A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to early learning; transferring the 3 powers, duties, and functions of the early learning 4 coalitions to the Agency for Workforce Innovation 5 according to a schedule adopted by the agency; providing 6 for legislative notice and review of the transfer 7 schedule; abolishing a coalition upon transfer of its 8 powers, duties, and functions to the agency; directing the 9 agency to reclaim state records, property, and funds; 10 requiring a coalition to administer certain laws as they existed before amendment or repeal for a specified period; 11 abolishing the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council; 12 amending s. 11.45, F.S.; revising authority of the Auditor 13 14 General to conduct audits; conforming a provision; 15 amending s. 20.50, F.S.; conforming a provision; amending 16 s. 39.0121, F.S.; deleting an obsolete reference to the repealed subsidized child care program; amending s. 17 39.202, F.S.; replacing an obsolete reference to a 18 19 repealed program with an updated reference to the school 20 readiness program; authorizing county agencies responsible 21 for licensure or approval of child care providers to be 22 granted access to certain confidential reports and records 23 in cases of child abuse or neglect; amending s. 39.5085, 24 F.S.; deleting an obsolete reference to a repealed 25 program; amending s. 125.901, F.S.; revising membership of 26 the governing board of a children's services council; 27 amending s. 216.136, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending 28 s. 383.14, F.S.; replacing obsolete references to the

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former State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs with updated references to the agency; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 402.25, F.S.; updating an obsolete reference to a repealed program; deleting obsolete references to the repealed prekindergarten early intervention program and Florida First Start Program; amending s. 402.26, F.S.; revising legislative intent; updating an obsolete reference to a repealed program; amending s. 402.281, F.S.; updating an obsolete reference to a former council; requiring the Department of Children and Family Services to consult with the agency regarding the approval of accrediting associations for the Gold Seal Quality Care program; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 402.3018, F.S.; transferring administration of the statewide toll-free Warm-Line from the department to the agency; conforming provisions; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 402.3051, F.S.; revising procedures for child care market rate reimbursement and child care grants; transferring authority to establish the procedures from the department to the agency; directing the agency to adopt a prevailing market rate schedule for child care services; revising definitions; prohibiting the schedule from interfering with parental choice; authorizing the agency to enter into contracts and adopt rules; amending s. 402.313, F.S.; deleting obsolete provisions authorizing the department to license family day care homes participating in a repealed program; amending s. 402.45, F.S.; updating an obsolete

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reference to a former council; directing the Department of Health to consult with the agency regarding certain training provided for contractors of the community resource mother or father program; amending s. 409.1671, F.S.; clarifying that a licensed foster home may be dually licensed as a child care facility and receive certain payments for the same child; deleting an obsolete reference to a repealed program; amending s. 411.01, F.S.; conforming provisions; revising legislative intent; directing the agency to administer the school readiness program; authorizing the agency to adopt rules and apply for certain waivers; requiring the agency to give priority to certain children for school readiness services; defining the term "payment certificate"; revising requirements for parental choice; directing the agency to establish a formula for allocating school readiness funds to each county; providing for legislative notice and review of the formula; authorizing the agency to enter into contracts; amending s. 411.0101, F.S.; conforming provisions; revising requirements for services provided by the statewide child care resource and referral network; updating obsolete references to repealed programs; amending s. 411.0102, F.S.; updating obsolete references to a repealed program; conforming provisions; amending s. 411.0105, F.S.; revising lead agency responsibilities for administration of certain federal provisions; requiring the Department of Education to contract with the agency; amending s. 411.011, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending

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s. 411.203, F.S.; deleting an obsolete reference to a repealed program; conforming provisions; amending s. 411.221, F.S.; updating an obsolete reference to a former council; amending ss. 445.024, 445.030, 490.014, and 491.014, F.S.; deleting obsolete references to repealed programs; conforming provisions to the repeal of the subsidized child care case management program; amending ss. 1002.22, 1002.51, 1002.53, 1002.55, 1002.61, 1002.63, 1002.67, 1002.71, 1002.72, and 1003.54, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending s. 1002.75, F.S.; conforming provisions; directing the agency to administer the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; authorizing the agency to enter into contracts; amending s. 1006.03, F.S.; conforming a provision; amending s. 1009.64, F.S.; deleting an obsolete reference to a repealed program; repealing ss. 402.3135, 402.3145, and 1002.77, F.S., relating to the subsidized child care program case management program, the subsidized child care transportation program, and the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council; transferring and renumbering s. 402.3016, F.S., relating to Early Head Start collaboration grants; providing effective dates.

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

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Section 1. (1) By October 1, 2009, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, subject to legislative notice and review under s. 216.177, Florida Statutes, shall adopt a schedule for

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the transfer of the powers, duties, and functions of early learning coalitions to the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The schedule must provide for the orderly transfer of those powers, duties, and functions as soon as practicable without disruption of services for children and families or delay in payments to program providers but not later than June 30, 2010.

- (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation, according to the schedule, shall assume responsibility for all powers, duties, and functions of each early learning coalition. The Agency for Workforce Innovation, upon assuming responsibility for those powers, duties, and functions, shall provide written notice of the transfer to the Governor and to the coalition's chair, executive director, and registered agent.
- (3) An early learning coalition is abolished upon the transfer of its powers, duties, and functions to the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall reclaim from each early learning coalition all records, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds belonging to the state.
- (4) Notwithstanding the amendment or repeal by this act of provisions of law conferring duties upon the early learning coalitions, an early learning coalition shall continue to administer those provisions as they existed before the effective date of this act until the coalition is abolished or June 30, 2010, whichever occurs first.
- (5) The Florida Early Learning Advisory Council is abolished.

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2010, paragraphs (q) through (x) of subsection (3) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (p) through (w), respectively, and present paragraph (p) of that subsection is amended to read: 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules .--(3) AUTHORITY FOR AUDITS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS. -- The Auditor General may, pursuant to his or her own authority, or at the direction of the Legislative Auditing Committee, conduct audits or other engagements as determined appropriate by the Auditor General of: (p) The school readiness system, including the early learning coalitions, created under s. 411.01. Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 20.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 20.50 Agency for Workforce Innovation. -- There is created the Agency for Workforce Innovation within the Department of Management Services. The agency shall be a separate budget entity, as provided in the General Appropriations Act, and the director of the agency shall be the agency head for all purposes. The agency shall not be subject to control,

purposes. The agency shall not be subject to control,
supervision, or direction by the Department of Management

supervision, or direction by the Department of Management

Services in any manner, including, but not limited to, personnel, purchasing, transactions involving real or personnel.

personnel, purchasing, transactions involving real or personal

property, and budgetary matters.

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- (c) The agency shall include the following offices within its organizational structure:
 - 1. The Office of Unemployment Compensation Services;

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- 2. The Office of Workforce Program Support;
- 3. The Office of Early Learning, which shall administer the school readiness program system in accordance with s. 411.01 and the operational requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with part V of chapter 1002. The office shall be directed by the Deputy Director for Early Learning, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the director; and
 - 4. The Office of Agency Support Services.

The director of the agency may establish the positions of assistant director and deputy director to administer the requirements and functions of the agency. In addition, the director may organize and structure the offices of the agency to best meet the goals and objectives of the agency as provided in s. 20.04.

Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 39.0121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 39.0121 Specific rulemaking authority.--Pursuant to the requirements of s. 120.536, the department is specifically authorized to adopt, amend, and repeal administrative rules which implement or interpret law or policy, or describe the procedure and practice requirements necessary to implement this chapter, including, but not limited to, the following:
- (7) Federal funding requirements and procedures; foster care and adoption subsidies; and subsidized independent living; and subsidized child care.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of child abuse or neglect.--
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such records, excluding the name of the reporter which shall be released only as provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the following persons, officials, and agencies:
- (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, or county agencies responsible for carrying out:
 - 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
 - 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
 - 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
 - 4. Healthy Start services;

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- 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes, child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393, or family day care homes or informal child care providers who receive school readiness subsidized child care funding, or other homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children; or
- 6. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided by certified domestic violence centers working at the department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.
- Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant to chapters 984 and 985.

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Section 6. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 39.5085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program. --

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- (f) Within available funding, the Relative Caregiver Program shall provide relative caregivers with family support and preservation services, flexible funds in accordance with s. 409.165, subsidized child care, and other available services in order to support the child's safety, growth, and healthy development. Children living with relative caregivers who are receiving assistance under this section shall be eligible for Medicaid coverage.
- Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 125.901 Children's services; independent special district; council; powers, duties, and functions.--
- (1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent special district, as defined in ss. 189.403(3) and 200.001(8)(e), to provide funding for children's services throughout the county in accordance with this section. The boundaries of such district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the county. The county governing body shall obtain approval, by a majority vote of those electors voting on the question, to annually levy ad valorem taxes which shall not exceed the maximum millage rate authorized by this section. Any district created pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be required to levy and fix millage subject to the provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is approved by the

electorate, the district shall not be required to seek approval of the electorate in future years to levy the previously approved millage.

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However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may instead have a governing board consisting of 33 members, including: the superintendent of schools; two representatives of public postsecondary education institutions located in the county; the county manager or the equivalent county officer; the district administrator from the appropriate district of the Department of Children and Family Services, or the administrator's designee who is a member of the Senior Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service; the director of the county health department or the director's designee; the state attorney for the county or the state attorney's designee; the chief judge assigned to juvenile cases, or another juvenile judge who is the chief judge's designee and who shall sit as a voting member of the board, except that the judge may not vote or participate in setting ad valorem taxes under this section; an individual who is selected by the board of the local United Way or its equivalent; a member of a locally recognized faithbased coalition, selected by that coalition; a member of the local chamber of commerce, selected by that chamber or, if more than one chamber exists within the county, a person selected by a coalition of the local chambers; the director of Workforce Innovation or a member of the director's designee early learning coalition, selected by that coalition; a representative of a labor organization or union active in the county; a member of a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system planning for

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health and social service delivery in the county, selected by that alliance or coalition; a member of the local Parent-Teachers Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association, selected by that association; a youth representative selected by the local school system's student government; a local school board member appointed by the chair of the school board; the mayor of the county or the mayor's designee; one member of the county governing body, appointed by the chair of that body; a member of the state Legislature who represents residents of the county, selected by the chair of the local legislative delegation; an elected official representing the residents of a municipality in the county, selected by the county municipal league; and 4 members-at-large, appointed to the council by the majority of sitting council members. The remaining 7 members shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with procedures set forth in paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove a member for cause or upon the written petition of the council. Appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably possible, represent the geographic and demographic diversity of the population of the county. Members who are appointed to the council by reason of their position are not subject to the length of terms and limits on consecutive terms as provided in this section. The remaining appointed members of the governing board shall be appointed to serve 2-year terms, except that those members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative and the legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year terms. A member may be reappointed; however, a member may not serve for

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more than three consecutive terms. A member is eligible to be appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the council.

Section 8. Subsection (8) of section 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and principals.--
 - (8) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ESTIMATING CONFERENCE. --
- (a) The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference shall develop estimates and forecasts of the unduplicated count of children eligible for the school readiness program programs in accordance with the standards of eligibility established in s. 411.01(6), and of children eligible for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with s. 1002.53(2), as the conference determines are needed to support the state planning, budgeting, and appropriations processes.
- (b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall provide information on needs and waiting lists for <u>the</u> school readiness <u>program programs</u>, and information on the needs for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, as requested by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference or individual conference principals in a timely manner.
- Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.--
- (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.--To help ensure access to the maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for

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metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening programs accepted by current medical practice become available and practical in the judgment of the department. The department shall also promote the identification and screening of all newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other highrisk conditions associated with increased risk of infant mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention, remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately following the birth of the child by the attending health care provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals, perinatal centers, county health departments, school health programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

(b) Postnatal screening. -- A risk factor analysis using the department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that establish thresholds for notification, further assessment, referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or

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paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures for developing and using the screening instrument, notification, referral, and care coordination services, reporting requirements, management information, and maintenance of a computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No. 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting information and maintaining a confidential registry must include a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the screening information registry is integrated with the department's automated data systems, including the Florida Online Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department after consultation with the Genetics and Infant Screening Advisory Council and the Agency for Workforce Innovation State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs.

(2) RULES.--After consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening Advisory Council, the department shall adopt and enforce rules requiring that every newborn in this state shall, prior to becoming 1 week of age, be subjected to a test for phenylketonuria and, at the appropriate age, be tested for such other metabolic diseases and hereditary or congenital

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disorders as the department may deem necessary from time to time. After consultation with the Agency for Workforce Innovation State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs, the department shall also adopt and enforce rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for environmental risk factors that place children and their families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other negative outcomes. The department shall adopt such additional rules as are found necessary for the administration of this section and s. 383.145, including rules providing definitions of terms, rules relating to the methods used and time or times for testing as accepted medical practice indicates, rules relating to charging and collecting fees for the administration of the newborn screening program authorized by this section, rules for processing requests and releasing test and screening results, and rules requiring mandatory reporting of the results of tests and screenings for these conditions to the department.

Section 10. Section 402.25, Florida Statutes, is transferred, renumbered as section 411.0106, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

411.0106 402.25 Infants and toddlers in state-funded education and care programs; brain development activities.—Each state-funded education and care program for children from birth to 5 years of age must provide activities to foster brain development in infants and toddlers. A program must provide an environment rich in language and music and filled with objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses in the children

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and must include classical music and at least 30 minutes of reading to the children each day. A program may be offered through an existing early childhood program such as Healthy Start, the Title I program, the school readiness program contracted or directly operated subsidized child care, the prekindergarten early intervention program, Florida First Start, the Head Start program, or a private child care program. A program must provide training for the infants' and toddlers' parents including direct dialogue and interaction between teachers and parents demonstrating the urgency of brain development in the first year of a child's life. Family day care centers are encouraged, but not required, to comply with this section.

Section 11. Subsection (5) of section 402.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.26 Child care; legislative intent.--

(5) It is the further intent of the Legislature to provide and make accessible child care opportunities for children at risk, economically disadvantaged children, and other children traditionally disenfranchised from society. In achieving this intent, the Legislature shall develop early learning programs a subsidized child care system, a range of child care options, support services, and linkages with other programs to fully meet the child care needs of this population.

Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.281 Gold Seal Quality Care program. --

standards, the department shall consult with the Department of Education, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Florida Head Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child Care Management, the Florida Family Day Care Association, the Florida Children's Forum, the State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs, the Early Childhood Association of Florida, the National Association for Child Development Education, providers receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents, for the purpose of approving the accrediting associations.

Section 13. Section 402.3018, Florida Statutes, is transferred, renumbered as section 411.01015, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

- 411.01015 402.3018 Consultation to child care centers and family day care homes regarding health, developmental, disability, and special needs issues.--
- (1) Contingent upon specific appropriations, the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer department is directed to contract with the statewide resource information and referral agency for a statewide toll-free Warm-Line for the purpose of providing assistance and consultation to child care centers and family day care homes regarding health, developmental, disability, and special needs issues of the children they are serving, particularly children with disabilities and other special needs.
- (2) The purpose of the Warm-Line is to provide advice to child care personnel concerning strategies, curriculum, and

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environmental adaptations that allow a child to derive maximum benefit from the child care services experience.

- (3) The <u>Agency for Workforce Innovation</u> department shall <u>annually</u> inform child care centers and family day care homes of the availability of this service, on an annual basis.
- (4) Contingent upon specific appropriations, the <u>Agency</u> <u>for Workforce Innovation</u> <u>department</u> shall expand, or contract for the expansion of, the Warm-Line from one statewide site to <u>regional</u> one Warm-Line <u>sites throughout the state</u> site in each <u>child care resource and referral agency region</u>.
- (5) Each regional Warm-Line shall provide assistance and consultation to child care centers and family day care homes regarding health, developmental, disability, and special needs issues of the children they are serving, particularly children with disabilities and other special needs. Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested, to assist child care centers and family day care homes with inquiries relative to the strategies, curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care centers and family day care homes may need as they serve children with disabilities and other special needs.

Section 14. Section 402.3051, Florida Statutes, is transferred, renumbered as section 411.01013, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See

s. 402.3051, F.S., for present text.)

411.01013 Prevailing market rate schedule.--

(1) As used in this section, the term:

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(a) "Market rate" means the price that a child care provider charges for daily, weekly, or monthly child care services.

- (b) "Prevailing market rate" means the annually determined

 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency distribution of the

 market rate in a predetermined geographic market at which child

 care providers charge a person for child care services.
- (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish procedures for the adoption of a prevailing market rate schedule. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:
- (a) At the prevailing market rate, plus the maximum rate differential authorized in the General Appropriations Act, for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281.
- (b) At the prevailing market rate for child care providers that do not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.
- (3) The prevailing market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:
- (a) Differentiate rates by the type of child care provider, including, but not limited to, a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, or an after-school program that is not defined as child care under rules adopted pursuant to s. 402.3045.

(b) Differentiate rates by the type of child care services provided for children with special needs or risk categories, infants, toddlers, preschool school children, and school-age children.

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- (c) Differentiate rates between full-time and part-time child care services.
- (d) Consider discounted rates for child care services for multiple children in a single family.
- (4) The prevailing market rate schedule may not interfere with the parental choice of child care providers under s. 411.01, regardless of available funding for the school readiness program. The prevailing market rate schedule must be based exclusively on the prices charged for child care services.
- (5) The Agency for Workforce Innovation may contract with one or more qualified entities to administer this section and provide support and technical assistance for child care providers.
- (6) The Agency for Workforce Innovation may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section.
- Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 402.313 Family day care homes.--
- (1) Family day care homes shall be licensed under this act if they are presently being licensed under an existing county licensing ordinance, if they are participating in the subsidized child care program, or if the board of county commissioners passes a resolution that family day care homes be licensed. If no county authority exists for the licensing of a family day

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care home, the department shall have the authority to license family day care homes under contract for the purchase-of-service system in the subsidized child care program.

- (a) If not subject to license, family day care homes shall register annually with the department, providing the following information:
 - 1. The name and address of the home.
 - 2. The name of the operator.

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- 3. The number of children served.
- 4. Proof of a written plan to provide at least one other competent adult to be available to substitute for the operator in an emergency. This plan shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the designated substitute.
 - 5. Proof of screening and background checks.
- 6. Proof of successful completion of the 30-hour training course, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination, which shall include:
- a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child care.
 - b. Health, safety, and nutrition.
 - c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- d. Child development, including typical and atypical language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills development.
- e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to determine a child's developmental level.

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f. Specialized areas, including early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as determined by the department, for owner-operators of family day care homes.

- 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.
- 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing education units or clock hours.

- (b) A family day care home not participating in the subsidized child care program may volunteer to be licensed under the provisions of this act.
- (c) The department may provide technical assistance to counties and family day care home providers to enable counties and family day care providers to achieve compliance with family day care homes standards.

Section 16. Subsection (6) of section 402.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 402.45 Community resource mother or father program. --
- (6) Individuals under contract to provide community resource mother or father services shall participate in preservice and ongoing training as determined by the Department of Health in consultation with the Agency for Workforce Innovation State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs. A community resource mother or father shall not be assigned a client caseload until all preservice training requirements are completed.

Section 17. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 409.1671, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.1671 Foster care and related services; outsourcing.--

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613 (5)

- (c) A <u>foster home</u> dually licensed home under this section may shall be dually licensed as a child care facility under chapter 402 and may eligible to receive both an out-of-home care payment and, to the extent permitted under federal law, school readiness funding a subsidized child care payment for the same child pursuant to federal law. The department may adopt administrative rules necessary to administer this paragraph.
- Section 18. Section 411.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 411.01 School readiness <u>program</u> programs; early learning coalitions.--
- (1) SHORT TITLE.--This section may be cited as the "School Readiness Act."
 - (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--
- (a) The Legislature recognizes that the school readiness program increases programs increase children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. It is the intent of the Legislature that the program programs be developmentally appropriate, research-based, involve the parent parents as a their child's first teacher, serve as preventive measures for children at risk of future school failure, enhance the educational readiness of eligible children, and support family education. The Each school readiness program shall provide the elements necessary to prepare at-risk children for school, including health screening and referral and an appropriate educational program.

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

- (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the school readiness program programs not exist as an isolated program programs, but build upon existing services and work in cooperation with other programs for young children, and that the school readiness program programs be coordinated to achieve full effectiveness.
- (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the administrative staff at the state level for the school readiness program programs be kept to the minimum necessary to administer the duties of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, as the school readiness programs are to be regionally designed, operated, and managed, with the Agency for Workforce Innovation developing school readiness program performance standards and outcome measures and approving and reviewing early learning coalitions and school readiness plans.
- (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that appropriations for combined school readiness programs shall not be less than the programs would receive in any fiscal year on an uncombined basis.
- (e)(f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the school readiness program coordinate and operate in conjunction with the district school systems. However, it is also the intent of the Legislature that the school readiness program not be construed as part of the system of free public schools but rather as a

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separate program for children under the age of kindergarten eligibility, funded separately from the system of free public schools, utilizing a mandatory sliding fee scale, and providing an integrated and seamless system of school readiness services for the state's birth-to-kindergarten population.

- (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the federal child care income tax credit be preserved for school readiness programs.
- <u>(f) (h)</u> It is the intent of the Legislature that school readiness services shall be an integrated and seamless program system of services with a developmentally appropriate education component for the state's eligible birth-to-kindergarten population described in subsection (6) and shall not be construed as part of the seamless K-20 education system.
- (3) PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS.—This section does not:
- (a) Relieve parents and guardians of their own obligations to prepare their children for school; or
- (b) Create any obligation to provide <u>the</u> publicly funded school readiness <u>program</u> programs or services beyond those authorized by the Legislature.
 - (4) AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION. --
- (a) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer the school readiness program programs at the state level and shall coordinate the early learning coalitions in providing school readiness services on a full-day, full-year, full-choice basis to the extent possible in order to enable parents to work and be financially self-sufficient.

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(b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall:

- 1. Administer Coordinate the birth-to-kindergarten services for children who are eligible under subsection (6) and the programmatic, administrative, and fiscal standards under this section for all public providers of the school readiness program programs.
- 2. Continue to provide unified leadership for school readiness through early learning coalitions.
- 2.3. Focus on improving the educational quality of all program providers participating in the publicly funded school readiness program programs.
- (c) For purposes of administration of the federal Child Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may be designated by the Governor as the lead agency and, if so designated, shall comply with the lead agency responsibilities under federal law.
 - (d) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall:
- 3.1. Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual requirements.
- 2. Provide final approval and periodic review of early learning coalitions and school readiness plans.
- 4.3. Provide leadership for the enhancement of school readiness in this state by aggressively establishing a unified approach to the state's efforts toward enhancement of school readiness. In support of this effort, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may develop and implement specific strategies that address the state's school readiness program $\frac{1}{1000}$

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

- 5. Provide technical assistance to early learning coalitions.
 - 6. Assess gaps in service.

- 7. Provide technical assistance to counties that form a multicounty region served by an early learning coalition.
- 7.8. Develop and adopt performance standards and outcome measures for the school readiness program programs. The performance standards must address the age-appropriate progress of children in the development of the school readiness skills required under paragraph (h) (j). The performance standards for children from birth to 3 years of age in the school readiness program programs must be integrated with the performance standards adopted by the Department of Education for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1002.67.
- (c) (e) The Agency for Workforce Innovation may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the provisions of law conferring duties upon the agency, including, but not limited to, rules governing the administration preparation and implementation of the school readiness program system, the collection of data, the approval of early learning coalitions and school readiness plans, the provision of a method whereby an early learning coalition may serve two or more counties, the award of incentives to early learning coalitions, and the issuance of waivers.

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

- $\underline{\text{(e)}}$ Except as provided by law, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may not impose requirements on a child care or early childhood education provider that does not deliver services under $\underline{\text{the}}$ a school readiness program or receive state or federal funds under this section.
- <u>(f)</u> The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall have a budget for the school readiness <u>program</u> system, which shall be financed through an annual appropriation made for purposes of this section in the General Appropriations Act.
- (g)(i) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall coordinate the efforts toward school readiness in this state and provide independent policy analyses and recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature.
- (h) (j) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall require that the each early learning coalition's school readiness program must, at a minimum, enhance the age-appropriate progress of each child in the development of the following school readiness skills:
 - 1. Compliance with rules, limitations, and routines.
 - 2. Ability to perform tasks.
 - 3. Interactions with adults.

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780 4. Interactions with peers.

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- 5. Ability to cope with challenges.
- Self-help skills. 6.
- 7. Ability to express the child's needs.
- 784 8. Verbal communication skills.
- 785 9. Problem-solving skills.
 - 10. Following of verbal directions.
- 787 Demonstration of curiosity, persistence, and 11. 788 exploratory behavior.
 - Interest in books and other printed materials. 12.
 - 13. Paying attention to stories.
 - 14. Participation in art and music activities.
- 792 15. Ability to identify colors, geometric shapes, letters 793 of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and temporal 794 relationships.

796 The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall also require that,

797 Before a child is enrolled in the an early learning coalition's 798

school readiness program, the Agency for Workforce Innovation

799 coalition must obtain, or ensure that the program provider

obtains, information is obtained by the coalition or the school

801 readiness provider regarding the child's immunizations, physical

802 development, and other health requirements as necessary,

803 including appropriate vision and hearing screening and 804 examinations.

(i) (k) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall conduct studies and planning activities related to the overall

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improvement and effectiveness of the outcome measures adopted by the agency for the school readiness program programs.

(1) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall monitor and evaluate the performance of each early learning coalition in administering the school readiness program, implementing the coalition's school readiness plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's finances, management, operations, and programs.

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

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

(1) (0) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall work with the early learning coalitions to increase parents' training for

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and involvement in their children's preschool education and to provide family literacy activities and services programs.

- (5) SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS CREATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS.--
 - (a) Early learning coalitions.--

- 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish the minimum number of children to be served by each early learning coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The Agency for Workforce Innovation may only approve school readiness plans in accordance with this minimum number. The minimum number must be uniform for every early learning coalition and must:
- a. Permit 30 or fewer coalitions to be established; and
 b. Require each coalition to serve at least 2,000 children
 based upon the average number of all children served per month
 through the coalition's school readiness program during the
 previous 12 months.

The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for merging early learning coalitions, including procedures for the consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early termination of the terms of coalition members which are necessary to accomplish the mergers. Each early learning coalition must comply with the merger procedures and shall be organized in accordance with this subparagraph by April 1, 2005. By June 30, 2005, each coalition must complete the transfer of powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property,

and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds to the successor coalition, if applicable.

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

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

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

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

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

Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract

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with a qualified entity to continue school readiness and prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or multicounty region until the coalition is reestablished through resubmission of a school readiness plan and approval by the agency.

- 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 1. and 2., the early learning coalitions in Sarasota, Osceola, and Santa Rosa Counties which were in operation on January 1, 2005, are established and authorized to continue operation as independent coalitions, and shall not be counted within the limit of 30 coalitions established in subparagraph 1.
- 4. Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at least 18 members but not more than 35 members. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt standards establishing within this range the minimum and maximum number of members that may be appointed to an early learning coalition. These standards must include variations for a coalition serving a multicounty region. Each early learning coalition must comply with these standards.
- 5. The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the same qualifications as private sector business members appointed by the coalition under subparagraph 7.
- 6. Each early learning coalition must include the following members:
- a. A Department of Children and Family Services district administrator or his or her designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the department.

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917	b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her
918	designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the
919	district, who shall be a nonvoting member.
920	c. A regional workforce board executive director or his or
921	her designee.
922	d. A county health department director or his or her
923	designee.
924	e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board
925	chair or executive director, if applicable, who shall be a
926	nonvoting member if the council or board is the fiscal agent of
927	the coalition or if the council or board contracts with and
928	receives funds from the coalition for any purpose other than
929	rent.
930	f. An agency head of a local licensing agency as defined
931	in s. 402.302, where applicable.
932	g. A president of a community college or his or her
933	designee.
934	h. One member appointed by a board of county
935	commissioners.
936	i. A central agency administrator, where applicable, who
937	shall be a nonvoting member.
938	j. A Head Start director, who shall be a nonvoting member.
939	k. A representative of private child care providers,
940	including family day care homes, who shall be a nonvoting
941	member.
942	1. A representative of faith-based child care providers,
943	who shall be a nonvoting member.

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

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

8. A majority of the voting membership of an early learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the business of the coalition. An early learning coalition board may use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings, including establishing a quorum through telecommunications, provided that the public is given proper notice of a

telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and, when appropriate, participate.

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

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

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

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

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

<u>(a) (b)</u> Program <u>administration; extended services</u>

participation.—The school readiness program shall be

established for children from birth to the beginning of the

school year for which a child is eligible for admission to

kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. The

program shall be administered by the <u>Agency for Workforce</u>

<u>Innovation early learning coalition</u>. Within funding limitations,

the <u>agency early learning coalition</u>, along with all <u>program</u>

providers, shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the

needs of children for extended-day and extended-year services

without compromising the quality of the program.

(b) (c) Program expectations. --

- 1. The school readiness program must meet the following expectations:
- a. The program must, at a minimum, enhance the ageappropriate progress of each child in the development of the school readiness skills required under paragraph (4) (h) (h) (h), as measured by the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- b. The program must provide extended-day and extended-year services to the maximum extent possible to meet the needs of parents who work.
- c. There must be coordinated staff development and teaching opportunities.
- d. There must be expanded access to community services and resources for families to help achieve economic self-sufficiency.

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

- f. The Agency for Workforce Innovation must consider the access of eligible children to the school readiness program, as demonstrated in part by waiting lists, before approving a proposed increase in payment rates submitted by an early learning coalition. In addition, the Agency for Workforce Innovation early learning coalitions shall use school readiness funds made available due to enrollment shifts from the school readiness program programs to the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program for increasing the number of children served in the school readiness program programs before increasing payment rates.
- g. The Agency for Workforce Innovation There must adopt be a community plan to address the needs of all eligible children.

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

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- 2. The Agency for Workforce Innovation early learning coalition must implement a comprehensive program of school readiness services that enhance the cognitive, social, and physical development of children to achieve the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the agency for Workforce Innovation. At a minimum, the program these programs must contain the following elements:
- a. Developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to enhance the age-appropriate progress of children in attaining the performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation under subparagraph (4) (b) 7. (d) 8.
- b. A character development program to develop basic values.
- c. An age-appropriate assessment of each child's development.
- d. A pretest administered to children when they enter a program and a posttest administered to children when they leave the program.
 - e. An appropriate staff-to-children ratio.
 - f. A healthy and safe environment.
- g. The statewide child care A resource and referral network established under s. 411.0101 to assist parents in making an informed choice.
 - (c) (d) Implementation. --
- 1078 1. An early learning coalition may not implement the school readiness program until the coalition is authorized

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through approval of the coalition's school readiness plan by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

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2. Each early learning coalition shall develop a plan for implementing the school readiness program to meet the requirements of this section and the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The plan must demonstrate how the program will ensure that each 3-year-old and 4-year-old child in a publicly funded school readiness program receives scheduled activities and instruction designed to enhance the age-appropriate progress of the children in attaining the performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation under subparagraph (4) (d) 8. Before implementing the school readiness program, the early learning coalition must submit the plan to the Agency for Workforce Innovation for approval. The Agency for Workforce Innovation may approve the plan, reject the plan, or approve the plan with conditions. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall review school readiness plans at least annually.

3. If the Agency for Workforce Innovation determines during the annual review of school readiness plans, or through monitoring and performance evaluations conducted under paragraph (4)(1), that an early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the agency, or has not effectively administered the school readiness program or Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract with a qualified entity to continue school readiness

and prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or multicounty region until the coalition is reestablished through resubmission of a school readiness plan and approval by the agency.

- 1.4. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt <u>rules</u> establishing eriteria for the approval of school readiness plans. The criteria must be consistent with the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the agency and must require each approved plan to include the following minimum standards and provisions for the school readiness program:
- a. A sliding fee scale establishing a copayment for parents based upon their ability to pay, which is the same for all program providers, to be implemented and reflected in each program's budget.
- b. A choice of settings and locations in licensed, registered, religious-exempt, or school-based programs to be provided to parents.
- c. Instructional staff who have completed the training course as required in s. 402.305(2)(d)1., as well as requirements for staff who have additional training or credentials as required by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The rules plan must provide a method for assuring the qualifications of all personnel in all program settings.
- d. Specific eligibility priorities for children within the early learning coalition's county or multicounty region in accordance with subsection (6).
- e. Performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

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f. The adoption of payment rates that must adopted by the early learning coalition and approved by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Payment rates may not have the effect of limiting parental choice or creating standards or levels of services that have not been authorized by the Legislature.

- g. Systems support services, including the statewide a central agency, child care resource and referral network, eligibility determinations, training of providers, and parent support and involvement.
- h. Direct enhancement services to families and children. System support and direct enhancement services shall be in addition to payments for the placement of children in the school readiness program programs.
- i. The business organization of the early learning coalition, which must include the coalition's articles of incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation or other business entity, the plan must include the contract with a fiscal agent. An early learning coalition may contract with other coalitions to achieve efficiency in multicounty services, and these contracts may be part of the coalition's school readiness plan.
- $\underline{\text{i.j.}}$ Strategies to meet the needs of unique populations, such as $\underline{\text{migratory agricultural}}$ $\underline{\text{migrant}}$ workers.
- As part of the school readiness plan, The Agency for Workforce

 Innovation early learning coalition may request the Governor to apply for a waiver to allow the agency coalition to administer

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

- 2.5. Persons with an early childhood teaching certificate may provide support and supervision to other staff in the school readiness program.
- 6. An early learning coalition may not implement its school readiness plan until it submits the plan to and receives approval from the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Once the plan is approved, the plan and the services provided under the plan shall be controlled by the early learning coalition. The plan shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but at least biennially. An early learning coalition may not implement the revisions until the coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from the Agency for Workforce Innovation. If the Agency for Workforce Innovation rejects a revised plan, the coalition must continue to operate under its prior approved plan.
- 3.7. Sections 125.901(2)(a)3., 411.221, and 411.232 do not apply to the an early learning coalition with an approved school readiness program plan. The Agency for Workforce Innovation To facilitate innovative practices and to allow the regional establishment of school readiness programs, an early learning

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coalition may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any of the provisions of ss. 411.223, 411.232, and 1003.54, if the waiver is necessary for implementation of the coalition's school readiness program plan.

- 8. Two or more counties may join for purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program.
- 4.9. An early learning coalition may, subject to approval by The Agency for Workforce Innovation may as part of the coalition's school readiness plan, receive subsidized child care funds for all children eligible for any federal subsidized child care program.
- 10. An early learning coalition may enter into multiparty contracts with multicounty service providers in order to meet the needs of unique populations such as migrant workers.
 - (d) (e) Requests for proposals; payment schedule.--
- 1. Each early learning coalition must comply with s.
 287.057 for the procurement of commodities or contractual
 services from the funds described in paragraph (9) (d). The
 period of a contract for purchase of these commodities or
 contractual services, together with any renewal of the original
 contract, may not exceed 3 years.
- The Agency for Workforce Innovation Each early learning coalition shall adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all programs funded by the coalition under this section. The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing relevant market rate schedule adopted under s. 411.01013 and, must include the projected number of children to be served, and must

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be submitted for approval by the Agency for Workforce

Innovation. The payment rate for an informal child care

arrangement may not exceed arrangements shall be reimbursed at

not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted developed for a

family day care home.

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(f) Requirements relating to fiscal agents. -- If an learning coalition is not legally organized as a corporation other business entity, the coalition must designate a fiscal agent, which may be a public entity, a private nonprofit organization, or a certified public accountant who holds a license under chapter 473. The fiscal agent must provide financial and administrative services under a contract with the early learning coalition. The fiscal agent may not provide direct early childhood education or child care services; however, a fiscal agent may provide those services upon written request of the early learning coalition to the Agency for Workforce Innovation and upon the approval of the request by the agency. The cost of the financial and administrative services shall be negotiated between the fiscal agent and the early learning coalition. If the fiscal agent is a provider of early childhood education and child care programs, the contract must specify that the fiscal agent shall act on policy direction from the early learning coalition and must not receive policy direction from its own corporate board regarding disbursal of the coalition's funds. The fiscal agent shall disburse funds in accordance with the early learning coalition's approved school readiness plan and based on billing and disbursement procedures approved by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The fiscal

agent must conform to all data-reporting requirements established by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

- (g) Evaluation and annual report.—Each early learning coalition shall conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the school readiness program, including performance standards and outcome measures, and shall provide an annual report and fiscal statement to the Agency for Workforce Innovation. This report must conform to the content and format specifications set by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Agency for Workforce Innovation must include an analysis of the early learning coalitions' reports in the agency's annual report.
- (6) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.--The Each early learning coalition's school readiness program is shall be established for children from birth to the beginning of the school year for which a child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall give priority for participation in the school readiness program as follows:
- (a) Priority shall be given first to a child from a family in which there is an adult receiving temporary cash assistance who is subject to federal work requirements.
- (b) Priority shall be given next to a child children age 3 years of age or older who has not yet entered to school, entry who is are served by the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services or a community-based lead agency under chapter 39, and for whom child care is needed to minimize risk of further abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

(c) Subsequent priority shall be given to a child Other eligible populations include children who meets meet one or more of the following criteria:

- $\underline{1.}$ (a) A child who is younger than Children under the age of kindergarten eligibility and who are:
- <u>a.1.</u> Is not included for priority in paragraph (b) but is Children determined to be at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation <u>and is who are currently a client clients</u> of the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services, but who are not otherwise given priority under this subsection.
- <u>b.2.</u> <u>Is</u> <u>Children</u> at risk of welfare dependency, including <u>an</u> economically disadvantaged <u>child</u> <u>children</u>, <u>a child</u> <u>children</u> of <u>a participant</u> <u>participants</u> in the welfare transition program, <u>a child of a migratory agricultural worker children of migrant farmworkers</u>, or a child <u>and children</u> of a teen parent <u>parents</u>.
- c.3. Is a member Children of a working family that is economically disadvantaged families whose family income does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
- <u>d.4. Children</u> For whom <u>financial assistance is provided</u>

 <u>through</u> the <u>state is paying a</u> Relative Caregiver <u>Program payment</u>
 under s. 39.5085.
- 2.(b) A 3-year-old child or Three-year-old children and 4-year-old child children who may not be economically disadvantaged but who has a disability; has have disabilities, have been served in a specific part-time exceptional education program or a combination of part-time exceptional education programs with required special services, aids, or equipment;

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and $\underline{\text{was}}$ were previously reported for funding part time $\underline{\text{under}}$ with the Florida Education Finance Program as $\underline{\text{an}}$ exceptional student students.

- 3.(c) An economically disadvantaged child children, a child children with a disability disabilities, or a child and children at risk of future school failure, from birth to 4 years of age, who is are served at home through a home visitor program programs and an intensive parent education program programs.
- 4.(d) A child Children who meets meet federal and state eligibility requirements for the migrant preschool program but who is do not meet the criteria of economically disadvantaged.

As used in this <u>paragraph</u> subsection, the term "economically disadvantaged" <u>child</u> means <u>having</u> a <u>child whose</u> family income <u>that</u> does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Notwithstanding any change in a family's economic status, but subject to additional family contributions in accordance with the sliding fee scale, a child who meets the eligibility requirements upon initial registration for the program remains eligible until the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.

(7) PARENTAL CHOICE. --

- (a) As used in this subsection, the term "payment certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.2.
- 1329 (b) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with 1330 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment

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certificate purchase service order that ensures, to the maximum extent possible, flexibility in the school readiness program programs and payment arrangements. According to federal regulations requiring parental choice, a parent may choose an informal child care arrangement. The payment certificate purchase order must bear the names name of the beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must bear the signatures signature of both the beneficiary and an authorized representative of the provider.

- (c) (b) If it is determined that a provider has given provided any cash to the beneficiary in return for receiving a payment certificate the purchase order, the Agency for Workforce Innovation early learning coalition or its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Division of Public Assistance Fraud for investigation.
- (d) (c) The office of the Chief Financial Officer shall establish an electronic transfer system for the disbursement of funds in accordance with this subsection. Each early learning coalition shall fully implement the electronic funds transfer system within 2 years after approval of the coalition's school readiness plan, unless a waiver is obtained from the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- (8) STANDARDS; OUTCOME MEASURES.--A program provider participating in the All school readiness program programs must meet the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
 - (9) FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM. --

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

- (b) 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer school readiness funds, plans, and policies and shall prepare and submit a unified budget request for the school readiness program system in accordance with chapter 216.
- 2. All instructions to early learning coalitions for administering this section shall emanate from the Agency for Workforce Innovation in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.
- legislative notice and review under s. 216.177, shall establish recommend a formula for the allocation among the early learning coalitions of all state and federal school readiness funds provided for children participating in the public or private school readiness program, whether served by a public or private provider, programs based upon equity for each county and performance. If a The allocation formula must be submitted to the Governor, the chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee or its successor, and the chair of the House of Representatives Fiscal Council or its successor no later than January 1 of each year. The Legislature shall specify in the annual General Appropriations Act specifies any changes to from the allocation formula, methodology for the prior fiscal year which must be used by the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall allocate funds

<u>as specified</u> in allocating the appropriations provided in the General Appropriations Act.

- (d) All state, federal, and required local maintenance-of-effort or matching funds provided to an early learning coalition for purposes of this section shall be used by the coalition for implementation of the its school readiness program plan, including the hiring of staff to effectively operate the coalition's school readiness program. As part of plan approval and periodic plan review, The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall require that administrative costs be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and effective administration of the school readiness program plan, but total administrative expenditures must not exceed 5 percent unless specifically waived by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall annually report to the Legislature any problems relating to administrative costs.
- (e) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall annually distribute, to a maximum extent practicable, all eligible funds provided under this section as block grants to the early learning coalitions.
- $\underline{\text{(e)}}$ State funds appropriated for the school readiness program may not be used for the construction of new facilities or the purchase of buses. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall present to the Legislature recommendations for providing necessary transportation services for $\underline{\text{the}}$ school readiness $\underline{\text{program}}$ $\underline{\text{programs}}$.

 $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ All cost savings and all revenues received through a mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to help fund $\underline{\text{the}}$ each early learning coalition's school readiness program.

- (10) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.--In the event of a conflict between this section and federal requirements, the federal requirements shall control.
- (11) CONTRACTING. -- The Agency for Workforce Innovation may contract with one or more qualified entities to administer this section.
- (11) PLACEMENTS. -- Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, the first children to be placed in the school readiness program shall be those from families receiving temporary cash assistance and subject to federal work requirements. Subsequent placements shall be made in accordance with subsection (6).

Section 19. Section 411.0101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

411.0101 Child care and early childhood resource and referral.—The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish a statewide child care resource and referral network that provides. Preference shall be given to using the already established early learning coalitions as the child care resource and referral agency. If an early learning coalition cannot comply with the requirements to offer the resource information component or does not want to offer that service, the early learning coalition shall select the resource information agency based upon a request for proposal pursuant to s. 411.01(5)(e)1. At least one child care resource and referral agency must be

established in each early learning coalition's county or multicounty region. Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide the following services:

- (1) Identification of existing public and private child care and early childhood education services, including child care services by public and private employers, and the development of a resource file of those services. These services may include family day care, public and private child care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the school readiness program prekindergarten early intervention programs, special education programs for prekindergarten handicapped children with disabilities, services for children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school and after-school programs, vacation care programs, parent education, the WAGES Program, and related family support services. The resource file shall include, but not be limited to:
- (a) Type of program.

- (b) Hours of service.
 - (c) Ages of children served.
 - (d) Number of children served.
 - (e) Significant program information.
 - (f) Fees and eligibility for services.
 - (g) Availability of transportation.
- (2) The establishment of a referral process $\underline{\text{that}}$ which responds to parental need for information and $\underline{\text{that}}$ which is provided with full recognition of the confidentiality rights of parents. The resource and referral network $\underline{\text{programs}}$ shall make

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referrals to licensed child care facilities. Referrals <u>may not</u> <u>shall</u> be made to an unlicensed child care facility or <u>arrangement only</u> if <u>there is no requirement that</u> the facility <u>is</u> required to <u>or arrangement</u> be licensed.

- (3) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for service tabulated through the internal referral process. The following documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the all child care resource and referral network agencies:
- (a) Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource information and referral network agency component by type of service requested.
 - (b) Ages of children for whom service was requested.
 - (c) Time category of child care requests for each child.
- (d) Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and swing shift.
 - (e) Reason that the child care is needed.
- (f) Name of the employer and primary focus of the business.
 - (4) Provision of technical assistance to existing and potential providers of child care services. This assistance may include:
 - (a) Information on initiating new child care services, zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in finding such information from other sources.
 - (b) Information and resources $\underline{\text{that}}$ which help existing child care services providers to maximize their ability to serve children and parents in their community.

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

- (5) Assistance to families and employers in applying for various sources of subsidy including, but not limited to, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the school readiness program subsidized child care, Head Start, prekindergarten early intervention programs, Project Independence, private scholarships, and the federal child and dependent care tax credit.
- (6) Assistance to state agencies in determining the market rate for child care.
- $\underline{\text{(6)}}$ Assistance in negotiating discounts or other special arrangements with child care providers.
- $\underline{(7)}$ (8) Information and assistance to local interagency councils coordinating services for prekindergarten handicapped children with disabilities.
- (8) (9) Assistance to families in identifying summer recreation camp and summer day camp programs, and in evaluating the health and safety qualities of summer recreation camp and summer day camp programs, and in evaluating the health and safety qualities of summer camp programs. Contingent upon specific appropriation, a checklist of important health and safety qualities that parents can use to choose their summer camp programs shall be developed and distributed in a manner

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that will reach parents interested in such programs for their children.

- (9) (10) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and licensed and registered family day care homes must provide the statewide child care and resource and referral network agencies with the following information annually:
 - (a) Type of program.

- (b) Hours of service.
- (c) Ages of children served.
- (d) Fees and eligibility for services.
- $\underline{\text{(10)}}$ (11) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt any rules necessary for the implementation and administration of this section.
- Section 20. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 411.0102, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 411.0102 Child Care Executive Partnership Act; findings and intent; grant; limitation; rules.--
 - (3) There is created a body politic and corporate known as the Child Care Executive Partnership which shall establish and govern the Child Care Executive Partnership Program. The purpose of the Child Care Executive Partnership Program is to utilize state and federal funds as incentives for matching local funds derived from local governments, employers, charitable foundations, and other sources, so that Florida communities may create local flexible partnerships with employers. The Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds shall be used at the discretion of local communities to meet the needs of working parents. A child care purchasing pool shall be developed with

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the state, federal, and local funds to provide subsidies to low-income working parents who are eligible for the school readiness program subsidized child care with a dollar-for-dollar match from employers, local government, and other matching contributions. The funds used from the child care purchasing pool must be used to supplement or extend the use of existing public or private funds.

- (5) (a) The Legislature shall annually determine the amount of state or federal low-income child care moneys which shall be used to create Child Care Executive Partnership Program child care purchasing pools in counties chosen by the Child Care Executive Partnership, provided that at least two of the counties have populations of no more than 300,000. The Legislature shall annually review the effectiveness of the child care purchasing pool program and reevaluate the percentage of additional state or federal funds, if any, that can be used for the program's expansion.
- (b) To ensure a seamless service delivery and ease of access for families, an early learning coalition or the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer the child care purchasing pool funds.
- (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation, in conjunction with the Child Care Executive Partnership, shall develop procedures for disbursement of funds through the child care purchasing pools. In order to be considered for funding, a purchasing pool an early learning coalition or the Agency for Workforce Innovation must commit to:

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

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- 2. Expending only those public funds which are matched by employers, local government, and other matching contributors who contribute to the purchasing pool. Parents shall also pay a fee, which may not shall be not less than the amount identified in the school readiness program's early learning coalition's subsidized child care sliding fee scale.
- Each purchasing pool must early learning coalition shall be required to establish a community child care task force for each child care purchasing pool. The task force must be composed of employers, parents, private child care providers, and one representative from the local children's services council, if one exists in the area of the purchasing pool. The purchasing pool early learning coalition is expected to recruit the task force members from existing child care councils, commissions, or task forces already operating in the area of a purchasing pool. A majority of the task force shall consist of employers. Each task force shall develop a plan for the use of child care purchasing pool funds. The plan must show how many children will be served by the purchasing pool, how many will be new to receiving child care services, and how the purchasing pool early learning coalition intends to attract new employers and their employees to the program.

Section 21. Section 411.0105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

411.0105 <u>Federal</u> <u>Early Learning Opportunities Act and Even</u>
Start Family Literacy Programs; lead agency responsibilities.--

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(1) The Governor may designate the Agency for Workforce

Innovation as the lead agency for purposes of administration of
the federal Child Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. parts 98
and 99. If designated as the lead agency, the Agency for
Workforce Innovation must comply with the lead agency
responsibilities under federal law.

- (2) For purposes of administration of the <u>federal</u> Early Learning Opportunities Act, 20 U.S.C. ss. 9401-9413, the Agency for Workforce Innovation is designated as the lead agency and must comply with the lead agency responsibilities under law.
- (3) (a) For purposes of administration of and the federal William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs, 20

 U.S.C. ss. 6381-6381k pursuant to Pub. L. No. 106-554, the Department of Education Agency for Workforce Innovation is designated as the lead agency and must comply with the lead agency responsibilities under pursuant to federal law.
- (b) The Department of Education shall contract with the Agency for Workforce Innovation for administration of the federal William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs.

Section 22. Effective July 1, 2010, subsections (1) and

(3) of section 411.011, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 411.011 Records of children in <u>the</u> school readiness program programs.--
- (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the school readiness program programs provided under s. 411.01, held by a former an early learning coalition or the Agency for Workforce Innovation, are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. For

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purposes of this section, records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher observations, and personal identifying information.

- (3) School readiness records may be released to:
- (a) The United States Secretary of Education, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Comptroller General of the United States for the purpose of federal audits.
- (b) Individuals or organizations conducting studies for institutions to develop, validate, or administer assessments or improve instruction.
- (c) Accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions.
- (d) Appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the child enrollee or other individuals.
- (e) The Auditor General in connection with his or her official functions.
- (f) A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court in accordance with a lawfully issued subpoena.
- (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of the school readiness program programs, state agencies, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation for the purpose of implementing the school readiness program.

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Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school readiness records in order to carry out their official functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit the personal identification of a child enrolled in $\underline{\text{the a}}$ school readiness program and his or her parents by persons other than those authorized to receive the records.

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Section 23. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.--The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services shall utilize the continuum of prevention and early assistance services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children and their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for the intraagency and interagency program coordination, monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The continuum shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children and their families, and may be expanded or reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services. Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever is applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based upon applicable eligibility criteria, availability of resources, and interagency prioritization when programs impact both agencies, or upon single agency prioritization when programs impact only one agency. The continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

(8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND PARENTS OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.--

- (b) Child care and early childhood programs, including, but not limited to, subsidized child care, licensed nonsubsidized child care facilities, family day care homes, therapeutic child care, Head Start, and preschool programs in public and private schools.
- Section 24. Subsection (2) of section 411.221, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 411.221 Prevention and early assistance strategic plan; agency responsibilities.--
 - (2) The strategic plan and subsequent plan revisions shall incorporate and otherwise utilize, to the fullest extent possible, the evaluation findings and recommendations from intraagency, independent third-party, field projects, and reports issued by the Auditor General or the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, as well as the recommendations of the Agency for Workforce Innovation State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs.
 - Section 25. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 445.024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 445.024 Work requirements.--

(4) PRIORITIZATION OF WORK REQUIREMENTS.--Regional workforce boards shall require participation in work activities to the maximum extent possible, subject to federal and state funding. If funds are projected to be insufficient to allow full-time work activities by all program participants who are required to participate in work activities, regional workforce

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boards shall screen participants and assign priority based on the following:

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(c) A participant who has access to subsidized or unsubsidized child care services may be assigned priority for work activities.

Regional workforce boards may limit a participant's weekly work requirement to the minimum required to meet federal work activity requirements. Regional workforce boards may develop screening and prioritization procedures based on the allocation of resources, the availability of community resources, the provision of supportive services, or the work activity needs of the service area.

Section 26. Subsection (2) of section 445.030, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

445.030 Transitional education and training.——In order to assist former recipients of temporary cash assistance who are working or actively seeking employment in continuing their training and upgrading their skills, education, or training, support services may be provided for up to 2 years after the family is no longer receiving temporary cash assistance. This section does not constitute an entitlement to transitional education and training. If funds are not sufficient to provide services under this section, the board of directors of Workforce Florida, Inc., may limit or otherwise prioritize transitional education and training.

(2) Regional workforce boards may authorize child care or other support services in addition to services provided in

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conjunction with employment. For example, a participant who is employed full time may receive subsidized child care services related to that employment and may also receive additional subsidized child care services in conjunction with training to upgrade the participant's skills.

Section 27. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 490.014, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

490.014 Exemptions.--

- (2) No person shall be required to be licensed or provisionally licensed under this chapter who:
- (a) Is a salaried employee of a government agency; a developmental disability facility or program; a, mental health, alcohol, or drug abuse facility operating under chapter 393, chapter 394, or chapter 397; the statewide subsidized child care program, subsidized child care case management program, or child care resource and referral network program operating under s.

 411.0101 pursuant to chapter 402; a child-placing or child-caring agency licensed pursuant to chapter 409; a domestic violence center certified pursuant to chapter 39; an accredited academic institution; or a research institution, if such employee is performing duties for which he or she was trained and hired solely within the confines of such agency, facility, or institution, so long as the employee is not held out to the public as a psychologist pursuant to s. 490.012(1)(a).

Section 28. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 491.014, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

491.014 Exemptions.--

(4) No person shall be required to be licensed, provisionally licensed, registered, or certified under this chapter who:

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- Is a salaried employee of a government agency; a (a) developmental disability facility or program; a, mental health, alcohol, or drug abuse facility operating under chapter 393, chapter 394, or chapter 397; the statewide subsidized child care program, subsidized child care case management program, or child care resource and referral network program operating under s. 411.0101 pursuant to chapter 402; a child-placing or childcaring agency licensed pursuant to chapter 409; a domestic violence center certified pursuant to chapter 39; an accredited academic institution; or a research institution, if such employee is performing duties for which he or she was trained and hired solely within the confines of such agency, facility, or institution, so long as the employee is not held out to the public as a clinical social worker, mental health counselor, or marriage and family therapist.
- Section 29. Effective July 1, 2010, paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1002.22 Student records and reports; rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.--
- (3) RIGHTS OF PARENT OR STUDENT.--The parent of any student who attends or has attended any public school, career center, or public postsecondary educational institution shall have the following rights with respect to any records or reports created, maintained, and used by any public educational

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institution in the state. However, whenever a student has attained 18 years of age, or is attending a postsecondary educational institution, the permission or consent required of, and the rights accorded to, the parents of the student shall thereafter be required of and accorded to the student only, unless the student is a dependent student of such parents as defined in 26 U.S.C. s. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954). The State Board of Education shall adopt rules whereby parents or students may exercise these rights:

- (d) Right of privacy.—Every student has a right of privacy with respect to the educational records kept on him or her. Personally identifiable records or reports of a student, and any personal information contained therein, are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1). A state or local educational agency, board, public school, career center, or public postsecondary educational institution may not permit the release of such records, reports, or information without the written consent of the student's parent, or of the student himself or herself if he or she is qualified as provided in this subsection, to any individual, agency, or organization. However, personally identifiable records or reports of a student may be released to the following persons or organizations without the consent of the student or the student's parent:
- 1. Officials of schools, school systems, career centers, or public postsecondary educational institutions in which the student seeks or intends to enroll; and a copy of such records or reports shall be furnished to the parent or student upon request.

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

- 3. The United States Secretary of Education, the Director of the National Institute of Education, the Assistant Secretary for Education, the Comptroller General of the United States, or state or local educational authorities who are authorized to receive such information subject to the conditions set forth in applicable federal statutes and regulations of the United States Department of Education, or in applicable state statutes and rules of the State Board of Education.
- 4. Other school officials, in connection with a student's application for or receipt of financial aid.
- 5. Individuals or organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of an institution or a board of education for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction, if the studies are conducted in a manner that does not permit the personal identification of students and their parents by persons other than representatives of such organizations and if the information will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose of conducting such studies.
- 6. Accrediting organizations, in order to carry out their accrediting functions.
- 7. Early learning coalitions and The Agency for Workforce Innovation in order to carry out its their assigned duties.

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8. For use as evidence in student expulsion hearings conducted by a district school board under chapter 120.

- 9. Appropriate parties in connection with an emergency, if knowledge of the information in the student's educational records is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.
- 10. The Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability in connection with their official functions; however, except when the collection of personally identifiable information is specifically authorized by law, any data collected by the Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and shall be protected in a way that does not permit the personal identification of students and their parents by other than the Auditor General, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and their staff, and the personally identifiable data shall be destroyed when no longer needed for the Auditor General's and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability's official use.
- 11.a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition that the student and the student's parent are notified of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution or agency.
- b. A person or entity in accordance with a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court

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

- 12. Credit bureaus, in connection with an agreement for financial aid that the student has executed, if the information is disclosed only to the extent necessary to enforce the terms or conditions of the financial aid agreement. Credit bureaus shall not release any information obtained under this paragraph to any person.
- 13. Parties to an interagency agreement among the Department of Juvenile Justice, school and law enforcement authorities, and other signatory agencies for the purpose of reducing juvenile crime and especially motor vehicle theft by promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the sharing of appropriate information in a joint effort to improve school safety, to reduce truancy and in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and to support alternatives to in-school and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions that provide structured and well-supervised educational programs supplemented by a coordinated overlay of other appropriate services designed to correct behaviors that lead to truancy, suspensions, and expulsions, and that support students in successfully completing their education. Information provided in furtherance of the

interagency agreements is intended solely for use in determining the appropriate programs and services for each juvenile or the juvenile's family, or for coordinating the delivery of the programs and services, and as such is inadmissible in any court proceedings before a dispositional hearing unless written consent is provided by a parent or other responsible adult on behalf of the juvenile.

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

This paragraph does not prohibit any educational institution from publishing and releasing to the general public directory information relating to a student if the institution elects to do so. However, no educational institution shall release, to any individual, agency, or organization that is not listed in subparagraphs 1.-14., directory information relating to the student body in general or a portion thereof unless it is normally published for the purpose of release to the public in general. Any educational institution making directory information public shall give public notice of the categories of information that it has designated as directory information for all students attending the institution and shall allow a reasonable period of time after the notice has been given for a parent or student to inform the institution in writing that any or all of the information designated should not be released.

Section 30. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 1002.51, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2), (3), and (4), respectively, and present subsection (2) of that section is amended to read:

- 1002.51 Definitions. -- As used in this part, the term:
- 1942 (2) "Early learning coalition" or "coalition" means an 1943 early learning coalition created under s. 411.01.

- Section 31. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (4), subsection (5), and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; eligibility and enrollment.--
- (4)(a) Each parent enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must complete and submit an application to the <u>Agency for Workforce Innovation</u> early learning coalition through the single point of entry established under s. 411.01.
- (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with each of the school districts within the coalition's county or multicounty region in the development of procedures for enrolling children in prekindergarten programs delivered by public schools.
- (5) The Agency for Workforce Innovation early learning coalition shall provide each parent enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider and public school delivering the program within the coalition's county where the child is being enrolled or multicounty region. The profiles

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shall be provided to parents in a format prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The profiles must include, at a minimum, the following information about each provider and school:

- (a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum, instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and
- (b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most recent available results of the statewide kindergarten screening.
- (6) (a) A parent may enroll his or her child with any private prekindergarten provider that is eligible to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under this part; however, the provider may determine whether to admit any child. The Agency for Workforce Innovation An early learning coalition may not limit the number of students admitted by any private prekindergarten provider for enrollment in the program. However, this paragraph does not authorize the Agency for Workforce Innovation an early learning coalition to allow a provider to exceed any staff-to-children ratio, square footage per child, or other requirement imposed under ss. 402.301-402.319 as a result of admissions in the prekindergarten program.
- Section 32. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (b) and (h) of subsection (3) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by private prekindergarten providers.--

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

- (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program, a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the following requirements:
 - (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:
- 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation, the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation, or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools and have written accreditation standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at least one onsite visit to the provider or school before accreditation is granted;
- 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281; or
- 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the Agency for Workforce Innovation early learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the requirements of the program under this part, including, but not limited to, the requirements for credentials and background screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c) and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under

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paragraph (f), prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

- (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register with the <u>Agency for Workforce Innovation</u> early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the agency for Workforce Innovation.
- Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (8) of section 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

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- (b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation Each early learning coalition shall administer the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private prekindergarten provider.
- (8) Each public school delivering the summer prekindergarten program must also:
- (a) Register with the <u>Agency for Workforce Innovation</u>

 early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the agency for <u>Workforce Innovation</u>; and
- (b) Deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with this part.
- Section 34. Subsection (9) of section 1002.63, Florida 2046 Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

- (a) Register with the <u>Agency for Workforce Innovation</u>

 early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the agency for <u>Workforce Innovation</u>; and
- (b) Deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with this part.
- Section 35. Subsection (3) of section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1002.67 Performance standards; curricula and accountability.--
- (3) (a) The Agency for Workforce Innovation Each early learning coalition shall verify that each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district school board shall verify that each public school delivering the program within the school district complies with this part.
- (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or school engages in misconduct, the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall require the early learning coalition to remove the provider, and the Department of Education shall require the school district to remove the school, from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state funds under this part.

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

- 2. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school fails to meet the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6) for 2 consecutive years, the Agency for Workforce Innovation early learning coalition or school district, as applicable, shall place the provider or school on probation and must require the provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved by the department under paragraph (2)(c).
- 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions required under subparagraph 2., including the use of a curriculum approved by the department, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).
- 4. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6), the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall remove, require the early learning coalition or the Department of Education shall require the school district,

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as applicable, to remove, as applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state funds for the program.

- (d) Each early learning coalition, The Agency for Workforce Innovation, and the department shall coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services to minimize interagency duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school readiness program programs under s. 411.01, and the licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.
- Section 36. Subsection (5), paragraph (b) of subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting. --
- (5) (a) The Agency for Workforce Innovation Each early learning coalition shall maintain through the single point of entry established under s. 411.01 a current database of the students enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program for each county within the coalition's region.
- (b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the

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uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6)(d). The procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds by the Agency for Workforce Innovation to the early learning coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private prekindergarten providers and public schools. The department shall transfer to the Agency for Workforce Innovation at least once each quarter the funds available for payment to private prekindergarten providers and public schools in accordance with this paragraph from the funds appropriated for that purpose.

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- (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior month's certified student attendance.
- 2. The parent must submit the verification of the student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or public school on forms prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The forms must include, in addition to the verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in substantially the following form, that the parent continues to choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the program be made to the provider or school:

2156 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE

AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

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

(Signature of Parent)

2166 (Date)

- 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each private prekindergarten provider must permit the Agency for Workforce Innovation early learning coalition, and each public school must permit the school district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal business hours. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for the agency early learning coalitions and school districts to review the original signed forms against the certified student attendance. The review procedures shall provide for the use of selective inspection techniques, including, but not limited to, random sampling. The Agency for Workforce Innovation Each early learning coalition and the school districts district must comply with the review procedures.
- (7) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall require that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and effective administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend no more than 5 percent of the funds paid

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by the coalition to private prekindergarten providers and public schools under paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition under this subsection may be used only for administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used for the school readiness program or other programs.

Section 37. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 1002.72, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.--

- (1) The individual records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held by a former an early learning coalition, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher observations, and personal identifying information of an enrolled child and his or her parent. This exemption applies to individual records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held by a former an early learning coalition, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.
- (3) Confidential and exempt Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program records may be released to:

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(g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers, or state agencies for the purpose of implementing the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

- Agencies, organizations, or individuals receiving such confidential and exempt records in order to carry out their official functions must protect the records in a manner that will not permit the personal identification of an enrolled child or his or her parent by persons other than those authorized to receive the records.
- Section 38. Section 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1002.75 Agency for Workforce Innovation; powers and duties; operational requirements.--
 - (1) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer the operational requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.
 - (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures governing the administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program by the <u>agency early learning</u> coalitions and the school districts for:
 - (a) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1002.53.
 - (b) Providing parents with profiles of private prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

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(c) Registering private prekindergarten providers and public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63.

- (d) Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61.
- (e) Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten providers and public schools and removing providers or schools from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.
- (f) Paying private prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.71.
- (g) Documenting and certifying student enrollment and student attendance under s. 1002.71.
- (h) Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.
- (i) Reenrolling students dismissed by a private prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s. 1002.71.
- (3) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt, in consultation with and subject to approval by the department, procedures governing the administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program by the agency early learning coalitions and the school districts for:
- (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.67.

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

- (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time permitted under s. 1002.67.
- (4) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall also adopt procedures for the agency's distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s. 1002.71.
- (5) Except as provided by law, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may not impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or public school that does not deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under this part.
- (6) The Agency for Workforce Innovation may contract with one or more qualified entities to administer this part.
- Section 39. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 1003.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1003.54 Teenage parent programs.--
- 2288 (3)

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

Ancillary services may be provided through the coordination of existing programs and services and through joint agreements between district school boards and the Agency for Workforce

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2295 <u>Innovation</u> early learning coalitions or other appropriate public 2296 and private providers.

Section 40. Subsection (4) of section 1006.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1006.03 Diagnostic and learning resource centers.--

- (4) Diagnostic and learning resource centers may assist districts in providing testing and evaluation services for infants and preschool children with or at risk of developing disabilities, and may assist districts in providing interdisciplinary training and resources to parents of infants and preschool children with or at risk of developing disabilities and to the school readiness program programs.
- Section 41. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 1009.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1009.64 Certified Education Paraprofessional Welfare Transition Program.--
- (4) The agencies shall complete an implementation plan that addresses at least the following recommended components of the program:
- (b) A budget for use of incentive funding to provide motivation to participants to succeed and excel. The budget for incentive funding includes:
- 1. Funds allocated by the Legislature directly for the program.
- 2319 2. Funds that may be made available from the federal 2320 Workforce Investment Act based on client eligibility or 2321 requested waivers to make the clients eligible.

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3. Funds made available by implementation strategies that would make maximum use of work supplementation funds authorized by federal law.

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- 4. Funds authorized by strategies to lengthen participants' eligibility for federal programs such as Medicaid, subsidized child care services, and transportation.
- 2329 Incentives may include a stipend during periods of college 2330 classroom training, a bonus and recognition for a high grade-2331 point average, child care and prekindergarten services for 2332 children of participants, and services to increase a 2333 participant's ability to advance to higher levels of employment. 2334 Nonfinancial incentives should include providing a mentor or 2335 tutor, and service incentives should continue and increase for 2336 any participant who plans to complete the baccalaureate degree 2337 and become a certified teacher. Services may be provided in 2338 accordance with family choice by community colleges and school 2339 district career centers, through family service centers and full-service schools, or under contract with providers through 2340 2341 central agencies.
- 2342 Section 42. <u>Sections 402.3135, 402.3145, and 1002.77,</u>
 2343 Florida Statutes, are repealed.
- Section 43. Section 402.3016, Florida Statutes, is
 transferred and renumbered as section 411.0104, Florida
 Statutes.
- Section 44. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

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