

By Senator Fasano

11-00528A-09

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to prekindergarten education; amending  
3           s. 1002.65, F.S.; providing legislative findings;  
4           requiring that prekindergarten instructors meet  
5           certain educational goals by a specified period;  
6           providing an effective date.

7  
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Section 1002.65, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
11 read:

12           1002.65 Professional credentials of prekindergarten  
13 instructors; ~~aspirational~~ goals; legislative intent.-

14           (1) The Legislature recognizes that there is a strong  
15 relationship between the skills and preparation of  
16 prekindergarten instructors and the educational outcomes of  
17 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

18           (2) The Legislature finds that high-quality prekindergarten  
19 programs taught by teachers who hold degrees reduce state  
20 spending on K-12 remediation, child welfare, and the criminal  
21 justice system. The Legislature also finds that investments in  
22 high-quality prekindergarten programs are effective public  
23 policy strategies for generating wealth and achieving a  
24 multitude of social and economic development.

25           (3)(2) To improve these educational outcomes, the  
26 Legislature intends that all prekindergarten instructors shall  
27 ~~will~~ continue to improve their skills and preparation through  
28 education and training, so that the following ~~aspirational~~ goals  
29 are will be achieved:

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

31 1. Each prekindergarten class shall ~~will~~ have at least one  
32 prekindergarten instructor who holds an associate's or higher  
33 degree in the field of early childhood education or child  
34 development; and

35 2. For each prekindergarten class composed of 11 or more  
36 students, in addition to a prekindergarten instructor who meets  
37 the requirements of subparagraph 1., the class shall ~~will~~ have  
38 at least one prekindergarten instructor who meets the  
39 requirements of s. 1002.55(3)(c).

40 (b) By the 2013-2014 school year, each prekindergarten  
41 class shall ~~will~~ have at least one prekindergarten instructor  
42 who holds a bachelor's or higher degree in the field of early  
43 childhood education or child development.

44 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.