or an agency head appoints a designee, the designee~~
1191 ~~must be an individual who attends consistently, and, in the~~
1192 ~~event that the Lieutenant Governor or agency head and his or her~~
1193 ~~designee both attend a meeting, only one of them may vote.~~

1194 ~~2. The partnership shall also include 14 members of the~~
1195 ~~public who shall be business, community, and civic leaders in~~
1196 ~~the state who are not elected to public office. These members~~
1197 ~~and their families must not have a direct contract with any~~
1198 ~~local coalition to provide school readiness services. The~~
1199 ~~members must be geographically and demographically~~
1200 ~~representative of the state. Each member shall be appointed by~~
1201 ~~the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the President~~
1202 ~~of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.~~
1203 ~~By July 1, 2001, four members shall be appointed as follows: two~~
1204 ~~members shall be from the child care industry, one representing~~

1205 ~~the private for-profit sector appointed by the Governor from a~~
 1206 ~~list of two nominees submitted by the President of the Senate~~
 1207 ~~and one representing faith-based providers appointed by the~~
 1208 ~~Governor from a list of two nominees submitted by the Speaker of~~
 1209 ~~the House of Representatives; and two members shall be from the~~
 1210 ~~business community, one appointed by the Governor from a list of~~
 1211 ~~two nominees submitted by the President of the Senate and one~~
 1212 ~~appointed by the Governor from a list of two nominees submitted~~
 1213 ~~by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members shall be~~
 1214 ~~appointed to 4-year terms of office. The members of the~~
 1215 ~~partnership shall elect a chairperson annually from the~~
 1216 ~~nongovernmental members of the partnership. Any vacancy on the~~
 1217 ~~partnership shall be filled in the same manner as the original~~
 1218 ~~appointment.~~

1219 ~~(d) The partnership shall meet at least quarterly but may~~
 1220 ~~meet as often as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and~~
 1221 ~~responsibilities. Members of the partnership shall participate~~
 1222 ~~without proxy at the quarterly meetings. The partnership may~~
 1223 ~~take official action by a majority vote of the members present~~
 1224 ~~at any meeting at which a quorum is present.~~

1225 ~~(e) Members of the partnership are subject to the ethics~~
 1226 ~~provisions in part III of chapter 112, and no member may derive~~
 1227 ~~any financial benefit from the funds administered by the Florida~~
 1228 ~~Partnership for School Readiness.~~

1229 ~~(f) Members of the partnership shall serve without~~
 1230 ~~compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and~~
 1231 ~~travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as~~
 1232 ~~provided in s. 112.061, and reimbursement for other reasonable,~~

1233 ~~necessary, and actual expenses.~~

1234 ~~(g) For the purposes of tort liability, the members of the~~
 1235 ~~partnership and its employees shall be governed by s. 768.28.~~

1236 ~~(h) The partnership shall appoint an executive director~~
 1237 ~~who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The executive~~
 1238 ~~director shall perform the duties assigned to him or her by the~~
 1239 ~~partnership. The executive director shall be responsible for~~
 1240 ~~hiring, subject to the approval of the partnership, all~~
 1241 ~~employees and staff members, who shall serve under his or her~~
 1242 ~~direction and control.~~

1243 ~~(c)(i)~~ For purposes of administration of the federal Child
 1244 Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99, the Agency
 1245 for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ may be designated by the
 1246 Governor as the lead agency, ~~and,~~ if so designated, ~~shall~~ comply
 1247 with the lead agency responsibilities under ~~pursuant to~~ federal
 1248 law.

1249 ~~(d)(j)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 1250 ~~Partnership for School Readiness is the principal organization~~
 1251 ~~responsible for the enhancement of school readiness for the~~
 1252 ~~state's children, and shall:~~

1253 1. Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
 1254 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
 1255 requirements.

1256 2. Provide final approval and periodic review of early
 1257 learning coalitions and school readiness plans.

1258 3. Provide leadership for the enhancement of school
 1259 readiness in this state by aggressively establishing a unified
 1260 approach to the state's efforts toward enhancement of school

1261 readiness. In support of this effort, the Agency for Workforce
 1262 Innovation ~~partnership~~ may develop and implement specific
 1263 strategies that address the state's school readiness programs.

1264 4. Safeguard the effective use of federal, state, local,
 1265 and private resources to achieve the highest possible level of
 1266 school readiness for the ~~state's~~ children in this state.

1267 5. Provide technical assistance to early learning
 1268 coalitions.

1269 6. Assess gaps in service.

1270 7. Provide technical assistance to counties that form a
 1271 multicounty region served by an early learning coalition.

1272 ~~8.a. Adopt a system for measuring school readiness that~~
 1273 ~~provides objective data regarding the expectations for school~~
 1274 ~~readiness, and establish a method for collecting the data and~~
 1275 ~~guidelines for using the data. The measurement, the data~~
 1276 ~~collection, and the use of the data must serve the statewide~~
 1277 ~~school readiness goal. The criteria for determining which data~~
 1278 ~~to collect should be the usefulness of the data to state~~
 1279 ~~policymakers and local program administrators in administering~~
 1280 ~~programs and allocating state funds, and must include the~~
 1281 ~~tracking of school readiness system information back to~~
 1282 ~~individual school readiness programs to assist in determining~~
 1283 ~~program effectiveness.~~

1284 ~~b. Adopt a system for evaluating the performance of~~
 1285 ~~students through the third grade to compare the performance of~~
 1286 ~~those who participated in school readiness programs with the~~
 1287 ~~performance of students who did not participate in school~~
 1288 ~~readiness programs in order to identify strategies for continued~~

1289 ~~successful student performance.~~

1290 8.9. Develop and adopt performance standards and outcome
 1291 measures for school readiness programs. The performance
 1292 standards must address the age-appropriate progress of children
 1293 in the development of the school readiness skills required under
 1294 paragraph (j). The performance standards for children from birth
 1295 to 3 years of age in school readiness programs must be
 1296 integrated with the performance standards adopted by the
 1297 Department of Education for children in the Voluntary
 1298 Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1002.67.

1299 ~~(e)(k)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ may
 1300 adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 ~~necessary~~ to
 1301 administer the provisions of law conferring duties upon the
 1302 agency, including, but not limited ~~this section which relate to,~~
 1303 rules governing the preparation ~~preparing~~ and implementation of
 1304 ~~implementing~~ the ~~system for~~ school readiness system, the
 1305 collection of ~~collecting~~ data, the approval of early learning
 1306 ~~approving local school readiness~~ coalitions and school readiness
 1307 plans, the provision of ~~providing~~ a method whereby an early
 1308 learning a coalition may ~~can~~ serve two or more counties, the
 1309 award of ~~awarding~~ incentives to early learning coalitions, and
 1310 the issuance of ~~issuing~~ waivers.

1311 ~~(f)(l)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida~~
 1312 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~ shall have all powers necessary
 1313 to administer ~~carry out the purposes of~~ this section, including,
 1314 but not limited to, the power to receive and accept grants,
 1315 loans, or advances of funds from any public or private agency
 1316 and to receive and accept from any source contributions of

1317 money, property, labor, or any other thing of value, to be held,
 1318 used, and applied for ~~the~~ purposes of this section.

1319 (g) Except as provided by law, the Agency for Workforce
 1320 Innovation may not impose requirements on a child care or early
 1321 childhood education provider that does not deliver services
 1322 under a school readiness program or receive state or federal
 1323 funds under this section.

1324 (h)(m) The Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 1325 Partnership for School Readiness shall have a budget for the
 1326 school readiness system, which and shall be financed through an
 1327 annual appropriation made for purposes of this section purpose
 1328 in the General Appropriations Act.

1329 (i)(n) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
 1330 shall coordinate the efforts toward school readiness in this
 1331 state and provide independent policy analyses and
 1332 recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,
 1333 and the Legislature.

1334 (j)(o) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall require
 1335 that each early learning coalition's The partnership shall
 1336 prepare and submit to the State Board of Education a system for
 1337 measuring school readiness program. The system must, at a
 1338 minimum, enhance the age-appropriate progress of each child in
 1339 the development of include a uniform screening, which shall
 1340 provide objective data regarding the following expectations for
 1341 school readiness skills which shall include, at a minimum:

1342 1. The child's immunizations and other health requirements
 1343 as necessary, including appropriate vision and hearing screening
 1344 and examinations.

1345 ~~2. The child's physical development.~~

1346 ~~1.3. The child's~~ Compliance with rules, limitations, and
 1347 routines.

1348 ~~2.4. The child's~~ Ability to perform tasks.

1349 ~~3.5. The child's~~ Interactions with adults.

1350 ~~4.6. The child's~~ Interactions with peers.

1351 ~~5.7. The child's~~ Ability to cope with challenges.

1352 ~~6.8. The child's~~ Self-help skills.

1353 ~~7.9. The child's~~ Ability to express the child's ~~his or her~~
 1354 needs.

1355 ~~8.10. The child's~~ Verbal communication skills.

1356 ~~9.11. The child's~~ Problem-solving skills.

1357 ~~10.12. The child's~~ Following of verbal directions.

1358 ~~11.13. The child's~~ Demonstration of curiosity,
 1359 persistence, and exploratory behavior.

1360 ~~12.14. The child's~~ Interest in books and other printed
 1361 materials.

1362 ~~13.15. The child's~~ Paying attention to stories.

1363 ~~14.16. The child's~~ Participation in art and music
 1364 activities.

1365 ~~15.17. The child's~~ Ability to identify colors, geometric
 1366 shapes, letters of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and
 1367 temporal relationships.

1368

1369 The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall also require that,
 1370 before a child is enrolled in an early learning coalition's
 1371 school readiness program, the coalition must ensure that
 1372 information is obtained by the coalition or the school readiness

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1373 provider regarding the child's immunizations, physical
1374 development, and other health requirements as necessary,
1375 including appropriate vision and hearing screening and
1376 examinations.

1377 ~~(p) The partnership shall prepare a plan for implementing~~
1378 ~~the system for measuring school readiness in such a way that all~~
1379 ~~children in this state will undergo the uniform screening~~
1380 ~~established by the partnership when they enter kindergarten.~~
1381 ~~Children who enter public school for the first time in first~~
1382 ~~grade must undergo a uniform screening approved by the~~
1383 ~~partnership for use in first grade. Because children with~~
1384 ~~disabilities may not be able to meet all of the identified~~
1385 ~~expectations for school readiness, the plan for measuring school~~
1386 ~~readiness shall incorporate mechanisms for recognizing the~~
1387 ~~potential variations in expectations for school readiness when~~
1388 ~~serving children with disabilities and shall provide for~~
1389 ~~communities to serve children with disabilities.~~

1390 ~~(k)(g)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
1391 shall conduct studies and planning activities related to the
1392 overall improvement and effectiveness of the outcome school
1393 readiness measures adopted by the agency for school readiness
1394 programs.

1395 (l) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall monitor and
1396 evaluate the performance of each early learning coalition in
1397 administering the school readiness program, implementing the
1398 coalition's school readiness plan, and administering the
1399 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. These monitoring
1400 and performance evaluations must include, at a minimum, onsite

1401 monitoring of each coalition's finances, management, operations,
 1402 and programs.

1403 (m) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall identify
 1404 best practices of early learning coalitions in order to improve
 1405 the outcomes of school readiness programs.

1406 ~~(r) The partnership shall establish procedures for~~
 1407 ~~performance-based budgeting in school readiness programs.~~

1408 (n)(s) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
 1409 shall submit an annual report of its activities conducted under
 1410 this section to the Governor, the executive director of the
 1411 Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, the President of the Senate,
 1412 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority
 1413 leaders of both houses of the Legislature. In addition, the
 1414 Agency for Workforce Innovation's partnership's reports and
 1415 recommendations shall be made available to the State Board of
 1416 Education, the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council, other
 1417 appropriate state agencies and entities, district school boards,
 1418 central agencies ~~for child care,~~ and county health departments.
 1419 The annual report must provide an analysis of school readiness
 1420 activities across the state, including the number of children
 1421 who were served in the programs ~~and the number of children who~~
 1422 ~~were ready for school.~~

1423 (o)(t) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership
 1424 shall work with the early learning school readiness coalitions
 1425 to increase parents' training for and involvement in their
 1426 children's preschool education and to provide family literacy
 1427 activities and programs.

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1429 ~~To ensure that the system for measuring school readiness is~~
1430 ~~comprehensive and appropriate statewide, as the system is~~
1431 ~~developed and implemented, the partnership must consult with~~
1432 ~~representatives of district school systems, providers of public~~
1433 ~~and private child care, health care providers, large and small~~
1434 ~~employers, experts in education for children with disabilities,~~
1435 ~~and experts in child development.~~

1436 (5) CREATION OF EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL READINESS
1437 COALITIONS.--

1438 (a) Early learning School readiness coalitions.--

1439 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish the
1440 minimum number of children to be served by each early learning
1441 coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The
1442 Agency for Workforce Innovation may only approve school
1443 readiness plans in accordance with this minimum number. The
1444 minimum number must be uniform for every early learning
1445 coalition and must:

1446 a. Permit 30 or fewer coalitions to be established; and

1447 b. Require each coalition to serve at least 2,000 children
1448 based upon the average number of all children served per month
1449 through the coalition's school readiness program during the
1450 previous 12 months.

1451
1452 The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for
1453 merging early learning coalitions, including procedures for the
1454 consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early
1455 termination of the terms of coalition members which are
1456 necessary to accomplish the mergers. Each early learning

1457 coalition must comply with the merger procedures and shall be
 1458 organized in accordance with this subparagraph by April 1, 2005.
 1459 By June 30, 2005, each coalition must complete the transfer of
 1460 powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property,
 1461 and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and
 1462 other funds to the successor coalition, if applicable.

1463 2.1. If an early learning coalition a coalition's plan
 1464 would serve fewer less than 400 birth-to-kindergarten age
 1465 children than the minimum number established under subparagraph
 1466 1., the coalition must merge either join with another county to
 1467 form a multicounty coalition. However, the Agency for Workforce
 1468 Innovation may authorize an early learning coalition to serve
 1469 fewer children than the minimum number established under
 1470 subparagraph 1., if:

1471 a. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
 1472 Innovation that merging with another county or multicounty
 1473 region contiguous to the coalition would cause an extreme
 1474 hardship on the coalition;

1475 b. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has determined
 1476 during the most recent annual review of the coalition's school
 1477 readiness plan, or through monitoring and performance
 1478 evaluations conducted under paragraph (4)(1), that the coalition
 1479 has substantially implemented its plan and substantially met the
 1480 performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the
 1481 agency; and

1482 c. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
 1483 Innovation the coalition's, enter an agreement with a fiscal
 1484 agent to serve more than one coalition, or demonstrate to the

1485 ~~partnership~~ its ability to effectively and efficiently implement
 1486 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program ~~its plan as a~~
 1487 ~~single-county coalition and meet all required performance~~
 1488 ~~standards and outcome measures.~~

1489
 1490 If an early learning coalition fails or refuses to merge as
 1491 required by this subparagraph, the Agency for Workforce
 1492 Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract
 1493 with a qualified entity to continue school readiness and
 1494 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
 1495 multicounty region until the coalition is reestablished through
 1496 resubmission of a school readiness plan and approval by the
 1497 agency.

1498 3. Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at
 1499 least 18 members but not more than 35 members. The Agency for
 1500 Workforce Innovation shall adopt standards establishing within
 1501 this range the minimum and maximum number of members that may be
 1502 appointed to an early learning coalition. These standards must
 1503 include variations for a coalition serving a multicounty region.
 1504 Each early learning coalition must comply with these standards.

1505 4. The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
 1506 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
 1507 same qualifications as private-sector business members appointed
 1508 by the coalition under subparagraph 6.

1509 ~~5.2.~~ Each early learning coalition shall have at least 18
 1510 ~~but not more than 25 members and such members~~ must include the
 1511 following members:

1512 a. A Department of Children and Family Services district

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1513 administrator or his or her designee who is authorized to make
 1514 decisions on behalf of the department.

1515 b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her
 1516 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the
 1517 district, who shall be a nonvoting member.

1518 c. A regional workforce ~~development~~ board executive chair
 1519 ~~or~~ director or his or her designee, where applicable.

1520 d. A county health department director or his or her
 1521 designee.

1522 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board
 1523 chair or executive director, if applicable, who shall be a
 1524 nonvoting member if the council or board is the fiscal agent of
 1525 the coalition or if the council or board contracts with and
 1526 receives funds from the coalition.

1527 f. An agency head of a local child-care licensing agency
 1528 as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable head.

1529 g. A president of a community college or his or her
 1530 designee.

1531 ~~g. One member appointed by a Department of Children and~~
 1532 ~~Family Services district administrator.~~

1533 h. One member appointed by a board of county
 1534 commissioners.

1535 ~~i. One member appointed by a district school board.~~

1536 ~~i.j.~~ A central ~~child-care~~ agency administrator, where
 1537 applicable, who shall be a nonvoting member.

1538 ~~j.k.~~ A Head Start director, who shall be a nonvoting
 1539 member.

1540 ~~k.l.~~ A representative of private child care providers,

1541 including family day care homes, who shall be a nonvoting
 1542 member.

1543 1.m. A representative of faith-based child care providers,
 1544 who shall be a nonvoting member.

1545 m. A representative of programs for children with
 1546 disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities
 1547 Education Act, who shall be a nonvoting member.

1548 6. Including the members appointed by the Governor under
 1549 subparagraph 4., more than one-third of the ~~coalition~~ members of
 1550 each early learning coalition must be private-sector business
 1551 members who do not have, and none of whose relatives as defined
 1552 in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in the
 1553 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1554 Program created under part V of chapter 1002 or the coalition's
 1555 school readiness program from the private sector, and neither
 1556 they nor their families may earn an income from the early
 1557 education and child care industry. To meet this requirement an
 1558 early learning a coalition must appoint additional members from
 1559 a list of nominees submitted ~~presented~~ to the coalition by a
 1560 chamber of commerce or economic development council within the
 1561 geographic region served by ~~area of~~ the coalition. The Agency
 1562 for Workforce Innovation shall establish criteria for appointing
 1563 private-sector business members. These criteria must include
 1564 standards for determining whether a member or relative has a
 1565 substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the
 1566 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the coalition's
 1567 school readiness program.

1568 7. A majority of the voting membership of an early

1569 learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the
 1570 business of the coalition.

1571 8.3- A voting ~~no~~ member of an early learning a coalition
 1572 may not appoint a designee to act in his or her place, except as
 1573 otherwise provided in this paragraph. A voting member may send a
 1574 representative to coalition meetings, but that representative
 1575 does not ~~will~~ have ~~no~~ voting privileges. When a ~~district~~
 1576 ~~superintendent of schools or~~ a district administrator for the
 1577 Department of Children and Family Services appoints a designee
 1578 to an early learning ~~a school readiness~~ coalition, the designee
 1579 is ~~will be~~ the voting member of the coalition, and any
 1580 individual attending in the designee's ~~his or her~~ place,
 1581 including the district administrator ~~or superintendent~~, does not
 1582 ~~will~~ have ~~no~~ voting privileges.

1583 9.4- Each member ~~Members~~ of an early learning the
 1584 coalition is ~~are~~ subject to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143
 1585 ~~the ethics provisions in part III of chapter 112.~~ For purposes
 1586 of s. 112.3143(3)(a), each voting member is a local public
 1587 officer who must abstain from voting when a voting conflict
 1588 exists.

1589 10.5- For ~~the~~ purposes of tort liability, each member or
 1590 employee of an early learning ~~the members of the school~~
 1591 ~~readiness coalition and its employees~~ shall be governed by s.
 1592 768.28.

1593 11.6- An early learning coalition serving a multicounty
 1594 region must ~~coalitions shall~~ include representation from each
 1595 county.

1596 12.7- Each early learning coalition shall establish ~~The~~

1597 terms ~~for~~ of all appointed members of the coalition. The terms
 1598 must be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not
 1599 exceed 4 years per term. Appointed members may serve a maximum
 1600 of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed
 1601 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

1602 (b) Program participation.--The school readiness program
 1603 shall be established for children from birth to the beginning of
 1604 the school year for which a child is eligible for admission to 5
 1605 years of age or until the child enters kindergarten in a public
 1606 school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. The program shall be
 1607 administered by the early learning ~~school readiness~~ coalition.
 1608 Within funding limitations, the early learning ~~school readiness~~
 1609 coalition, along with all providers, shall make reasonable
 1610 efforts to accommodate the needs of children for extended-day
 1611 and extended-year services without compromising the quality of
 1612 the program.

1613 (c) Program expectations.--

1614 1. The school readiness program must meet the following
 1615 expectations:

1616 a. The program must, at a minimum, enhance the age-
 1617 appropriate progress of each child in the development of the
 1618 school readiness skills required under paragraph (4)(j) ~~prepare~~
 1619 ~~preschool children to enter kindergarten ready to learn, as~~
 1620 measured by the performance standards and outcome measures
 1621 adopted ~~criteria established by the Agency for Workforce~~
 1622 Innovation Florida Partnership for School Readiness.

1623 b. The program must provide extended-day and extended-year
 1624 services to the maximum extent possible to meet the needs of

1625 parents who work.

1626 c. There must be coordinated staff development and
1627 teaching opportunities.

1628 d. There must be expanded access to community services and
1629 resources for families to help achieve economic self-
1630 sufficiency.

1631 e. There must be a single point of entry and unified
1632 waiting list. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term "single
1633 point of entry" means an integrated information system that
1634 allows a parent to enroll his or her child in the school
1635 readiness program at various locations throughout the county or
1636 multicounty region served by an early learning coalition, that
1637 may allow a parent to enroll his or her child by telephone or
1638 through an Internet website, and that uses a unified waiting
1639 list to track eligible children waiting for enrollment in the
1640 school readiness program. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
1641 shall establish a single statewide information system that
1642 integrates each early learning coalition's single point of
1643 entry, and each coalition must use the statewide system.

1644 f. The Agency for Workforce Innovation must consider the
1645 access of eligible children to the school readiness program, as
1646 demonstrated in part by waiting lists, before approving a
1647 proposed increase in payment rates submitted by an early
1648 learning coalition. In addition, early learning coalitions shall
1649 use school readiness funds made available due to enrollment
1650 shifts from school readiness programs to the Voluntary
1651 Prekindergarten Education Program for increasing the number of
1652 children served in school readiness programs before increasing

1653 payment rates.

1654 ~~f. As long as funding or eligible populations do not~~
 1655 ~~decrease, the program must serve at least as many children as~~
 1656 ~~were served prior to implementation of the program.~~

1657 g. There must be a community plan to address the needs of
 1658 all eligible children.

1659 h. The program must meet all state licensing guidelines,
 1660 where applicable.

1661 2. The early learning school readiness coalition must
 1662 implement a comprehensive program of school readiness services
 1663 that enhance the cognitive, social, and physical development of
 1664 children to achieve the performance standards and outcome
 1665 measures adopted specified by the Agency for Workforce
 1666 Innovation partnership. At a minimum, these programs must
 1667 contain the following elements:

1668 a. Developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to
 1669 enhance the age-appropriate progress of children in attaining
 1670 the performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce
 1671 Innovation under subparagraph (4)(d)8.

1672 b. A character development program to develop basic
 1673 values.

1674 c. An age-appropriate assessment of each child's
 1675 development.

1676 d. A pretest administered to children when they enter a
 1677 program and a posttest administered to children when they leave
 1678 the program.

1679 e. An appropriate staff-to-children ~~staff-to-child~~ ratio.

1680 f. A healthy ~~healthful~~ and safe environment.

1681 g. A resource and referral network to assist parents in
 1682 making an informed choice.

1683 (d) Implementation.--

1684 1. An early learning coalition may not implement the
 1685 school readiness program ~~is to be phased in.~~ until the coalition
 1686 is authorized implements its plan, ~~the county shall continue to~~
 1687 ~~receive the services identified in subsection (3) through the~~
 1688 ~~various agencies that would be responsible for delivering those~~
 1689 ~~services under current law. Plan implementation is subject to~~
 1690 approval of the coalition's school readiness coalition ~~and the~~
 1691 plan by the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida Partnership
 1692 ~~for School Readiness.~~

1693 2. Each early learning school readiness coalition shall
 1694 develop a plan for implementing the school readiness program to
 1695 meet the requirements of this section and the performance
 1696 standards and outcome measures adopted established by the Agency
 1697 for Workforce Innovation partnership. ~~The plan must include a~~
 1698 ~~written description of the role of the program in the~~
 1699 ~~coalition's effort to meet the first state education goal,~~
 1700 ~~readiness to start school, including a description of the plan~~
 1701 ~~to involve the prekindergarten early intervention programs, Head~~
 1702 ~~Start Programs, programs offered by public or private providers~~
 1703 ~~of child care, preschool programs for children with~~
 1704 ~~disabilities, programs for migrant children, Title I programs,~~
 1705 ~~subsidized child care programs, and teen parent programs.~~ The
 1706 plan must ~~also~~ demonstrate how the program will ensure that each
 1707 3-year-old and 4-year-old child in a publicly funded school
 1708 readiness program receives scheduled activities and instruction

1709 designed to enhance the age-appropriate progress of the ~~prepare~~
 1710 children in attaining the performance standards adopted by the
 1711 Agency for Workforce Innovation under subparagraph (4)(d)8. ~~to~~
 1712 ~~enter kindergarten ready to learn.~~ Before implementing ~~Prior to~~
 1713 ~~implementation of the~~ school readiness program, the early
 1714 learning ~~school readiness~~ coalition must submit the plan to the
 1715 Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ for approval. The
 1716 Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ may approve the
 1717 plan, reject the plan, or approve the plan with conditions. The
 1718 Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School~~
 1719 ~~Readiness~~ shall review school readiness ~~coalition~~ plans at least
 1720 annually.

1721 3. If the Agency for Workforce Innovation determines
 1722 during the annual review of school readiness plans, or through
 1723 monitoring and performance evaluations conducted under paragraph
 1724 (4)(1), that an early learning coalition has not substantially
 1725 implemented its plan, has not substantially met the performance
 1726 standards and outcome measures adopted by the agency, or has not
 1727 effectively administered the school readiness program or
 1728 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the Agency for
 1729 Workforce Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily
 1730 contract with a qualified entity to continue school readiness
 1731 and prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
 1732 multicounty region until the coalition is reestablished through
 1733 resubmission of a school readiness plan and approval by the
 1734 agency.

1735 4.3- The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
 1736 criteria for the approval of school readiness plans. The

1737 criteria must be consistent with the performance standards and
1738 outcome measures adopted by the agency and must require each
1739 approved plan to ~~for the school readiness program~~ must include
1740 the following minimum standards and provisions:

1741 a. A sliding fee scale establishing a copayment for
1742 parents based upon their ability to pay, which is the same for
1743 all program providers, to be implemented and reflected in each
1744 program's budget.

1745 b. A choice of settings and locations in licensed,
1746 registered, religious-exempt, or school-based programs to be
1747 provided to parents.

1748 c. Instructional staff who have completed the training
1749 course as required in s. 402.305(2)(d)1., as well as staff who
1750 have additional training or credentials as required by the
1751 Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~. The plan must
1752 provide a method for assuring the qualifications of all
1753 personnel in all program settings.

1754 d. Specific eligibility priorities for children within the
1755 early learning coalition's county or multicounty region in
1756 accordance with ~~pursuant to~~ subsection (6).

1757 e. Performance standards and outcome measures adopted
1758 established by the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~
1759 ~~or alternatively, standards and outcome measures to be used~~
1760 ~~until such time as the partnership adopts such standards and~~
1761 ~~outcome measures.~~

1762 f. Payment Reimbursement rates adopted ~~that have been~~
1763 ~~developed~~ by the early learning coalition and approved by the
1764 Agency for Workforce Innovation. Payment Reimbursement rates may

1765 ~~shall~~ not have the effect of limiting parental choice or
 1766 creating standards or levels of services that have not been
 1767 authorized by the Legislature.

1768 g. Systems support services, including a central agency,
 1769 child care resource and referral, eligibility determinations,
 1770 training of providers, and parent support and involvement.

1771 h. Direct enhancement services to families and children.
 1772 System support and direct enhancement services shall be in
 1773 addition to payments for the placement of children in school
 1774 readiness programs.

1775 i. The A business organization of the early learning
 1776 coalition plan, which must include the coalition's articles of
 1777 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a
 1778 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation
 1779 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract
 1780 with a fiscal school readiness agent if the coalition is not a
 1781 legally established corporate entity. An early learning
 1782 coalition Coalitions may contract with other coalitions to
 1783 achieve efficiency in multicounty multiple-county services, and
 1784 these such contracts may be part of the coalition's school
 1785 readiness business plan.

1786 j. Strategies to meet the needs of unique populations,
 1787 such as migrant workers.

1788
 1789 As part of the school readiness plan, the early learning
 1790 coalition may request the Governor to apply for a waiver to
 1791 allow the coalition to administer the Head Start Program to
 1792 accomplish the purposes of the school readiness program. If a

1793 ~~any~~ school readiness plan demonstrates ~~can demonstrate~~ that
 1794 specific statutory goals can be achieved more effectively by
 1795 using procedures that require modification of existing rules,
 1796 policies, or procedures, a request for a waiver to the Agency
 1797 for Workforce Innovation partnership may be submitted ~~made~~ as
 1798 part of the plan. Upon review, the Agency for Workforce
 1799 Innovation partnership may grant the proposed modification.

1800 5.4. Persons with an early childhood teaching certificate
 1801 may provide support and supervision to other staff in the school
 1802 readiness program.

1803 6.5. An early learning ~~The~~ coalition may not implement its
 1804 school readiness plan until it submits the plan to and receives
 1805 approval from the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership.
 1806 Once the plan is ~~has been~~ approved, the plan and the services
 1807 provided under the plan shall be controlled by the early
 1808 learning coalition ~~rather than by the state agencies or~~
 1809 ~~departments~~. The plan shall be reviewed and revised as
 1810 necessary, but at least biennially. An early learning coalition
 1811 may not implement the revisions until the coalition submits the
 1812 revised plan to and receives approval from the Agency for
 1813 Workforce Innovation. If the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1814 rejects a revised plan, the coalition must continue to operate
 1815 under its prior approved plan.

1816 7.6. Sections ~~The following statutes will not apply to~~
 1817 ~~local coalitions with approved plans: ss. 125.901(2)(a)3.,~~
 1818 411.221, and 411.232 do not apply to an early learning coalition
 1819 with an approved school readiness plan. To facilitate innovative
 1820 practices and to allow the regional ~~local~~ establishment of

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1821 school readiness programs, an early learning ~~a school readiness~~
 1822 coalition may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of,
 1823 and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any of the provisions of
 1824 ss. 411.223, 411.232, and 1003.54, if the waiver is necessary
 1825 for implementation of the coalition's school readiness plan.

1826 ~~8.7.~~ Two or more counties may join for purposes the
 1827 ~~purpose~~ of planning and implementing a school readiness program.

1828 ~~9.8.~~ An early learning ~~A~~ coalition may, subject to
 1829 approval ~~by~~ ~~of~~ the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~
 1830 as part of the coalition's school readiness plan, receive
 1831 subsidized child care funds for all children eligible for any
 1832 federal subsidized child care program ~~and be the provider of the~~
 1833 ~~program services.~~

1834 ~~10.9.~~ An early learning coalition may ~~Coalitions are~~
 1835 ~~authorized to~~ enter into multiparty contracts with multicounty
 1836 service providers in order to meet the needs of unique
 1837 populations such as migrant workers.

1838 (e) Requests for proposals; payment schedule.--

1839 ~~1. At least once every 3 years, beginning July 1, 2001,~~
 1840 Each early learning coalition must comply with ~~follow the~~
 1841 ~~competitive procurement requirements of~~ s. 287.057 for the
 1842 procurement of commodities or contractual services from the
 1843 funds described in paragraph (9)(d) school readiness programs.
 1844 The period of a contract for purchase of these commodities or
 1845 contractual services, together with any renewal of the original
 1846 contract, may not exceed 3 years.

1847 2. Each early learning coalition shall adopt ~~develop~~ a
 1848 payment schedule that encompasses all programs funded by the

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1849 ~~that~~ coalition under this section. The payment schedule must
1850 take into consideration the relevant market rate, must include
1851 the projected number of children to be served, and must be
1852 submitted for approval by ~~to~~ the Agency for Workforce Innovation
1853 ~~partnership for information~~. Informal child care arrangements
1854 shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate
1855 developed for a family day care home ~~childcare~~.

1856 (f) Requirements relating to fiscal agents.--If an early
1857 learning ~~the local~~ coalition is not a legally organized as a
1858 corporation or other business established ~~corporate~~ entity, the
1859 coalition must designate a fiscal agent, which may be a public
1860 entity, ~~or~~ a private nonprofit organization, or a certified
1861 public accountant who holds a license under chapter 473. The
1862 fiscal agent must ~~shall be required to~~ provide financial and
1863 administrative services under ~~pursuant to~~ a contract ~~or~~
1864 ~~agreement~~ with the early learning school readiness coalition.
1865 The fiscal agent may not provide direct early childhood
1866 education or child care services; however, a fiscal agent may
1867 provide those ~~such~~ services upon written request of the early
1868 learning coalition to the Agency for Workforce Innovation
1869 ~~partnership~~ and upon the approval of the ~~such~~ request by the
1870 agency ~~partnership~~. The cost of the financial and administrative
1871 services shall be negotiated between the fiscal agent and the
1872 early learning ~~school readiness~~ coalition. If the fiscal agent
1873 is a provider of early childhood education and child care
1874 programs, the contract must specify that the fiscal agent shall
1875 ~~will~~ act on policy direction from the early learning coalition
1876 and must ~~will~~ not receive policy direction from its own

1877 corporate board regarding disbursal of the coalition's ~~coalition~~
 1878 funds. The fiscal agent shall disburse funds in accordance with
 1879 the early learning coalition's approved ~~coalition~~ school
 1880 readiness plan and based on billing and disbursement procedures
 1881 approved by the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~. The
 1882 fiscal agent must conform to all data-reporting requirements
 1883 established by the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~.

1884 (g) Evaluation and annual report.--Each early learning
 1885 ~~school-readiness~~ coalition shall conduct an evaluation of the
 1886 effectiveness of the school readiness program, including
 1887 performance standards and outcome measures, and shall provide an
 1888 annual report and fiscal statement to the Agency for Workforce
 1889 Innovation Florida Partnership for School Readiness. This report
 1890 must conform to the content and format specifications set by the
 1891 Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida Partnership for School
 1892 Readiness. The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ must
 1893 include an analysis of the early learning coalitions' ~~coalition~~
 1894 reports in the agency's ~~its~~ annual report.

1895 (6) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.--Each early learning coalition's
 1896 ~~The~~ school readiness program shall be established for children
 1897 from birth to the beginning of the school year for which a child
 1898 is eligible for admission to under the age of kindergarten in a
 1899 public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. eligibility. Priority for
 1900 participation in the school readiness program shall be given to
 1901 children age 3 years to school entry who are served by the
 1902 Family Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and
 1903 Family Services or a community-based lead agency under ~~pursuant~~
 1904 ~~to~~ chapter 39 and for whom child care is needed to minimize risk

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1905 of further abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Other eligible
 1906 populations include children who meet one or more of the
 1907 following criteria:

1908 (a) Children under the age of kindergarten eligibility who
 1909 are:

1910 1. Children determined to be at risk of abuse, neglect, or
 1911 exploitation who are currently clients of the Family Safety
 1912 Program Office of the Department of Children and Family
 1913 Services, but who are not otherwise given priority under this
 1914 subsection.

1915 ~~2.1.~~ Children at risk of welfare dependency, including
 1916 economically disadvantaged children, children of participants in
 1917 the welfare transition program, children of migrant farmworkers,
 1918 and children of teen parents.

1919 ~~3.2.~~ Children of working families whose family income does
 1920 not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

1921 ~~4.3.~~ Children for whom the state is paying a relative
 1922 caregiver payment under s. 39.5085.

1923 (b) Three-year-old children and 4-year-old children who
 1924 may not be economically disadvantaged but who have disabilities,
 1925 have been served in a specific part-time or combination of part-
 1926 time exceptional education programs with required special
 1927 services, aids, or equipment, and were previously reported for
 1928 funding part time with the Florida Education Finance Program as
 1929 exceptional students.

1930 (c) Economically disadvantaged children, children with
 1931 disabilities, and children at risk of future school failure,
 1932 from birth to 4 years of age, who are served at home through

1933 home visitor programs and intensive parent education programs
 1934 ~~such as the Florida First Start Program.~~

1935 (d) Children who meet federal and state eligibility
 1936 ~~requirements for eligibility~~ for the migrant preschool program
 1937 but who do not meet the criteria of economically disadvantaged.

1938
 1939 As used in this subsection, the term ~~An~~ "economically
 1940 disadvantaged" child means a child whose family income does not
 1941 exceed ~~is below~~ 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

1942 Notwithstanding any change in a family's economic status, but
 1943 subject to additional family contributions in accordance with
 1944 the sliding fee scale, a child who meets the eligibility
 1945 requirements upon initial registration for the program remains
 1946 ~~shall be considered~~ eligible until the beginning of the school
 1947 year for which the child is eligible for admission to reaches
 1948 kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. age.

1949 (7) PARENTAL CHOICE.--

1950 (a) The school readiness program shall provide parental
 1951 choice through ~~pursuant to~~ a purchase service order that
 1952 ensures, to the maximum extent possible, flexibility in school
 1953 readiness programs and payment arrangements. According to
 1954 federal regulations requiring parental choice, a parent may
 1955 choose an informal child care arrangement. The purchase order
 1956 must bear the name of the beneficiary and the program provider
 1957 and, when redeemed, must bear the signature of both the
 1958 beneficiary and an authorized representative of the provider.

1959 (b) If it is determined that a provider has provided any
 1960 cash to the beneficiary in return for receiving the purchase

1961 order, the early learning coalition or its fiscal agent shall
 1962 refer the matter to the Division of Public Assistance Fraud for
 1963 investigation.

1964 (c) The office of the Chief Financial Officer shall
 1965 establish an electronic transfer system for the disbursement of
 1966 funds in accordance with this subsection. Each early learning
 1967 coalition ~~School readiness coalitions~~ shall fully implement the
 1968 electronic funds transfer system within 2 years after ~~plan~~
 1969 approval of the coalition's school readiness plan, unless a
 1970 waiver is obtained from the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1971 ~~partnership~~.

1972 (8) STANDARDS; OUTCOME MEASURES.--All ~~publicly funded~~
 1973 school readiness programs must ~~shall be required to~~ meet the
 1974 performance standards and outcome measures adopted ~~developed and~~
 1975 ~~approved~~ by the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~. The
 1976 ~~Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability~~
 1977 ~~shall provide consultation to the partnership in the development~~
 1978 ~~of the measures and standards. These performance standards and~~
 1979 ~~outcome measures shall be applicable on a statewide basis.~~

1980 (9) FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM.--

1981 (a) It is the intent of this section to establish an
 1982 integrated and quality seamless service delivery system for all
 1983 publicly funded early childhood education and child care
 1984 programs operating in this state.

1985 (b) ~~Notwithstanding s. 20.50:~~

1986 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer
 1987 school readiness funds, plans, and policies ~~pursuant to the~~
 1988 ~~contract with the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and~~

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1989 shall prepare and submit a unified budget request for the school
 1990 readiness system ~~program~~ in accordance with chapter 216.

1991 2. All instructions to early learning ~~local school~~
 1992 ~~readiness~~ coalitions for administering this section shall
 1993 emanate from the Agency for Workforce Innovation in accordance
 1994 with the ~~pursuant to~~ policies of the Legislature, ~~plans of the~~
 1995 ~~Florida Partnership for School Readiness, and the contract~~
 1996 ~~between the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and the~~
 1997 ~~agency.~~

1998 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
 1999 ~~prepare a~~ formula ~~plan that provides~~ for the allocation among
 2000 the early learning coalitions ~~distribution and expenditure~~ of
 2001 all state and federal school readiness funds for children
 2002 participating in public or private school readiness programs
 2003 based upon ~~an~~ equity and performance ~~funding~~ formula. The
 2004 allocation formula must ~~plan shall~~ be submitted to the Governor
 2005 and the Legislative Budget Commission. Upon approval, the
 2006 Legislative Budget Commission shall authorize ~~the transfer of~~
 2007 ~~funds to~~ the Agency for Workforce Innovation to distribute funds
 2008 ~~for distribution~~ in accordance with the allocation ~~provisions of~~
 2009 ~~the~~ formula. For fiscal year 2004-2005, the Agency for Workforce
 2010 Innovation shall allocate funds to the early learning coalitions
 2011 consistent with the fiscal year 2003-2004 funding allocations to
 2012 the school readiness coalitions.

2013 (d) All state ~~funds budgeted for a county for the programs~~
 2014 ~~specified in subsection (3), along with the pro rata share of~~
 2015 ~~the state administrative costs of those programs in the amount~~
 2016 ~~as determined by the partnership, all federal, funds and~~

2017 required local maintenance-of-effort or matching funds provided
 2018 to an early learning coalition for a county for programs
 2019 ~~specified in subsection (3), and any additional funds~~
 2020 ~~appropriated or obtained~~ for purposes of this section, shall be
 2021 used by ~~transferred for the benefit of~~ the coalition for
 2022 implementation of its school readiness plan, including the
 2023 hiring of staff to effectively operate the coalition's school
 2024 readiness program. As part of plan approval and periodic plan
 2025 review, the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership shall
 2026 require that administrative costs be kept to the minimum
 2027 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
 2028 school readiness plan, but total administrative expenditures
 2029 must shall not exceed 5 percent unless specifically waived by
 2030 the Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership. The Agency for
 2031 Workforce Innovation partnership shall annually report to the
 2032 Legislature any problems relating to administrative costs.

2033 (e) The Agency for Workforce Innovation partnership shall
 2034 annually distribute, to a maximum extent practicable, all
 2035 eligible funds provided under this section as block grants to
 2036 the early learning assist ~~coalitions in integrating services and~~
 2037 ~~funding to develop a quality service delivery system. Subject to~~
 2038 ~~appropriation, the partnership may also provide financial awards~~
 2039 ~~to coalitions demonstrating success in merging and integrating~~
 2040 ~~funding streams to serve children and school readiness programs.~~

2041 (f) State funds appropriated for the school readiness
 2042 program may not be used for the construction of new facilities
 2043 or the purchase of buses. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
 2044 ~~partnership~~ shall present to the Legislature recommendations for

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2045 providing necessary transportation services for school readiness
2046 programs.

2047 (g) All cost savings and all revenues received through a
2048 mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to help fund each
2049 early learning coalition's ~~the local~~ school readiness program.

2050 ~~(10) SCHOOL READINESS UNIFORM SCREENING.—The Department~~
2051 ~~of Education shall implement a school readiness uniform~~
2052 ~~screening, including a pilot program during the 2001-2002 school~~
2053 ~~year, to validate the system recommended by the Florida~~
2054 ~~Partnership for School Readiness as part of a comprehensive~~
2055 ~~evaluation design. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the~~
2056 ~~department shall require that all school districts administer~~
2057 ~~the school readiness uniform screening to each kindergarten~~
2058 ~~student in the district school system upon the student's entry~~
2059 ~~into kindergarten. Children who enter public school for the~~
2060 ~~first time in first grade must undergo a uniform screening~~
2061 ~~adopted for use in first grade. The department shall incorporate~~
2062 ~~school readiness data into the K-20 data warehouse for~~
2063 ~~longitudinal tracking. Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, the~~
2064 ~~department shall provide the partnership and the Agency for~~
2065 ~~Workforce Innovation with complete and full access to~~
2066 ~~kindergarten uniform screening data at the student, school,~~
2067 ~~district, and state levels in a format that will enable the~~
2068 ~~partnership and the agency to prepare reports needed by state~~
2069 ~~policymakers and local school readiness coalitions to access~~
2070 ~~progress toward school readiness goals and provide input for~~
2071 ~~continuous improvement of local school readiness services and~~
2072 ~~programs.~~

2073 ~~(11) REPORTS.--The Office of Program Policy Analysis and~~
 2074 ~~Government Accountability shall assess the implementation,~~
 2075 ~~efficiency, and outcomes of the school readiness program and~~
 2076 ~~report its findings to the President of the Senate and the~~
 2077 ~~Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2002.~~
 2078 ~~Subsequent reviews shall be conducted at the direction of the~~
 2079 ~~Joint Legislative Auditing Committee.~~

2080 (10)~~(12)~~ CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.--In the event of a
 2081 conflict between ~~the provisions of~~ this section and federal
 2082 requirements, the federal requirements shall control.

2083 (11)~~(13)~~ PLACEMENTS.--Notwithstanding any other provision
 2084 of this section to the contrary, ~~and for fiscal year 2004-2005~~
 2085 ~~only,~~ the first children to be placed in the school readiness
 2086 program shall be those from families receiving temporary cash
 2087 assistance and subject to federal work requirements. Subsequent
 2088 placements shall be made in accordance with subsection (6)
 2089 ~~pursuant to the provisions of this section. This subsection~~
 2090 ~~expires July 1, 2005.~~

2091 Section 3. Paragraph (p) of subsection (3) of section
 2092 11.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2093 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.--

2094 (3) AUTHORITY FOR AUDITS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.--The
 2095 Auditor General may, pursuant to his or her own authority, or at
 2096 the direction of the Legislative Auditing Committee, conduct
 2097 audits or other engagements as determined appropriate by the
 2098 Auditor General of:

2099 (p) The school readiness system, including the early
 2100 learning coalitions, ~~Florida Partnership for School Readiness~~

2101 created under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 411.01.

2102 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 20.50, Florida
 2103 Statutes, is amended to read:

2104 20.50 Agency for Workforce Innovation.--There is created
 2105 the Agency for Workforce Innovation within the Department of
 2106 Management Services. The agency shall be a separate budget
 2107 entity, and the director of the agency shall be the agency head
 2108 for all purposes. The agency shall not be subject to control,
 2109 supervision, or direction by the Department of Management
 2110 Services in any manner, including, but not limited to,
 2111 personnel, purchasing, transactions involving real or personal
 2112 property, and budgetary matters.

2113 (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation is ~~shall be~~ the
 2114 ~~designated~~ administrative agency designated for receipt of
 2115 federal workforce development grants and other federal funds.
 2116 The agency, ~~and~~ shall administer ~~carry out~~ the duties and
 2117 responsibilities assigned by the Governor under each federal
 2118 grant assigned to the agency. The agency shall be a separate
 2119 budget entity and shall expend each revenue source as provided
 2120 by federal and state law and as provided in plans developed by
 2121 and agreements with Workforce Florida, Inc. The agency shall
 2122 prepare and submit as a separate budget entity a unified budget
 2123 request for workforce development, in accordance with chapter
 2124 216 for, and in conjunction with, Workforce Florida, Inc., and
 2125 its board. The head of the agency is the director of Workforce
 2126 Innovation, who shall be appointed by the Governor. The
 2127 accountability and reporting functions of the agency shall be
 2128 administered by the director or his or her designee. ~~Included in~~

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2129 | These functions shall include ~~are~~ budget management, financial
 2130 | management, audit, performance management standards and
 2131 | controls, assessing outcomes of service delivery, and financial
 2132 | administration of workforce programs under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
 2133 | 445.004(5) and (9). ~~Within the agency's overall organizational~~
 2134 | ~~structure,~~ The agency shall include the following offices within
 2135 | its organizational structure, which shall have the specified
 2136 | responsibilities:

2137 | (a) The Office of Workforce Services shall administer the
 2138 | unemployment compensation program, the Rapid Response program,
 2139 | the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program, the Alien Labor
 2140 | Certification program, and any other programs that are delivered
 2141 | directly by agency staff rather than through the one-stop
 2142 | delivery system. The office shall be directed by the Deputy
 2143 | Director for Workforce Services, who shall be appointed by and
 2144 | serve at the pleasure of the director.

2145 | (b) The Office of Program Support and Accountability shall
 2146 | administer state merit system program staff within the workforce
 2147 | service delivery system, under the ~~pursuant to~~ policies of
 2148 | Workforce Florida, Inc. The office is ~~shall be~~ responsible for
 2149 | delivering services through the one-stop delivery system and for
 2150 | ensuring that participants in welfare transition programs
 2151 | receive case management services, diversion assistance, support
 2152 | services, including ~~subsidized~~ child care and transportation
 2153 | services, Medicaid services, and transition assistance to enable
 2154 | them to succeed in the workforce. The office is ~~shall~~ also ~~be~~
 2155 | responsible for program quality assurance, grants and contract
 2156 | management, contracting, financial management, and reporting.

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2157 The office shall be directed by the Deputy Director for Program
 2158 Support and Accountability, who shall be appointed by and serve
 2159 at the pleasure of the director. The office is ~~shall be~~
 2160 responsible for:

2161 1. Establishing monitoring, quality assurance, and quality
 2162 improvement systems that routinely assess the quality and
 2163 effectiveness of contracted programs and services.

2164 2. Annual review of each regional workforce board and
 2165 administrative entity to ensure that adequate systems of
 2166 reporting and control are in place; that, ~~and~~ monitoring,
 2167 quality assurance, and quality improvement activities are
 2168 conducted routinely; ~~and~~ that corrective action is taken to
 2169 eliminate deficiencies.

2170 (c) The Office of Early Learning shall administer the
 2171 school readiness system in accordance with s. 411.01 and the
 2172 operational requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2173 Education Program in accordance with part V of chapter 1002. The
 2174 office shall be directed by the Deputy Director for Early
 2175 Learning, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of
 2176 the director.

2177 (d) ~~(e)~~ The Office of Agency Support Services is ~~shall be~~
 2178 responsible for procurement, human resource services, and
 2179 information services including delivering information on labor
 2180 markets, employment, occupations, and performance, and shall
 2181 implement and maintain information systems that are required for
 2182 the effective operation of the one-stop delivery system and the
 2183 school readiness ~~services~~ system, including, but not limited to,
 2184 those systems described in s. 445.009. The office shall ~~will~~ be

2185 directed by ~~under the direction~~ of the Deputy Director for
 2186 Agency Support Services, who shall be appointed by and serve at
 2187 the pleasure of the director. The office is ~~shall be~~ responsible
 2188 for establishing:

2189 1. Information systems and controls that report reliable,
 2190 timely and accurate fiscal and performance data for assessing
 2191 outcomes, service delivery, and financial administration of
 2192 workforce programs under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 445.004(5) and (9).

2193 2. Information systems that support service integration
 2194 and case management by providing for case tracking for
 2195 participants in welfare transition programs.

2196 3. Information systems that support the school readiness
 2197 system ~~services~~.

2198 ~~(e)(d)~~ The Unemployment Appeals Commission, authorized by
 2199 s. 443.012, is ~~shall not be~~ subject to the control, supervision,
 2200 or direction by the Agency for Workforce Innovation in the
 2201 performance of its powers and duties but shall receive any and
 2202 all support and assistance from the agency that is ~~may be~~
 2203 required for the performance of its duties.

2204 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 2205 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2206 125.901 Children's services; independent special district;
 2207 council; powers, duties, and functions.--

2208 (1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent
 2209 special district, as defined in ss. 189.403(3) and
 2210 200.001(8)(e), to provide funding for children's services
 2211 throughout the county in accordance with this section. The
 2212 boundaries of such district shall be coterminous with the

2213 boundaries of the county. The county governing body shall obtain
 2214 approval, by a majority vote of those electors voting on the
 2215 question, to annually levy ad valorem taxes which shall not
 2216 exceed the maximum millage rate authorized by this section. Any
 2217 district created pursuant to the provisions of this subsection
 2218 shall be required to levy and fix millage subject to the
 2219 provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is approved by the
 2220 electorate, the district shall not be required to seek approval
 2221 of the electorate in future years to levy the previously
 2222 approved millage.

2223 (b) However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may
 2224 instead have a governing board consisting of 33 members,
 2225 including: the superintendent of schools; two representatives of
 2226 public postsecondary education institutions located in the
 2227 county; the county manager or the equivalent county officer; the
 2228 district administrator from the appropriate district of the
 2229 Department of Children and Family Services, or the
 2230 administrator's designee who is a member of the Senior
 2231 Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service; the director
 2232 of the county health department or the director's designee; the
 2233 state attorney for the county or the state attorney's designee;
 2234 the chief judge assigned to juvenile cases, or another juvenile
 2235 judge who is the chief judge's designee and who shall sit as a
 2236 voting member of the board, except that the judge may not vote
 2237 or participate in setting ad valorem taxes under this section;
 2238 an individual who is selected by the board of the local United
 2239 Way or its equivalent; a member of a locally recognized faith-
 2240 based coalition, selected by that coalition; a member of the

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2241 local chamber of commerce, selected by that chamber or, if more
2242 than one chamber exists within the county, a person selected by
2243 a coalition of the local chambers; a member of the early
2244 learning local school readiness coalition, selected by that
2245 coalition; a representative of a labor organization or union
2246 active in the county; a member of a local alliance or coalition
2247 engaged in cross-system planning for health and social service
2248 delivery in the county, selected by that alliance or coalition;
2249 a member of the local Parent-Teachers Association/Parent-
2250 Teacher-Student Association, selected by that association; a
2251 youth representative selected by the local school system's
2252 student government; a local school board member appointed by the
2253 chair of the school board; the mayor of the county or the
2254 mayor's designee; one member of the county governing body,
2255 appointed by the chair of that body; a member of the state
2256 Legislature who represents residents of the county, selected by
2257 the chair of the local legislative delegation; an elected
2258 official representing the residents of a municipality in the
2259 county, selected by the county municipal league; and 4 members-
2260 at-large, appointed to the council by the majority of sitting
2261 council members. The remaining 7 members shall be appointed by
2262 the Governor in accordance with procedures set forth in
2263 paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove a member for
2264 cause or upon the written petition of the council. Appointments
2265 by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably possible,
2266 represent the geographic and demographic diversity of the
2267 population of the county. Members who are appointed to the
2268 council by reason of their position are not subject to the

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2269 length of terms and limits on consecutive terms as provided in
 2270 this section. The remaining appointed members of the governing
 2271 board shall be appointed to serve 2-year terms, except that
 2272 those members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to
 2273 serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative and the
 2274 legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year terms. A
 2275 member may be reappointed; however, a member may not serve for
 2276 more than three consecutive terms. A member is eligible to be
 2277 appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the council.

2278 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 216.133, Florida
 2279 Statutes, is amended to read:

2280 216.133 Definitions; ss. 216.133-216.137.--As used in ss.
 2281 216.133-216.137:

2282 (1) "Consensus estimating conference" includes the
 2283 Economic Estimating Conference, the Demographic Estimating
 2284 Conference, the Revenue Estimating Conference, the Education
 2285 Estimating Conference, the Criminal Justice Estimating
 2286 Conference, the Juvenile Justice Estimating Conference, the
 2287 Child Welfare System Estimating Conference, the Occupational
 2288 Forecasting Conference, the Early Learning Programs School
 2289 ~~Readiness Program~~ Estimating Conference, the Self-Insurance
 2290 Estimating Conference, the Florida Retirement System Actuarial
 2291 Assumption Conference, and the Social Services Estimating
 2292 Conference.

2293 Section 7. Subsection (10) of section 216.136, Florida
 2294 Statutes, is amended to read:

2295 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and
 2296 principals.--

2297 (10) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ~~SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM~~
 2298 ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.--
 2299 (a) Duties.--
 2300 1. The Early Learning Programs ~~School Readiness Program~~
 2301 Estimating Conference shall develop estimates and forecasts of
 2302 the unduplicated count of children eligible for school readiness
 2303 programs in accordance with the standards of eligibility
 2304 established in s. 411.01(6), and of children eligible for the
 2305 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with
 2306 s. 1002.53(2), as the conference determines are needed to
 2307 support the state planning, budgeting, and appropriations
 2308 processes.
 2309 2. The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership~~
 2310 ~~for School Readiness~~ shall provide information on needs and
 2311 waiting lists for school readiness programs, and information on
 2312 the needs for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program,
 2313 as program services requested by the Early Learning Programs
 2314 ~~School Readiness Program~~ Estimating Conference or individual
 2315 conference principals in a timely manner.
 2316 (b) Principals.--The Executive Office of the Governor, the
 2317 Director of Economic and Demographic Research, and professional
 2318 staff who have forecasting expertise from ~~the Florida~~
 2319 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~, the Agency for Workforce
 2320 Innovation, the Department of Children and Family Services, the
 2321 Department of Education, the Senate, and the House of
 2322 Representatives, or their designees, are the principals of the
 2323 Early Learning Programs ~~School Readiness Program~~ Estimating
 2324 Conference. The principal representing the Executive Office of

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2325 the Governor shall preside over sessions of the conference.

2326 Section 8. Section 402.3016, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2327 to read:

2328 402.3016 Early Head Start collaboration grants.--

2329 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriations, the Agency
 2330 for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School~~

2331 ~~Readiness~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration
 2332 grants to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start
 2333 programs through Early Head Start program federal grants. The
 2334 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds
 2335 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been
 2336 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

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

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

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

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

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

2351 (4) The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~partnership~~ may
 2352 adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 as necessary for the

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2353 | award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
 2354 | administration of the collaboration grants program under this
 2355 | section.

2356 | Section 9. Section 411.011, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2357 | to read:

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

2381 student or other individuals; to the Auditor General in
 2382 connection with his or her official functions; to a court of
 2383 competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court
 2384 in accordance with ~~pursuant to~~ a lawfully issued subpoena; and
 2385 to parties to an interagency agreement among early learning
 2386 ~~school readiness~~ coalitions, local governmental agencies,
 2387 providers of school readiness programs, state agencies, and the
 2388 Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School~~
 2389 ~~Readiness~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness
 2390 program. Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive
 2391 school readiness records in order to carry out their official
 2392 functions must protect the data in a manner that does ~~will~~ not
 2393 permit the personal identification of students and their parents
 2394 by persons other than those authorized to receive the records.
 2395 This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act
 2396 of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on
 2397 October 2, 2005, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through
 2398 reenactment by the Legislature.

2399 Section 10. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
 2400 411.226, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2401 411.226 Learning Gateway.--

2402 (2) LEARNING GATEWAY STEERING COMMITTEE.--

2403 (e) To support and facilitate system improvements, the
 2404 steering committee must consult with representatives from the
 2405 Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Agency
 2406 for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School~~
 2407 ~~Readiness~~, the Department of Children and Family Services, the
 2408 Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of

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2409 Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Corrections and with the
 2410 director of the Learning Development and Evaluation Center of
 2411 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

2412 Section 11. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)
 2413 of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of
 2414 section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2415 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.--The Learning
 2416 Gateway system consists of the following components:

2417 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED
 2418 ACCESS.--

2419 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the
 2420 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies
 2421 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,
 2422 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,
 2423 and the service system that is available. The information should
 2424 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should
 2425 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers
 2426 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should
 2427 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a
 2428 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such
 2429 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child
 2430 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide
 2431 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in
 2432 developing and distributing educational materials and
 2433 information.

2434 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
 2435 children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide
 2436 information to public and private preschool programs, child care

2437 ~~childcare~~ providers, pediatricians, parents, and local
 2438 businesses and organizations. These strategies should include
 2439 information on the school readiness performance standards ~~for~~
 2440 ~~kindergarten~~ adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 2441 ~~School Readiness Partnership Board~~.

2442 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
 2443 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate
 2444 training materials and brochures to parents and public and
 2445 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local
 2446 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in
 2447 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain
 2448 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades
 2449 K-3.

2450 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.--

2451 (a) In coordination with the Agency for Workforce
 2452 Innovation Partnership for School Readiness, the Department of
 2453 Education, and the Florida Pediatric Society, and using
 2454 information learned from the local demonstration projects, the
 2455 Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish guidelines
 2456 for screening children from birth through age 9. The guidelines
 2457 should incorporate recent research on the indicators most likely
 2458 to predict early learning problems, mild developmental delays,
 2459 child-specific precursors of school failure, and other related
 2460 developmental indicators in the domains of cognition;
 2461 communication; attention; perception; behavior; and social,
 2462 emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

2463 (3) EARLY EDUCATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.--

2464 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the

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2465 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of
 2466 Education, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation Florida
 2467 ~~Partnership for School Readiness~~, shall identify the elements of
 2468 an effective research-based curriculum for early care and
 2469 education programs.

2470 Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida
 2471 Statutes, is amended to read:

2472 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of
 2473 Education.--In addition to all other duties assigned to it by
 2474 law or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department
 2475 shall:

2476 (1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten ~~school readiness~~
 2477 ~~uniform~~ screening ~~developed by the Florida Partnership for~~
 2478 ~~School Readiness~~, in accordance with s. 1002.69 ~~the criteria~~
 2479 ~~itemized in chapter 1008~~.

2480 Section 13. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
 2481 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2482 1002.22 Student records and reports; rights of parents and
 2483 students; notification; penalty.--

2484 (3) RIGHTS OF PARENT OR STUDENT.--The parent of any
 2485 student who attends or has attended any public school, career
 2486 center, or public postsecondary educational institution shall
 2487 have the following rights with respect to any records or reports
 2488 created, maintained, and used by any public educational
 2489 institution in the state. However, whenever a student has
 2490 attained 18 years of age, or is attending a postsecondary
 2491 educational institution, the permission or consent required of,
 2492 and the rights accorded to, the parents of the student shall

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2493 thereafter be required of and accorded to the student only,
2494 unless the student is a dependent student of such parents as
2495 defined in 26 U.S.C. s. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal Revenue Code
2496 of 1954). The State Board of Education shall adopt rules whereby
2497 parents or students may exercise these rights:

2498 (d) Right of privacy.--Every student has ~~shall have~~ a
2499 right of privacy with respect to the educational records kept on
2500 him or her. Personally identifiable records or reports of a
2501 student, and any personal information contained therein, are
2502 confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1). A
2503 state or local educational agency, board, public school, career
2504 center, or public postsecondary educational institution may not
2505 permit the release of such records, reports, or information
2506 without the written consent of the student's parent, or of the
2507 student himself or herself if he or she is qualified as provided
2508 in this subsection, to any individual, agency, or organization.
2509 However, personally identifiable records or reports of a student
2510 may be released to the following persons or organizations
2511 without the consent of the student or the student's parent:

2512 1. Officials of schools, school systems, career centers,
2513 or public postsecondary educational institutions in which the
2514 student seeks or intends to enroll; and a copy of such records
2515 or reports shall be furnished to the parent or student upon
2516 request.

2517 2. Other school officials, including teachers within the
2518 educational institution or agency, who have legitimate
2519 educational interests in the information contained in the
2520 records.

2521 3. The United States Secretary of Education, the Director
2522 of the National Institute of Education, the Assistant Secretary
2523 for Education, the Comptroller General of the United States, or
2524 state or local educational authorities who are authorized to
2525 receive such information subject to the conditions set forth in
2526 applicable federal statutes and regulations of the United States
2527 Department of Education, or in applicable state statutes and
2528 rules of the State Board of Education.

2529 4. Other school officials, in connection with a student's
2530 application for or receipt of financial aid.

2531 5. Individuals or organizations conducting studies for or
2532 on behalf of an institution or a board of education for the
2533 purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive
2534 tests, administering student aid programs, or improving
2535 instruction, if the ~~such~~ studies are conducted in ~~such~~ a manner
2536 that does as will not permit the personal identification of
2537 students and their parents by persons other than representatives
2538 of such organizations and if the ~~such~~ information will be
2539 destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose of conducting
2540 such studies.

2541 6. Accrediting organizations, in order to carry out their
2542 accrediting functions.

2543 7. Early learning ~~School readiness~~ coalitions and the
2544 Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Florida Partnership for School~~
2545 ~~Readiness~~ in order to carry out their assigned duties.

2546 8. For use as evidence in student expulsion hearings
2547 conducted by a district school board under ~~pursuant to the~~
2548 ~~provisions of~~ chapter 120.

2549 9. Appropriate parties in connection with an emergency, if
 2550 knowledge of the information in the student's educational
 2551 records is necessary to protect the health or safety of the
 2552 student or other individuals.

2553 10. The Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy
 2554 Analysis and Government Accountability in connection with their
 2555 official functions; however, except when the collection of
 2556 personally identifiable information is specifically authorized
 2557 by law, any data collected by the Auditor General and the Office
 2558 of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is
 2559 confidential and exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and
 2560 shall be protected in ~~such~~ a way that does ~~as will~~ not permit
 2561 the personal identification of students and their parents by
 2562 other than the Auditor General, the Office of Program Policy
 2563 Analysis and Government Accountability, and their staff, and the
 2564 ~~such~~ personally identifiable data shall be destroyed when no
 2565 longer needed for the Auditor General's and the Office of
 2566 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability's official
 2567 use.

2568 11.a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with
 2569 an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance
 2570 with ~~pursuant to~~ a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition
 2571 that the student and the student's parent are notified of the
 2572 order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the
 2573 educational institution or agency.

2574 b. A person or entity in accordance with ~~pursuant to~~ a
 2575 court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of
 2576 that court or the attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully

2577 | issued subpoena, upon the condition that the student, or his or
 2578 | her parent if the student is either a minor and not attending a
 2579 | postsecondary educational institution or a dependent of such
 2580 | parent as defined in 26 U.S.C. s. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal
 2581 | Revenue Code of 1954), is notified of the order or subpoena in
 2582 | advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution
 2583 | or agency.

2584 | 12. Credit bureaus, in connection with an agreement for
 2585 | financial aid that the student has executed, if the provided
 2586 | ~~that such~~ information is ~~may be~~ disclosed only to the extent
 2587 | necessary to enforce the terms or conditions of the financial
 2588 | aid agreement. Credit bureaus shall not release any information
 2589 | obtained under ~~pursuant to~~ this paragraph to any person.

2590 | 13. Parties to an interagency agreement among the
 2591 | Department of Juvenile Justice, school and law enforcement
 2592 | authorities, and other signatory agencies for the purpose of
 2593 | reducing juvenile crime and especially motor vehicle theft by
 2594 | promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the sharing of
 2595 | appropriate information in a joint effort to improve school
 2596 | safety, to reduce truancy and in-school and out-of-school
 2597 | suspensions, and to support alternatives to in-school and out-
 2598 | of-school suspensions and expulsions that provide structured and
 2599 | well-supervised educational programs supplemented by a
 2600 | coordinated overlay of other appropriate services designed to
 2601 | correct behaviors that lead to truancy, suspensions, and
 2602 | expulsions, and that support students in successfully completing
 2603 | their education. Information provided in furtherance of the ~~such~~
 2604 | interagency agreements is intended solely for use in determining

2605 the appropriate programs and services for each juvenile or the
 2606 juvenile's family, or for coordinating the delivery of the ~~such~~
 2607 programs and services, and as such is inadmissible in any court
 2608 proceedings before ~~prior to~~ a dispositional hearing unless
 2609 written consent is provided by a parent or other responsible
 2610 adult on behalf of the juvenile.

2611 14. Consistent with the Family Educational Rights and
 2612 Privacy Act, the Department of Children and Family Services or a
 2613 community-based care lead agency acting on behalf of the
 2614 Department of Children and Family Services, as appropriate.

2615
 2616 This paragraph does not prohibit any educational institution
 2617 from publishing and releasing to the general public directory
 2618 information relating to a student if the institution elects to
 2619 do so. However, no educational institution shall release, to
 2620 any individual, agency, or organization that is not listed in
 2621 subparagraphs 1.-14., directory information relating to the
 2622 student body in general or a portion thereof unless it is
 2623 normally published for the purpose of release to the public in
 2624 general. Any educational institution making directory
 2625 information public shall give public notice of the categories of
 2626 information that it has designated as directory information for
 2627 ~~with respect to~~ all students attending the institution and shall
 2628 allow a reasonable period of time after the ~~such~~ notice has been
 2629 given for a parent or student to inform the institution in
 2630 writing that any or all of the information designated should not
 2631 be released.

2632 Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section

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2633 1003.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

2634 1003.54 Teenage parent programs.--

2635 (3)

2636 (c) Provision for necessary child care, health care,
2637 social services, parent education, and transportation shall be
2638 ancillary service components of teenage parent programs.

2639 Ancillary services may be provided through the coordination of
2640 existing programs and services and through joint agreements
2641 between district school boards and early learning local school
2642 ~~readiness~~ coalitions or other appropriate public and private
2643 providers.

2644 Section 15. Subsection (5) is added to section 1007.23,
2645 Florida Statutes, to read:

2646 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

2647 (5) The articulation agreement must guarantee the
2648 articulation of 9 credit hours toward a postsecondary degree in
2649 early childhood education for programs approved by the State
2650 Board of Education which:

2651 (a) Award a child development associate credential issued
2652 by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for
2653 Professional Recognition or award a credential approved under s.
2654 1002.55(3)(c)1.b. or s. 402.305(3)(c) as being equivalent to the
2655 child development associate credential; and

2656 (b) Include training in emergent literacy which meets or
2657 exceeds the minimum standards for training courses for
2658 prekindergarten instructors of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2659 Education Program in s. 1002.59.

2660 Section 16. (1) The Florida Partnership for School

2661 Readiness is abolished. All powers, duties, functions, rules,
 2662 records, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of
 2663 appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Florida
 2664 Partnership for School Readiness are transferred by a type two
 2665 transfer, as defined in section 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to
 2666 the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

2667 (2) This act does not abolish the school readiness
 2668 coalitions but redesignates the coalitions as early learning
 2669 coalitions and, effective April 1, 2005, requires a reduction in
 2670 the number of coalitions. All powers, duties, functions, rules,
 2671 records, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of
 2672 appropriations, allocations, and other funds of each school
 2673 readiness coalition are not transferred but shall be retained by
 2674 the early learning coalition upon its redesignation from a
 2675 school readiness coalition to an early learning coalition.

2676 Section 17. Sections 411.012 and 1008.21, Florida
 2677 Statutes, are repealed.

2678 Section 18. (1) The sums of \$1,090,399 from recurring
 2679 general revenue and \$975,000 from nonrecurring general revenue
 2680 are appropriated in lump sum to, and 17 additional positions are
 2681 authorized for, the Department of Education for purposes of
 2682 administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2683 during the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

2684 (2) The sums of \$4,218,010 from recurring general revenue
 2685 and \$5,275,000 from nonrecurring general revenue are
 2686 appropriated in lump sum to, and 20 additional positions are
 2687 authorized for, the Agency for Workforce Innovation for purposes
 2688 of administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

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2689 during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. From these nonrecurring funds,
2690 \$100,000 is provided for the Agency for Workforce Innovation to
2691 evaluate the potential of using electronic technology to
2692 administer and maintain attendance information and provider
2693 payment processes for the program. The Agency for Workforce
2694 Innovation shall submit a report of its recommendations to the
2695 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
2696 House of Representatives by September 1, 2006. The
2697 recommendations must include the recurring annual operating
2698 costs associated with the use of any electronic technology that
2699 is recommended in the report.

2700 (3) The sums of \$80,193 from recurring general revenue and
2701 \$140,037 from nonrecurring general revenue are appropriated in
2702 lump sum to, and 5.5 additional positions are authorized for,
2703 the Department of Children and Family Services for purposes of
2704 administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2705 during the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

2706 Section 19. Notwithstanding the provisions of section
2707 216.177, Florida Statutes, which require a 14-day notice for
2708 interim budget actions, and pursuant to section 216.351, Florida
2709 Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor shall provide
2710 notice of the allocation of the lump-sum appropriations
2711 authorized by this act into traditional appropriation categories
2712 to the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget Commission
2713 at least 3 working days before the effective date of the
2714 allocation.

2715 Section 20. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
2716 law.