

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to early learning; providing a short
3 title; amending s. 411.01, F.S.; revising provisions
4 relating to membership of early learning coalitions;
5 authorizing use of telecommunication methods in conducting
6 early learning coalition board meetings; amending and
7 renumbering s. 402.27, F.S.; transferring requirements for
8 the establishment of a statewide child care resource and
9 referral network by the Department of Children and Family
10 Services to the Agency for Workforce Innovation; providing
11 for use of early learning coalitions as child care
12 resource and referral agencies; requiring rulemaking;
13 amending and renumbering s. 409.178, F.S.; transferring
14 duties of the Department of Children and Family Services
15 with respect to the Child Care Executive Partnership
16 Program to the Agency for Workforce Innovation and early
17 learning coalitions; requiring rulemaking; amending ss.
18 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63, F.S., relating to the
19 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; providing
20 additional accreditation standards for private
21 prekindergarten providers; providing requirements for
22 assignment of substitute instructors; requiring
23 rulemaking; conforming cross-references; providing an
24 effective date.

25
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27
28 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Success in Early

29 Learning Act."

30 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
31 411.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

32 411.01 School readiness programs; early learning
33 coalitions.--

34 (5) CREATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS.--

35 (a) Early learning coalitions.--

36 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish the
37 minimum number of children to be served by each early learning
38 coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The
39 Agency for Workforce Innovation may only approve school
40 readiness plans in accordance with this minimum number. The
41 minimum number must be uniform for every early learning
42 coalition and must:

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

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

48
49 The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for
50 merging early learning coalitions, including procedures for the
51 consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early
52 termination of the terms of coalition members which are
53 necessary to accomplish the mergers. Each early learning
54 coalition must comply with the merger procedures and shall be
55 organized in accordance with this subparagraph by April 1, 2005.
56 By June 30, 2005, each coalition must complete the transfer of

57 powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property,
58 and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and
59 other funds to the successor coalition, if applicable.

60 2. If an early learning coalition would serve fewer
61 children than the minimum number established under subparagraph
62 1., the coalition must merge with another county to form a
63 multicounty coalition. However, the Agency for Workforce
64 Innovation may authorize an early learning coalition to serve
65 fewer children than the minimum number established under
66 subparagraph 1., if:

67 a. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
68 Innovation that merging with another county or multicounty
69 region contiguous to the coalition would cause an extreme
70 hardship on the coalition;

71 b. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has determined
72 during the most recent annual review of the coalition's school
73 readiness plan, or through monitoring and performance
74 evaluations conducted under paragraph (4)(1), that the coalition
75 has substantially implemented its plan and substantially met the
76 performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the
77 agency; and

78 c. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
79 Innovation the coalition's ability to effectively and
80 efficiently implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
81 Program.

82
83 If an early learning coalition fails or refuses to merge as
84 required by this subparagraph, the Agency for Workforce

85 Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract
86 with a qualified entity to continue school readiness and
87 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
88 multicounty region until the coalition is reestablished through
89 resubmission of a school readiness plan and approval by the
90 agency.

91 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 1. and
92 2., the early learning coalitions in Sarasota, Osceola, and
93 Santa Rosa Counties which were in operation on January 1, 2005,
94 are established and authorized to continue operation as
95 independent coalitions, and shall not be counted within the
96 limit of 30 coalitions established in subparagraph 1.

97 4. Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at
98 least 18 members but not more than 35 members. The Agency for
99 Workforce Innovation shall adopt standards establishing within
100 this range the minimum and maximum number of members that may be
101 appointed to an early learning coalition. These standards must
102 include variations for a coalition serving a multicounty region.
103 Each early learning coalition must comply with these standards.

104 5. The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
105 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
106 same qualifications as private sector business members appointed
107 by the coalition under subparagraph 7.

108 6. Each early learning coalition must include the
109 following members:

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

- 113 b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her
114 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the
115 district, who shall be a nonvoting member.
- 116 c. A regional workforce board executive director or his or
117 her designee.
- 118 d. A county health department director or his or her
119 designee.
- 120 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board
121 chair or executive director, if applicable, who shall be a
122 nonvoting member if the council or board is the fiscal agent of
123 the coalition or if the council or board contracts with and
124 receives funds from the coalition for any purpose other than
125 rent.
- 126 f. An agency head of a local licensing agency as defined
127 in s. 402.302, where applicable.
- 128 g. A president of a community college or his or her
129 designee.
- 130 h. One member appointed by a board of county
131 commissioners.
- 132 i. A central agency administrator, where applicable, who
133 shall be a nonvoting member.
- 134 j. A Head Start director, who shall be a nonvoting member.
- 135 k. A representative of private child care providers,
136 including family day care homes, who shall be a nonvoting
137 member.
- 138 l. A representative of faith-based child care providers,
139 who shall be a nonvoting member.
- 140 m. A representative of programs for children with

141 disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities
142 Education Act, who shall be a nonvoting member.

143 7. Including the members appointed by the Governor under
144 subparagraph 5., more than one-third of the members of each
145 early learning coalition must be private sector business members
146 who do not have, and none of whose relatives as defined in s.
147 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in the design or
148 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
149 created under part V of chapter 1002 or the coalition's school
150 readiness program. To meet this requirement an early learning
151 coalition must appoint additional members from a list of
152 nominees submitted to the coalition by a chamber of commerce or
153 economic development council within the geographic region served
154 by the coalition. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
155 establish criteria for appointing private sector business
156 members. These criteria must include standards for determining
157 whether a member or relative has a substantial financial
158 interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
159 Prekindergarten Education Program or the coalition's school
160 readiness program.

161 8. A majority of the voting membership of an early
162 learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the
163 business of the coalition. An early learning coalition board may
164 use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings,
165 including establishing a quorum through telecommunications,
166 provided that the public is given proper notice of a
167 telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and,
168 when appropriate, participate.

169 9. A voting member of an early learning coalition may not
 170 appoint a designee to act in his or her place, except as
 171 otherwise provided in this paragraph. A voting member may send a
 172 representative to coalition meetings, but that representative
 173 does not have voting privileges. When a district administrator
 174 for the Department of Children and Family Services appoints a
 175 designee to an early learning coalition, the designee is the
 176 voting member of the coalition, and any individual attending in
 177 the designee's place, including the district administrator, does
 178 not have voting privileges.

179 10. Each member of an early learning coalition is subject
 180 to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of s.
 181 112.3143(3)(a), each voting member is a local public officer who
 182 must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.

183 11. For purposes of tort liability, each member or
 184 employee of an early learning coalition shall be governed by s.
 185 768.28.

186 12. An early learning coalition serving a multicounty
 187 region must include representation from each county.

188 13. Each early learning coalition shall establish terms
 189 for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must be
 190 staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
 191 years per term. Appointed members may serve a maximum of two
 192 consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed
 193 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

194 Section 3. Section 402.27, Florida Statutes, is renumbered
 195 as section 411.0101, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

196 411.0101 ~~402.27~~ Child care and early childhood resource

197 and referral.--The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Department of~~
 198 ~~Children and Family Services~~ shall establish a statewide child
 199 care resource and referral network. Preference shall be given to
 200 using the already established early learning coalitions ~~central~~
 201 ~~agencies for subsidized child care~~ as the child care resource
 202 and referral agency. If an early learning coalition ~~the agency~~
 203 cannot comply with the requirements to offer the resource
 204 information component or does not want to offer that service,
 205 the early learning coalition ~~Department of Children and Family~~
 206 ~~Services~~ shall select the resource information agency based upon
 207 a request for proposal pursuant to s. 411.01(5)(e)1. At least
 208 one child care resource and referral agency must be established
 209 in each early learning coalition's county or multicounty region
 210 ~~district of the department, but no more than one may be~~
 211 ~~established in any county~~. Child care resource and referral
 212 agencies shall provide the following services:

- 213 (1) Identification of existing public and private child
 214 care and early childhood education services, including child
 215 care services by public and private employers, and the
 216 development of a resource file of those services. These services
 217 may include family day care, public and private child care
 218 programs, head start, prekindergarten early intervention
 219 programs, special education programs for prekindergarten
 220 handicapped children, services for children with developmental
 221 disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school
 222 and after-school programs, vacation care programs, parent
 223 education, the WAGES Program, and related family support
 224 services. The resource file shall include, but not be limited

225 to:

226 (a) Type of program.

227 (b) Hours of service.

228 (c) Ages of children served.

229 (d) Number of children served.

230 (e) Significant program information.

231 (f) Fees and eligibility for services.

232 (g) Availability of transportation.

233 (2) The establishment of a referral process which responds

234 to parental need for information and which is provided with full

235 recognition of the confidentiality rights of parents. Resource

236 and referral programs shall make referrals to licensed child

237 care facilities. Referrals shall be made to an unlicensed child

238 care facility or arrangement only if there is no requirement

239 that the facility or arrangement be licensed.

240 (3) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for

241 service tabulated through the internal referral process. The

242 following documentation of requests for service shall be

243 maintained by all child care resource and referral agencies:

244 (a) Number of calls and contacts to the child care

245 information and referral agency component by type of service

246 requested.

247 (b) Ages of children for whom service was requested.

248 (c) Time category of child care requests for each child.

249 (d) Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and

250 swing shift.

251 (e) Reason that the child care is needed.

252 (f) Name of the employer and primary focus of the

253 business.

254 (4) Provision of technical assistance to existing and
255 potential providers of child care services. This assistance may
256 include:

257 (a) Information on initiating new child care services,
258 zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in
259 finding such information from other sources.

260 (b) Information and resources which help existing child
261 care services providers to maximize their ability to serve
262 children and parents in their community.

263 (c) Information and incentives which could help existing
264 or planned child care services offered by public or private
265 employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the
266 children of their working parent employees in their community,
267 through contractual or other funding arrangements with
268 businesses.

269 (5) Assistance to families and employers in applying for
270 various sources of subsidy including, but not limited to,
271 subsidized child care, head start, prekindergarten early
272 intervention programs, Project Independence, private
273 scholarships, and the federal dependent care tax credit.

274 (6) Assistance to state agencies in determining the market
275 rate for child care.

276 (7) Assistance in negotiating discounts or other special
277 arrangements with child care providers.

278 (8) Information and assistance to local interagency
279 councils coordinating services for prekindergarten handicapped
280 children.

281 (9) Assistance to families in identifying summer
 282 recreation camp and summer day camp programs and in evaluating
 283 the health and safety qualities of summer recreation camp and
 284 summer day camp programs and in evaluating the health and safety
 285 qualities of summer camp programs. Contingent upon specific
 286 appropriation, a checklist of important health and safety
 287 qualities that parents can use to choose their summer camp
 288 programs shall be developed and distributed in a manner that
 289 will reach parents interested in such programs for their
 290 children.

291 (10) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and
 292 licensed and registered family day care homes must provide the
 293 statewide child care and resource and referral agencies with the
 294 following information annually:

- 295 (a) Type of program.
- 296 (b) Hours of service.
- 297 (c) Ages of children served.
- 298 (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

299 (11) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt any
 300 rules necessary for the implementation and administration of
 301 this section.

302 Section 4. Section 409.178, Florida Statutes, is
 303 renumbered as section 411.0102, Florida Statutes, and subsection
 304 (4), paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (5), and
 305 subsection (6) of that section are amended to read:

306 411.0102 ~~409.178~~ Child Care Executive Partnership Act;
 307 findings and intent; grant; limitation; rules.--

308 (4) The Child Care Executive Partnership, staffed by the

309 Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~department~~, shall consist of a
310 representative of the Executive Office of the Governor and nine
311 members of the corporate or child care community, appointed by
312 the Governor.

313 (a) Members shall serve for a period of 4 years, except
314 that the representative of the Executive Office of the Governor
315 shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

316 (b) The Child Care Executive Partnership shall be chaired
317 by a member chosen by a majority vote and shall meet at least
318 quarterly and at other times upon the call of the chair.

319 (c) Members shall serve without compensation, but may be
320 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses in accordance with
321 s. 112.061.

322 (d) The Child Care Executive Partnership shall have all
323 the powers and authority, not explicitly prohibited by statute,
324 necessary to carry out and effectuate the purposes of this
325 section, as well as the functions, duties, and responsibilities
326 of the partnership, including, but not limited to, the
327 following:

328 1. Assisting in the formulation and coordination of the
329 state's child care policy.

330 2. Adopting an official seal.

331 3. Soliciting, accepting, receiving, investing, and
332 expending funds from public or private sources.

333 4. Contracting with public or private entities as
334 necessary.

335 5. Approving an annual budget.

336 6. Carrying forward any unexpended state appropriations

337 into succeeding fiscal years.

338 7. Providing a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the
 339 House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate, on or
 340 before December 1 of each year.

341 (5)

342 (b) To ensure a seamless service delivery and ease of
 343 access for families, an early learning coalition ~~the community~~
 344 ~~coordinated child care agencies~~ or the ~~state resource and~~
 345 ~~referral~~ Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer the
 346 child care purchasing pool funds.

347 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~department~~, in
 348 conjunction with the Child Care Executive Partnership, shall
 349 develop procedures for disbursement of funds through the child
 350 care purchasing pools. In order to be considered for funding, an
 351 early learning coalition ~~the community coordinated child care~~
 352 ~~agency~~ or the ~~statewide resource and referral~~ Agency for
 353 Workforce Innovation must commit to:

354 1. Matching the state purchasing pool funds on a dollar-
 355 for-dollar basis; and

356 2. Expending only those public funds which are matched by
 357 employers, local government, and other matching contributors who
 358 contribute to the purchasing pool. Parents shall also pay a fee,
 359 which shall be not less than the amount identified in the early
 360 learning coalition's ~~department's~~ subsidized child care sliding
 361 fee scale.

362 (d) Each early learning coalition ~~community coordinated~~
 363 ~~child care agency~~ shall be required to establish a community
 364 child care task force for each child care purchasing pool. The

365 task force must be composed of employers, parents, private child
 366 care providers, and one representative from the local children's
 367 services council, if one exists in the area of the purchasing
 368 pool. The early learning coalition ~~community coordinated child~~
 369 ~~care agency~~ is expected to recruit the task force members from
 370 existing child care councils, commissions, or task forces
 371 already operating in the area of a purchasing pool. A majority
 372 of the task force shall consist of employers. Each task force
 373 shall develop a plan for the use of child care purchasing pool
 374 funds. The plan must show how many children will be served by
 375 the purchasing pool, how many will be new to receiving child
 376 care services, and how the early learning coalition ~~community~~
 377 ~~coordinated child care agency~~ intends to attract new employers
 378 and their employees to the program.

379 (6) The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~Department of~~
 380 ~~Children and Family Services~~ shall adopt any rules necessary for
 381 the implementation and administration of this section.

382 Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 1002.55, Florida
 383 Statutes, is amended to read:

384 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 385 private prekindergarten providers.--

386 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 387 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
 388 following requirements:

389 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
 390 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
 391 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
 392 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under

393 s. 402.3025(2), or faith-based child care provider exempt from
 394 licensure under s. 402.316.

395 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

396 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
 397 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
 398 the Commission on International and Trans-Regional
 399 Accreditation, or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic
 400 Schools and have written accreditation standards that meet or
 401 exceed the state's licensing requirements under s. 402.305, s.
 402 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at least one on-site visit
 403 to the provider or school before accreditation is granted;

404 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
 405 s. 402.281; or

406 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
 407 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary
 408 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early
 409 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
 410 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
 411 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
 412 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
 413 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f)~~(e)~~,
 414 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g)~~(f)~~, and
 415 a developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

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

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

421 a. A child development associate credential issued by the
422 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
423 Recognition; or

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

427

428 The Department of Children and Family Services may adopt rules
429 under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and
430 procedures for approving equivalent credentials under sub-
431 subparagraph b.

432 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully
433 complete an emergent literacy training course approved by the
434 department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted
435 under s. 1002.59. This subparagraph does not apply to a
436 prekindergarten instructor who successfully completes approved
437 training in early literacy and language development under s.
438 402.305(2)(d)5., s. 402.313(6), or s. 402.3131(5) before the
439 establishment of one or more emergent literacy training courses
440 under s. 1002.59 or April 1, 2005, whichever occurs later.

441 (d) Each prekindergarten instructor employed by the
442 private prekindergarten provider must be of good moral
443 character, must be screened using the level 2 screening
444 standards in s. 435.04 before employment and rescreened at least
445 once every 5 years, must be denied employment or terminated if
446 required under s. 435.06, and must not be ineligible to teach in
447 a public school because his or her educator certificate is
448 suspended or revoked.

449 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a
450 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
451 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
452 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
453 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
454 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
455 screening requirements in chapter 435. The Agency for Workforce
456 Innovation shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph which
457 shall include required qualifications of substitute instructors
458 and the circumstances and time limits for which a private
459 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

460 (f)~~(e)~~ Each of the private prekindergarten provider's
461 prekindergarten classes must be composed of at least 4 students
462 but may not exceed 18 students. In order to protect the health
463 and safety of students, each private prekindergarten provider
464 must also provide appropriate adult supervision for students at
465 all times and, for each prekindergarten class composed of 11 or
466 more students, must have, in addition to a prekindergarten
467 instructor who meets the requirements of paragraph (c), at least
468 one adult prekindergarten instructor who is not required to meet
469 those requirements but who must meet each requirement of
470 paragraph (d). This paragraph does not supersede any requirement
471 imposed on a provider under ss. 402.301-402.319.

472 (g)~~(f)~~ Before the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year,
473 the private prekindergarten provider must have a prekindergarten
474 director who has a prekindergarten director credential that is
475 approved by the department as meeting or exceeding the minimum
476 standards adopted under s. 1002.57. Successful completion of a

477 child care facility director credential under s. 402.305(2)(f)
 478 before the establishment of the prekindergarten director
 479 credential under s. 1002.57 or July 1, 2006, whichever occurs
 480 later, satisfies the requirement for a prekindergarten director
 481 credential under this paragraph.

482 (h)~~(g)~~ The private prekindergarten provider must register
 483 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the
 484 Agency for Workforce Innovation.

485 (i)~~(h)~~ The private prekindergarten provider must deliver
 486 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance
 487 with this part.

488 Section 6. Section 1002.61, Florida Statutes, is amended
 489 to read:

490 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
 491 schools and private prekindergarten providers.--

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

496 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the
 497 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
 498 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a
 499 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private
 500 prekindergarten provider.

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

- 503 (a) Comprise at least 300 instructional hours;
- 504 (b) Not begin earlier than May 1 of the school year; and

505 (c) Not deliver the program for a child earlier than the
 506 summer immediately before the school year for which the child is
 507 eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under
 508 s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.

509 (3)(a) Each district school board shall determine which
 510 public schools in the school district are eligible to deliver
 511 the summer prekindergarten program. The school district shall
 512 use educational facilities available in the public schools
 513 during the summer term for the summer prekindergarten program.

514 (b) Except as provided in this section, to be eligible to
 515 deliver the summer prekindergarten program, a private
 516 prekindergarten provider must meet each requirement in s.
 517 1002.55.

518 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(5),
 519 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
 520 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
 521 prekindergarten instructor who:

522 (a) Is a certified teacher; or

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

525
 526 As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher" means a
 527 teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate under s.
 528 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the district
 529 school board to instruct students in the summer prekindergarten
 530 program. In selecting instructional staff for the summer
 531 prekindergarten program, each school district shall give
 532 priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in early

533 childhood education.

534 (5) Each prekindergarten instructor employed by a public
535 school or private prekindergarten provider delivering the summer
536 prekindergarten program must be of good moral character, must be
537 screened using the level 2 screening standards in s. 435.04
538 before employment and rescreened at least once every 5 years,
539 must be denied employment or terminated if required under s.
540 435.06, and must not be ineligible to teach in a public school
541 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked.
542 This subsection does not supersede employment requirements for
543 instructional personnel in public schools which are more
544 stringent than the requirements of this subsection.

545 (6) A public school or private prekindergarten provider
546 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a
547 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned
548 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
549 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
550 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
551 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
552 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
553 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
554 this subsection. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
555 rules to implement this subsection which shall include required
556 qualifications of substitute instructors and the circumstances
557 and time limits for which a public school or private
558 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

559 (7)~~(6)~~ Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)~~(f)~~~~(e)~~ and
560 1002.63~~(8)~~~~(7)~~, each prekindergarten class in the summer

561 prekindergarten program, regardless of whether the class is a
 562 public school's or private prekindergarten provider's class,
 563 must be composed of at least 4 students but may not exceed 10
 564 students. In order to protect the health and safety of students,
 565 each public school or private prekindergarten provider must also
 566 provide appropriate adult supervision for students at all times.
 567 This subsection does not supersede any requirement imposed on a
 568 provider under ss. 402.301-402.319.

569 (8)~~(7)~~ Each public school delivering the summer
 570 prekindergarten program must also:

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

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

575 Section 7. Section 1002.63, Florida Statutes, is amended
 576 to read:

577 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 578 public schools.--

579 (1) Each school district eligible under subsection (4) may
 580 administer the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at
 581 the district level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(c)
 582 in a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a public
 583 school.

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

586 (3) The district school board of each school district
 587 eligible under subsection (4) shall determine which public
 588 schools in the district are eligible to deliver the

589 prekindergarten program during the school year.

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

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

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

598 2. Has sufficient satisfactory educational facilities and
599 capital outlay funds to continue reducing the average class size
600 in each classroom in the district's elementary schools for each
601 year in accordance with the schedule for class size reduction
602 and to achieve full compliance with the maximum class sizes in
603 s. 1(a), Art. IX of the State Constitution by the beginning of
604 the 2010-2011 school year.

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

610 (5) Each public school must have, for each prekindergarten
611 class, at least one prekindergarten instructor who meets each
612 requirement in s. 1002.55(3)(c) for a prekindergarten instructor
613 of a private prekindergarten provider.

614 (6) Each prekindergarten instructor employed by a public
615 school delivering the school-year prekindergarten program must
616 be of good moral character, must be screened using the level 2

617 screening standards in s. 435.04 before employment and
618 rescreened at least once every 5 years, must be denied
619 employment or terminated if required under s. 435.06, and must
620 not be ineligible to teach in a public school because his or her
621 educator certificate is suspended or revoked. This subsection
622 does not supersede employment requirements for instructional
623 personnel in public schools which are more stringent than the
624 requirements of this subsection.

625 (7) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a
626 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
627 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
628 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
629 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
630 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
631 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
632 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
633 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
634 this subsection. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
635 rules to implement this subsection which shall include required
636 qualifications of substitute instructors and the circumstances
637 and time limits for which a public school prekindergarten
638 provider may assign a substitute instructor.

639 ~~(8)-(7)~~ Each prekindergarten class in a public school
640 delivering the school-year prekindergarten program must be
641 composed of at least 4 students but may not exceed 18 students.
642 In order to protect the health and safety of students, each
643 school must also provide appropriate adult supervision for
644 students at all times and, for each prekindergarten class

645 | composed of 11 or more students, must have, in addition to a
646 | prekindergarten instructor who meets the requirements of s.
647 | 1002.55(3)(c), at least one adult prekindergarten instructor who
648 | is not required to meet those requirements but who must meet
649 | each requirement of subsection (6).

650 | (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the school-year
651 | prekindergarten program must:

652 | (a) Register with the early learning coalition on forms
653 | prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation; and

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

656 | Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.