

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to independent living; amending s. 39.013,  
3           F.S.; requiring the court to retain jurisdiction over a  
4           child until the child is 21 years of age if the child  
5           elects to receive Foundations First Program services;  
6           providing for an annual judicial review; amending s.  
7           39.6012, F.S.; requiring assurance in a child's case plan  
8           that efforts were made to avoid a change in the child's  
9           school; creating s. 39.6015, F.S.; providing purpose and  
10          legislative intent with respect to the provision of  
11          services for older children who are in licensed care;  
12          requiring the documentation of assurances that school  
13          stability is considered when a child in care is moved;  
14          providing for the same assurances for children with  
15          disabilities; defining the term "school or origin";  
16          requiring that the Department of Children and Family  
17          Services or the community-based provider provide  
18          reimbursement for the costs of transportation provided for  
19          a child in care; requiring changes in a child's school to  
20          be minimally disruptive; specifying criteria to be  
21          considered by the department and community-based provider  
22          during the transition of a child to another school;  
23          requiring children in care to attend school; requiring  
24          scheduled appointments to consider the child's school  
25          attendance; providing penalties for caregivers who refuse  
26          or fail to ensure that the child attends school regularly;  
27          specifying who may serve as an education advocate;  
28          requiring documentation that an education advocate or

29 surrogate parent has been designated or appointed for a  
30 child in care; requiring a child in middle school to  
31 complete an electronic personal academic and career plan;  
32 requiring caregivers to attend school meetings; specifying  
33 requirements for transition individual education plan  
34 meetings for children with disabilities; requiring that a  
35 child be provided with information relating to the Road-  
36 to-Independence Program; requiring that the caregiver or  
37 education advocate attend parent-teacher conferences;  
38 requiring that a caregiver be provided with access to  
39 school resources in order to enable a child to achieve  
40 educational success; requiring the delivery of a  
41 curriculum model relating to self-advocacy; requiring  
42 documentation of a child's progress, the services needed,  
43 and the party responsible for providing services;  
44 specifying choices for a child with respect to diplomas  
45 and certificates for high school graduation or completion;  
46 providing that a child with a disability may stay in  
47 school until 22 years of age under certain circumstances;  
48 requiring caregivers to remain involved in the academic  
49 life of child in high school; requiring documentation of a  
50 child's progress, the services needed, and the party who  
51 is responsible for providing services; providing for a  
52 child to be exposed to job-preparatory instruction,  
53 enrichment activities, and volunteer and service  
54 opportunities, including activities and services offered  
55 by the Agency for Workforce Innovation; requiring that  
56 children in care be afforded opportunities to participate

57 | in the usual activities of school, community, and family  
58 | life; requiring caregivers to encourage and support a  
59 | child's participation in extracurricular activities;  
60 | requiring that transportation be provided for a child;  
61 | providing for the development of a transition plan;  
62 | specifying the contents of a transition plan; requiring  
63 | that the plan be reviewed by the court; requiring that a  
64 | child be provided with specified documentation; requiring  
65 | that the transition plan be coordinated with the case plan  
66 | and a transition plan prepared pursuant to the Individuals  
67 | with Disabilities Education Act for a child with  
68 | disabilities; requiring the creation of a notice that  
69 | specifies the options that are available to the child;  
70 | requiring that community-based care lead agencies and  
71 | contracted providers report specified data to the  
72 | department and Legislature; amending s. 39.701, F.S.;  
73 | conforming terminology; specifying the required  
74 | considerations during judicial review of a child under the  
75 | jurisdiction of the court; specifying additional documents  
76 | that must be provided to a child and that must be verified  
77 | at the judicial review; requiring judicial review of a  
78 | transition plan; conforming references; amending s.  
79 | 409.1451, F.S., relating to the Road-to-Independence  
80 | Program; creating the Foundations First Program for young  
81 | adults who want to remain in care after reaching 18 years  
82 | of age; providing eligibility, termination, and reentry  
83 | requirements for the program; requiring a court hearing  
84 | before termination; providing for the development of a

85 transition plan; specifying the contents of the transition  
86 plan; requiring that a young adult be provided with  
87 specified documentation; requiring that the transition  
88 plan be coordinated with the case plan and a transition  
89 plan prepared pursuant to the Individuals with  
90 Disabilities Education Act for a young adult with  
91 disabilities; requiring the creation of a notice that  
92 specifies the options that are available to the young  
93 adult; requiring annual judicial reviews; creating the  
94 College Bound Program for young adults who have completed  
95 high school and have been admitted to an eligible  
96 postsecondary institution; providing eligibility  
97 requirements; providing for a stipend; requiring  
98 satisfactory academic progress for continuation of the  
99 stipend; providing for reinstatement of the stipend;  
100 providing for portability of services for a child or young  
101 adult who moves out of the county or out of state;  
102 specifying data required to be reported to the department  
103 and Legislature; conforming terminology relating to the  
104 Independent Living Services Advisory Council; providing  
105 rulemaking authority to the Department of Children and  
106 Family Services; requiring the department to amend the  
107 case plan and judicial social service review formats;  
108 providing for young adults receiving transition services  
109 to continue to receive existing services until their  
110 eligibility for that benefit program expires; requiring  
111 the department to develop a request for proposal for the  
112 creation of an education advocacy system; requiring the

113 department to contract with a national nonprofit  
 114 organization to administer the Road-to-Independence  
 115 Program; providing that funding for certain postsecondary  
 116 education students is contingent upon available funding;  
 117 providing an effective date.

118

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

120

121 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 39.013, Florida  
 122 Statutes, is amended to read:

123 39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel.—

124 (2) The circuit court has exclusive original jurisdiction  
 125 of all proceedings under this chapter, of a child voluntarily  
 126 placed with a licensed child-caring agency, a licensed child-  
 127 placing agency, or the department, and of the adoption of  
 128 children whose parental rights have been terminated under this  
 129 chapter. Jurisdiction attaches when the initial shelter  
 130 petition, dependency petition, or termination of parental rights  
 131 petition is filed or when a child is taken into the custody of  
 132 the department. The circuit court may assume jurisdiction over  
 133 any such proceeding regardless of whether the child was in the  
 134 physical custody of both parents, was in the sole legal or  
 135 physical custody of only one parent, caregiver, or some other  
 136 person, or was in the physical or legal custody of no person  
 137 when the event or condition occurred that brought the child to  
 138 the attention of the court. When the court obtains jurisdiction  
 139 of any child who has been found to be dependent, the court shall  
 140 retain jurisdiction, unless relinquished by its order, until the

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141 child reaches 18 years of age. However, if a young adult chooses  
142 to participate in the Foundations First Program, the court shall  
143 retain jurisdiction until the young adult leaves the program as  
144 provided for in s. 409.1451(4). The court shall review the  
145 status of the young adult at least every 12 months or more  
146 frequently if the court deems it necessary ~~youth petitions the~~  
147 ~~court at any time before his or her 19th birthday requesting the~~  
148 ~~court's continued jurisdiction, the juvenile court may retain~~  
149 ~~jurisdiction under this chapter for a period not to exceed 1~~  
150 ~~year following the youth's 18th birthday for the purpose of~~  
151 ~~determining whether appropriate aftercare support, Road-to-~~  
152 ~~Independence Program, transitional support, mental health, and~~  
153 ~~developmental disability services, to the extent otherwise~~  
154 ~~authorized by law, have been provided to the formerly dependent~~  
155 ~~child who was in the legal custody of the department immediately~~  
156 ~~before his or her 18th birthday. If a petition for special~~  
157 ~~immigrant juvenile status and an application for adjustment of~~  
158 ~~status have been filed on behalf of a foster child and the~~  
159 ~~petition and application have not been granted by the time the~~  
160 ~~child reaches 18 years of age, the court may retain jurisdiction~~  
161 ~~over the dependency case solely for the purpose of allowing the~~  
162 ~~continued consideration of the petition and application by~~  
163 ~~federal authorities. Review hearings for the child shall be set~~  
164 ~~solely for the purpose of determining the status of the petition~~  
165 ~~and application. The court's jurisdiction terminates upon the~~  
166 ~~final decision of the federal authorities. Retention of~~  
167 ~~jurisdiction in this instance does not affect the services~~  
168 ~~available to a young adult under s. 409.1451. The court may not~~

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

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169 retain jurisdiction of the case after the immigrant child's 22nd  
 170 birthday.

171 Section 2. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 39.6012,  
 172 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

173 39.6012 Case plan tasks; services.—

174 (2) The case plan must include all available information  
 175 that is relevant to the child's care including, at a minimum:

176 (a) A description of the identified needs of the child  
 177 while in care.

178 (b) A description of the plan for ensuring that the child  
 179 receives safe and proper care and that services are provided to  
 180 the child in order to address the child's needs. To the extent  
 181 available and accessible, the following health, mental health,  
 182 and education information and records of the child must be  
 183 attached to the case plan and updated throughout the judicial  
 184 review process:

185 1. The names and addresses of the child's health, mental  
 186 health, and educational providers;

187 2. The child's grade level performance;

188 3. The child's school record;

189 4. Assurances that the child's placement takes into  
 190 account proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled  
 191 at the time of placement and that efforts were made to allow the  
 192 child to remain in that school if it is in the best interest of  
 193 the child;

194 5. A record of the child's immunizations;

195 6. The child's known medical history, including any known  
 196 problems;

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197           7. The child's medications, if any; and  
 198           8. Any other relevant health, mental health, and education  
 199 information concerning the child.

200           (3) In addition to any other requirement, if the child is  
 201 in an out-of-home placement, the case plan must include:

202           (a) A description of the type of placement in which the  
 203 child is to be living.

204           (b) A description of the parent's visitation rights and  
 205 obligations and the plan for sibling visitation if the child has  
 206 siblings and is separated from them.

207           (c) When appropriate, for a child who is in middle school  
 208 or high school ~~13 years of age or older~~, a written description  
 209 of the programs and services that will help the child prepare  
 210 for the transition from ~~foster~~ care to independent living.

211           (d) A discussion of the safety and the appropriateness of  
 212 the child's placement, which placement is intended to be safe,  
 213 and the least restrictive and the most family-like setting  
 214 available consistent with the best interest and special needs of  
 215 the child and in as close proximity as possible to the child's  
 216 home.

217           Section 3. Section 39.6015, Florida Statutes, is created  
 218 to read:

219           39.6015 Services for older children in licensed care.—

220           (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that  
 221 education and the other positive experiences of a child are key  
 222 to a successful future as an adult and that it is particularly  
 223 important for a child in care to be provided with opportunities  
 224 to succeed. The Legislature intends that individuals and



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225 communities become involved in the education of a child in care,  
226 address issues that will improve the educational outcomes for  
227 the child, and find ways to ensure that the child values and  
228 receives a high-quality education. Many professionals in the  
229 local community understand these issues, and it is the intent of  
230 the Legislature that, in fulfilling their responsibilities to  
231 the child, biological parents, caregivers, educators, advocates,  
232 the department and its community-based care providers, guardians  
233 ad litem, and judges work together to ensure that an older child  
234 in care has access to the same academic resources, services, and  
235 extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to  
236 all children. Engaging an older child in a broad range of the  
237 usual activities of family, school, and community life during  
238 adolescence will help to empower the child in his or her  
239 transition into adulthood and in living independently. The  
240 Legislature intends for services to be delivered in an age-  
241 appropriate and developmentally appropriate manner, along with  
242 modifications or accommodations as may be necessary to include  
243 every child, specifically including a child with a disability.  
244 It is also the intent of the Legislature that while services to  
245 prepare an older child for life on his or her own are important,  
246 these services will not diminish efforts to achieve permanency  
247 goals of reunification, adoption, or permanent guardianship.

248 (2) EDUCATION PROVISIONS.—Perhaps more than any other  
249 population, an older child in care is in need of a quality  
250 education. The child depends on the school to provide positive  
251 role models, to provide a network of relationships and  
252 friendships that will help the child gain social and personal

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253 skills, and to provide the educational opportunities and other  
254 activities that are needed for a successful transition into  
255 adulthood.

256 (a) School stability.—The mobility of a child in care can  
257 disrupt the educational experience. Whenever a child enters  
258 care, or is moved from one home to another, the proximity of the  
259 new home to the child's school of origin shall be considered. If  
260 the child is relocated outside the area of the school of origin,  
261 the department and its community-based providers shall provide  
262 the necessary support to the caregiver so that the child can  
263 continue enrollment in the school of origin if it is in the best  
264 interest of the child. As used in this paragraph, the term  
265 "school of origin" means the school that the child attended  
266 before coming into care or the school in which the child was  
267 last enrolled. The case plan shall include tasks or a plan for  
268 ensuring the child's educational stability while in care. As  
269 part of this plan, the community-based care provider shall  
270 document assurances that:

271 1. When an child comes into care, the appropriateness of  
272 the current educational setting and the proximity to the school  
273 in which the child is enrolled at the time of coming into care  
274 have been taken into consideration.

275 2. The community-based care provider has coordinated with  
276 appropriate local school districts to determine if the child can  
277 remain in the school in which he or she is enrolled.

278 3. The child in care has been asked about his or her  
279 educational preferences and needs, including his or her view on  
280 whether to change schools when the living situation changes.

281 4. A child with a disability is allowed to continue in an  
282 appropriate educational setting, regardless of changes to the  
283 location of the home, and transportation is addressed and  
284 provided in accordance with the child's individualized education  
285 program. A children with a disability shall receive the  
286 protections provided in federal and state law, including  
287 timelines for evaluations, implementation of an individualized  
288 education plan or an individual family service plan, and  
289 placement in the least restrictive environment, even when the  
290 child changes school districts.

291 5. If the school district does not provide transportation,  
292 or the individualized education plan does not include  
293 transportation as a service, the department and its community-  
294 based providers shall provide special reimbursement for expenses  
295 associated with transporting a child to his or her school of  
296 origin. Transportation arrangements shall follow a route that is  
297 as direct and expedient for the child as is reasonably possible.

298 (b) School transitions.—When a change in schools is  
299 necessary, it shall be as least disruptive as possible and the  
300 support necessary for a successful transition shall be provided  
301 by the department, the community-based provider, and the  
302 caregiver. The department and the community-based providers  
303 shall work with school districts to develop and implement  
304 procedures to will ensure that a child in care:

305 1. Is enrolled immediately in a new school and can begin  
306 classes promptly.

307 2. Does not experience a delay in enrollment and delivery  
308 of appropriate services due to school or record requirements as

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309 required by s. 1003.22.

310 3. Has education records that are comprehensive and  
311 accurate and promptly follow the child to a new school.

312 4. Is allowed to participate in all academic and  
313 extracurricular programs when arriving at a new school in the  
314 middle of a school term, even if normal timelines have passed or  
315 programs are full.

316 5. Receives credit and partial credit for coursework  
317 completed at the prior school.

318 6. Has the ability to receive a high school diploma even  
319 when the child has attended multiple schools that have varying  
320 graduation requirements.

321 (c) School attendance.—A child in care shall attend school  
322 as required by s. 1003.26.

323 1. The community-based care provider and caregiver shall  
324 eliminate any barriers to attendance such as required school  
325 uniforms or school supplies.

326 2. Appointments and court appearances for a child in care  
327 shall be scheduled to minimize the impact on the child's  
328 education and to ensure that the child is not penalized for  
329 school time or work missed because of court or child-welfare-  
330 case-related activities.

331 3. A caregiver who refuses or fails to ensure that a child  
332 who is in his or her care attends school regularly shall be  
333 subject to the same procedures and penalties as a parent under  
334 s. 1003.27.

335 (d) Education advocacy.—

336 1. A child in care should have an adult who is

337 knowledgeable about schools and children in care and who serves  
338 as an education advocate to reinforce the value of the child's  
339 investment in education, to ensure that the child receives a  
340 high-quality education, and to help the child plan for middle  
341 school, high school, and postschool training, employment, or  
342 college. The advocate may be a caregiver, care manager, guardian  
343 ad litem, educator, or individual hired and trained for the  
344 specific purpose of serving as an educational advocate.

345 2. A child in care with disabilities who is eligible for  
346 the appointment of a surrogate parent, as required in s.  
347 39.0016, shall be assigned a surrogate in a timely manner, but  
348 no later than 30 days after a determination that a surrogate is  
349 needed.

350 3. The community-based provider shall document in the  
351 child's case plan that an education advocate has been identified  
352 for each child in care or that a surrogate parent has been  
353 appointed for each child in care with a disability.

354 (e) Academic requirements and support; middle school  
355 students.—In order to be promoted from a state school composed  
356 of middle grades 6, 7, and 8, a child must complete the required  
357 courses that include mathematics, English, social studies, and  
358 science.

359 1. In addition to other academic requirements, a child  
360 must complete one course in career and education planning in 7th  
361 or 8th grade. As required by s. 1003.4156, the course must  
362 include career exploration using Florida CHOICES Explorer or  
363 Florida CHOICES Planner and must include educational planning  
364 using the online student advising system known as Florida

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365 Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students at the Internet  
366 website FACTS.org.

367 a. Each child shall complete an electronic personal  
368 academic and career plan that must be signed by the child, the  
369 child's teacher, guidance counselor, or academic advisor, and  
370 the child's parent, caregiver, or other designated education  
371 advocate.

372 b. The required personalized academic and career plan must  
373 inform students of high school graduation requirements, high  
374 school assessment and college entrance test requirements,  
375 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements, state  
376 university and Florida college admission requirements, and  
377 programs through which a high school student may earn college  
378 credit, including Advanced Placement, International  
379 Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education,  
380 dual enrollment, career academy opportunities, and courses that  
381 lead to national industry certification.

382 c. A caregiver shall attend the parent meeting held by the  
383 school to inform parents about the career and education planning  
384 course curriculum and activities associated with it.

385 2. For a child with disabilities, the decision whether to  
386 work toward a standard diploma or a special diploma shall be  
387 addressed at the transition individual education plan meeting  
388 conducted during the child's 8th grade year or the year the  
389 child turns 14 years of age, whichever occurs first. The child  
390 shall be invited to participate in this and each subsequent  
391 transition individual education plan meeting. At this meeting,  
392 the transition individual education plan team, including the

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393 child, the caregiver, or other designated education advocate,  
394 shall determine whether a standard or special diploma best  
395 prepares the child for his or her education and career goals  
396 after high school.

397 a. The team shall plan the appropriate course of study,  
398 which may include basic education courses, career education  
399 courses, and exceptional student education courses.

400 b. The team shall identify any special accommodations and  
401 modifications needed to help the child participate fully in the  
402 educational program.

403 c. All decisions shall be documented on the transition  
404 individual education plan, and this information shall be used to  
405 guide the child's educational program as he or she enters high  
406 school.

407 3. A caregiver or the community-based care provider shall  
408 provide the child with all information related to the Road-to-  
409 Independence Program as provided in s. 409.1451.

410 4. A caregiver or another designated education advocate  
411 shall attend parent-teacher conferences and monitor each child's  
412 academic progress.

413 5. Each district school board, as required by s. 1002.23,  
414 shall develop and implement a well-planned, inclusive, and  
415 comprehensive program to assist parents and families in  
416 effectively participating in their child's education. A school  
417 district shall have available resources and services for parents  
418 and their children, such as family literacy services; mentoring,  
419 tutorial, and other academic reinforcement programs; college  
420 planning, academic advisement, and student counseling services;

421 and after-school programs. A caregiver shall access these  
422 resources as necessary to enable the child in their care to  
423 achieve educational success.

424 6. A child in care, particularly a child with a  
425 disability, shall be involved and engaged in all aspects of his  
426 or her education and educational planning and must be empowered  
427 to be an advocate for his or her education needs. Community-  
428 based care providers shall enter into partnerships with school  
429 districts to deliver curriculum on self-determination or self-  
430 advocacy to engage and empower the child to be his or her own  
431 advocate, along with support from the caregiver, community-based  
432 care provider, guardian ad litem, teacher, school guidance  
433 counselor, or other designated education advocate.

434 7. The community-based care provider shall document in the  
435 case plan evidence of the child's progress toward, and  
436 achievement of, academic, life, social, and vocational skills.  
437 The case plan shall be amended to fully and accurately reflect  
438 the child's academic and career plan, identify the services and  
439 tasks needed to support that plan, and identify the party  
440 responsible for accomplishing the tasks or providing the needed  
441 services.

442 (f) *Academic requirements and support; high school*  
443 *students.*—Graduation from high school is essential for a child  
444 to be able to succeed and live independently as an adult. In  
445 Florida, 70 percent of children in care reach 18 years of age  
446 without having obtained a high school diploma. It is the  
447 responsibility of the department, its community-based providers,  
448 and caregivers to ensure that a child in care is able to take



449 full advantage of every resource and opportunity in order to be  
450 able to graduate from high school and be adequately prepared to  
451 pursue postsecondary education at a college or university or to  
452 acquire the education and skills necessary to enter the  
453 workplace. In preparation for accomplishing education and career  
454 goals after high school, the child must select the appropriate  
455 course of study that best meets his or her needs.

456 1. An older child who plans to attend a college or  
457 university after graduation must take certain courses to meet  
458 state university admission requirements. The course requirements  
459 for state university admission are the same for two Bright  
460 Futures Scholarship awards, the Florida Academic Scholars, and  
461 Florida Medallion Scholars. By following this course of study,  
462 which is required for state university admission and recommended  
463 if the child intends to pursue an associate in arts degree at a  
464 state college and transfer to a college or university to  
465 complete a bachelor's degree, the child will meet the course  
466 requirements for high school graduation, state university  
467 admission, and two Bright Futures Scholarship awards.

468 2. Older children who plan to focus on a career technical  
469 program in high school in order to gain skills for work or  
470 continue after graduation at a state college, technical center,  
471 or registered apprenticeship program should choose a course of  
472 study that will meet the course requirements for high school  
473 graduation, the third Bright Futures Scholarship award, and the  
474 Gold Seal Vocational Scholars. This course of study is  
475 recommended if the child intends to pursue a technical  
476 certificate or license, associate's degree, or bachelor's

477 degree, or wishes to gain specific career training.

478 3. Older children with disabilities may choose to work  
479 toward a standard diploma, a special diploma, or a certificate  
480 of completion. The child shall be assisted in choosing a diploma  
481 option by school and district staff through the development of  
482 the individual educational plan. The diploma choice shall be  
483 reviewed each year at the child's individual education plan  
484 meeting.

485 a. Older children or young adults with disabilities who  
486 have not earned a standard diploma or who have been awarded a  
487 special diploma, certificate of completion, or special  
488 certificate of completion before reaching 22 years of age may  
489 stay in school until they reach 22 years of age.

490 b. The school district shall continue to offer services  
491 until the young adult reaches 22 years of age or until he or she  
492 earns a standard diploma, whichever occurs first, as required by  
493 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

494 4. The provisions of this paragraph do not preclude an  
495 older child from seeking the International Baccalaureate Diploma  
496 or the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma.

497 5. Educational guidance and planning for high school shall  
498 be based upon the decisions made during middle school.  
499 Caregivers shall remain actively involved in the child's  
500 academic life by attending parent-teacher conferences and taking  
501 advantage of available resources to enable the child to achieve  
502 academic success.

503 6. The community-based care provider shall document in the  
504 case plan evidence of the child's progress toward, and

505 achievement of, academic, life, social, and vocational skills.  
506 The case plan shall be amended to completely reflect the child's  
507 academic and career plan, identify the services and tasks needed  
508 to support that plan, and identify the party responsible for  
509 accomplishing the tasks or providing the needed services.

510 7. At the high school level, participation in workforce  
511 readiness activities is essential to help a child in care  
512 prepare himself or herself to be a self-supporting and  
513 productive adult. The caregiver and the community-based care  
514 provider shall ensure that each child:

515 a. Who is interested in pursuing a career after high  
516 school graduation is exposed to job-preparatory instruction in  
517 the competencies that prepare students for effective entry into  
518 an occupation, including diversified cooperative education, work  
519 experience, and job-entry programs that coordinate directed  
520 study and on-the-job training.

521 b. Is provided with the opportunity to participate in  
522 enrichment activities that are designed to increase the child's  
523 understanding of the workplace, to explore careers, and to  
524 develop goal-setting, decisionmaking, and time-management  
525 skills.

526 c. Is provided with volunteer and service learning  
527 opportunities in order to begin developing workplace and  
528 planning skills, self-esteem, and personal leadership skills.

529 d. Is provided with an opportunity to participate in  
530 activities and services provided by the Agency for Workforce  
531 innovation and its regional workforce boards which are designed  
532 to prepare all young adults, including those with disabilities,

533 for the workforce.

534 (3) EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.—An older child in care  
535 shall be accorded to the fullest extent possible the opportunity  
536 to participate in the activities of community, school, and  
537 family life.

538 (a) A caregiver shall encourage and support participation  
539 in age-appropriate extracurricular and social activities for an  
540 older child, including a child with a disability.

541 (b) A caregiver shall be expected to provide  
542 transportation for such activities and community-based care  
543 providers shall provide special reimbursement for expenses for  
544 such activities, including mileage reimbursement.

545 (c) The department and its community-based providers may  
546 not place an older child in a home if the caregiver does not  
547 encourage and facilitate participation in and provide  
548 transportation to the extracurricular activities of the child's  
549 choice, unless other arrangements can be made by the community-  
550 based care provider to enable the child's participation in such  
551 activities.

552 (d) A caregiver is not responsible under administrative  
553 rules or laws pertaining to state licensure, and a caregiver's  
554 licensure status is not subject to jeopardy in any manner, for  
555 the actions of a child in their care who engages in age-  
556 appropriate activities.

557 (4) DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSITION PLAN.—If a child is  
558 planning to leave care upon reaching 18 years of age, during the  
559 90-day period before the child reaches 18 years of age, the  
560 department and community-based care provider, in collaboration

561 with the caregiver, any other designated education advocate, and  
 562 any other individual whom the child would like to have included,  
 563 shall assist and support the older child in developing a  
 564 transition plan. The transition plan must take into account all  
 565 of the education and other skills achieved by the child in  
 566 middle and high school, include specific options for the child  
 567 on housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for  
 568 mentors and continuing support services, and workforce support  
 569 and employment services, and must be reviewed by the court  
 570 during the last review hearing before the child reaches 18 years  
 571 of age. In developing the plan, the department and community-  
 572 based provider shall:

573 (a) Provide the child with the documentation required in  
 574 s. 39.701(7);

575 (b) Coordinate with local public and private entities in  
 576 designing the transition plan as appropriate;

577 (c) Coordinate the transition plan with the independent  
 578 living provisions in the case plan and the Individuals with  
 579 Disabilities Education Act transition plan for a child with a  
 580 disability; and

581 (d) Create a clear and developmentally appropriate notice  
 582 specifying the options available for a young adult who chooses  
 583 to remain in care for a longer period. The notice must include  
 584 information about what services the child is eligible for and  
 585 how such services may be obtained.

586 (5) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

587 (a) The community-based care lead agencies and its  
 588 contracted providers shall report to the department the

589 following information:

590 1. The total number of children in care who are enrolled  
591 in middle school or high school and, in a breakdown by age, how  
592 many had their living arrangements change one time and how many  
593 were moved two or more times. For the children who were moved,  
594 how many had to change schools and how many of those changes  
595 were due to a lack of transportation.

596 2. For those children for whom transportation was  
597 provided, how many children were provided transportation, how  
598 was it provided, how was the transportation paid for, and the  
599 amount of the total expenditure by the lead agency.

600 3. The same information required in subparagraphs 1. and  
601 2., specific to children in care with a disability.

602 4. In a breakdown by age, for those children who change  
603 schools at least once, how many children experienced problems in  
604 the transition, what kinds of problems were encountered, and  
605 what steps did the lead agency and the caregiver take to remedy  
606 those problems.

607 5. In a breakdown by age, out of the total number of  
608 children in care, the number of children who were absent from  
609 school more than 10 days in a semester and the steps taken by  
610 the lead agency and the caregiver to reduce absences.

611 6. Evidence that the lead agency has established a working  
612 relationship with each school district in which a child in care  
613 attends school.

614 7. In a breakdown by age, out of the total number of  
615 children in care, the number who have documentation in the case  
616 plan that either an education advocate or a surrogate parent has

617 been designated or appointed.

618 8. In a breakdown by age, out of the total number of  
619 children in care, the number of children who have documentation  
620 in the case plan that they have an education advocate who  
621 regularly participates in parent-teacher meetings and other  
622 school-related activities.

623 9. For those children in care who have finished 8th grade,  
624 the number of children who have documentation in the case plan  
625 that they have completed the academic and career plan required  
626 by s. 1003.4156 and that the child and the caregiver have signed  
627 the plan.

628 10. For those children in care who have a disability and  
629 have finished 8th grade, the number of children who have  
630 documentation in the case plan that they have had a transition  
631 individual education plan meeting.

632 11. The total number of children in care who are in middle  
633 school or high school, with a breakdown by age. For each age,  
634 the number of children who are reading at or above grade level,  
635 the number of children who have successfully completed the FCAT  
636 and end-of-course assessments, the number of children who have  
637 dropped out of school, the number of children who have enrolled  
638 in any dual enrollment or advanced placement courses, and the  
639 number of children completing the required number of courses,  
640 assessments, and hours needed to be promoted to the next grade  
641 level.

642 12. The total number of children in care who are in middle  
643 school or high school, with a breakdown by age. For each age,  
644 the number of children who have documentation in the case plan

645 that they are involved in at least one extracurricular activity,  
 646 whether it is a school-based or community-based activity,  
 647 whether they are involved in at least one service or volunteer  
 648 activity, and who provides the transportation.

649 13. The total number of children in care who are 17 years  
 650 of age and who are obtaining services from the lead agency or  
 651 its contracted providers and how many of that total number have  
 652 indicated that they plan to remain in care after turning 18  
 653 years of age, and for those children who plan to leave care, how  
 654 many children have a transition plan.

655 14. A breakdown of documented expenses for children in  
 656 middle and high school.

657 (b) Each community-based care lead agency shall provided  
 658 its report to the department by September 30 of each year. The  
 659 department shall compile the reports from each community-based  
 660 care lead agency and provide them to the Legislature by December  
 661 31 of each year, with the first report due to the Legislature on  
 662 December 31, 2011.

663 Section 4. Subsections (7), (8), and (9) of section  
 664 39.701, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

665 39.701 Judicial review.—

666 (7) (a) In addition to paragraphs (1) (a) and (2) (a), the  
 667 court shall hold a judicial review hearing within 90 days after  
 668 a child's ~~youth's~~ 17th birthday. The court shall also issue an  
 669 order, separate from the order on judicial review, that the  
 670 disability of nonage of the child ~~youth~~ has been removed  
 671 pursuant to s. 743.045. The court shall continue to hold timely  
 672 judicial review hearings thereafter. In addition, the court may



673 review the status of the child more frequently during the year  
 674 prior to the child's ~~youth's~~ 18th birthday if necessary. At each  
 675 review held under this subsection, in addition to any  
 676 information or report provided to the court, the caregiver  
 677 ~~foster parent~~, legal custodian, guardian ad litem, and the child  
 678 shall be given the opportunity to address the court with any  
 679 information relevant to the child's best interests, particularly  
 680 as it relates to the requirements of s. 39.6015 and the Road-to-  
 681 Independence Program under s. 409.1451 ~~independent living~~  
 682 ~~transition services~~. In addition to any information or report  
 683 provided to the court, the department shall include in its  
 684 judicial review social study report written verification that  
 685 the child has been provided with:

686 1. ~~Has been provided with~~ A current Medicaid card and ~~has~~  
 687 ~~been provided~~ all necessary information concerning the Medicaid  
 688 program sufficient to prepare the child ~~youth~~ to apply for  
 689 coverage upon reaching age 18, if such application would be  
 690 appropriate.

691 2. ~~Has been provided with~~ A certified copy of his or her  
 692 birth certificate and, if the child does not have a valid  
 693 driver's license, a Florida identification card issued under s.  
 694 322.051.

695 3. A social security card and ~~Has been provided~~  
 696 information relating to Social Security Insurance benefits if  
 697 the child is eligible for these benefits. If the child has  
 698 received these benefits and they are being held in trust for the  
 699 child, a full accounting of those funds must be provided and the  
 700 child must be informed about how to access those funds.

701 ~~4. Has been provided with information and training related~~  
 702 ~~to budgeting skills, interviewing skills, and parenting skills.~~

703 4.5. ~~Has been provided with~~ All relevant information  
 704 related to the Road-to-Independence Program, including, but not  
 705 limited to, eligibility requirements, information on how forms  
 706 necessary to participate apply, and assistance in gaining  
 707 admission to the program ~~completing the forms.~~ The child shall  
 708 also be informed that, if he or she is eligible for the Road-to-  
 709 Independence Program, he or she may reside with the licensed  
 710 ~~foster~~ family or group care provider with whom the child was  
 711 residing at the time of attaining his or her 18th birthday or  
 712 may reside in another licensed ~~foster~~ home or with a group care  
 713 provider arranged by the department.

714 5.6. An opportunity to ~~Has an~~ open a bank account, or  
 715 obtain ~~has~~ identification necessary to open an account, and has  
 716 been provided with essential banking and budgeting skills.

717 6.7. ~~Has been provided with~~ Information on public  
 718 assistance and how to apply.

719 7.8. ~~Has been provided~~ A clear understanding of where he  
 720 or she will be living on his or her 18th birthday, how living  
 721 expenses will be paid, and what educational program or school he  
 722 or she will be enrolled in.

723 8.9. Information related to the ability ~~Has been provided~~  
 724 ~~with notice of the~~ child youth's right to remain in care until  
 725 he or she reaches 21 years of age ~~petition for the court's~~  
 726 ~~continuing jurisdiction for 1 year after the youth's 18th~~  
 727 ~~birthday~~ as specified in s. 39.013(2) and ~~with~~ information on  
 728 how to participate in the Road-to-Independence Program ~~obtain~~

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729 ~~access to the court.~~

730 9. A letter providing the dates that the child was under  
731 the jurisdiction of the court.

732 10. A letter stating that the child was in care, in  
733 compliance with financial aid documentation requirements.

734 11. His or her entire educational records.

735 12. His or her entire health and mental health records.

736 13. The process for accessing his or her case file.

737 14.10. Encouragement ~~Has been encouraged~~ to attend all  
738 judicial review hearings occurring after his or her 17th  
739 birthday.

740 (b) At the first judicial review hearing held subsequent  
741 to the child's 17th birthday, in addition to the requirements of  
742 subsection (8), the department shall provide the court with an  
743 updated case plan that includes specific information related to  
744 the provisions of s. 39.6015, independent living services that  
745 ~~have been provided~~ since the child entered middle school child's  
746 ~~13th birthday~~, or since the date the child came into foster  
747 care, whichever came later.

748 (c) At the last judicial review hearing held before the  
749 child's 18th birthday, in addition of the requirements of  
750 subsection (8), the department shall provide for the court to  
751 review the transition plan for a child who is planning to leave  
752 care after reaching his or her 18th birthday.

753 (d) ~~(e)~~ At the time of a judicial review hearing held  
754 pursuant to this subsection, if, in the opinion of the court,  
755 the department has not complied with its obligations as  
756 specified in the written case plan or in the provision of

757 ~~independent living~~ services as required by s. 39.6015, s.  
 758 409.1451, and this subsection, the court shall issue a show  
 759 cause order. If cause is shown for failure to comply, the court  
 760 shall give the department 30 days within which to comply and, on  
 761 failure to comply with this or any subsequent order, the  
 762 department may be held in contempt.

763 (8) (a) Before every judicial review hearing or citizen  
 764 review panel hearing, the social service agency shall make an  
 765 investigation and social study concerning all pertinent details  
 766 relating to the child and shall furnish to the court or citizen  
 767 review panel a written report that includes, but is not limited  
 768 to:

769 1. A description of the type of placement the child is in  
 770 at the time of the hearing, including the safety of the child  
 771 and the continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the  
 772 placement.

773 2. Documentation of the diligent efforts made by all  
 774 parties to the case plan to comply with each applicable  
 775 provision of the plan.

776 3. The amount of fees assessed and collected during the  
 777 period of time being reported.

778 4. The services provided to the caregiver ~~foster family~~ or  
 779 legal custodian in an effort to address the needs of the child  
 780 as indicated in the case plan.

781 5. A statement that either:

782 a. The parent, though able to do so, did not comply  
 783 substantially with the case plan, and the agency  
 784 recommendations;

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785           b. The parent did substantially comply with the case plan;  
786 or

787           c. The parent has partially complied with the case plan,  
788 with a summary of additional progress needed and the agency  
789 recommendations.

790           6. A statement from the caregiver ~~foster parent~~ or legal  
791 custodian providing any material evidence concerning the return  
792 of the child to the parent or parents.

793           7. A statement concerning the frequency, duration, and  
794 results of the parent-child visitation, if any, and the agency  
795 recommendations for an expansion or restriction of future  
796 visitation.

797           8. The number of times a child has been removed from his  
798 or her home and placed elsewhere, the number and types of  
799 placements that have occurred, and the reason for the changes in  
800 placement.

801           9. The number of times a child's educational placement has  
802 been changed, the number and types of educational placements  
803 which have occurred, and the reason for any change in placement.

804           10. If the child has entered middle school ~~reached 13~~  
805 ~~years of age~~ but is not yet 18 years of age, the specific  
806 information contained in the case plan related to the provisions  
807 of s. 39.6015 ~~results of the preindependent living, life skills,~~  
808 ~~or independent living assessment;~~ the specific services needed;  
809 and the status of the delivery of the identified services.

810           11. Copies of all medical, psychological, and educational  
811 records that support the terms of the case plan and that have  
812 been produced concerning the parents or any caregiver since the

813 last judicial review hearing.

814 12. Copies of the child's current health, mental health,  
815 and education records as identified in s. 39.6012.

816 (b) A copy of the social service agency's written report  
817 and the written report of the guardian ad litem must be served  
818 on all parties whose whereabouts are known; to the caregivers  
819 ~~foster parents~~ or legal custodians; and to the citizen review  
820 panel, at least 72 hours before the judicial review hearing or  
821 citizen review panel hearing. The requirement for providing  
822 parents with a copy of the written report does not apply to  
823 those parents who have voluntarily surrendered their child for  
824 adoption or who have had their parental rights to the child  
825 terminated.

826 (c) In a case in which the child has been permanently  
827 placed with the social service agency, the agency shall furnish  
828 to the court a written report concerning the progress being made  
829 to place the child for adoption. If the child cannot be placed  
830 for adoption, a report on the progress made by the child towards  
831 alternative permanency goals or placements, including, but not  
832 limited to, guardianship, long-term custody, long-term licensed  
833 custody, or independent living, must be submitted to the court.  
834 The report must be submitted to the court at least 72 hours  
835 before each scheduled judicial review.

836 (d) In addition to or in lieu of any written statement  
837 provided to the court, the caregiver ~~foster parent~~ or legal  
838 custodian, or any preadoptive parent, shall be given the  
839 opportunity to address the court with any information relevant  
840 to the best interests of the child at any judicial review

841 hearing.

842 (9) The court and any citizen review panel shall take into  
843 consideration the information contained in the social services  
844 study and investigation and all medical, psychological, and  
845 educational records that support the terms of the case plan;  
846 testimony by the social services agency, the parent, the  
847 caregiver ~~foster parent~~ or legal custodian, the guardian ad  
848 litem or surrogate parent for educational decisionmaking if one  
849 has been appointed for the child, and any other person deemed  
850 appropriate; and any relevant and material evidence submitted to  
851 the court, including written and oral reports to the extent of  
852 their probative value. These reports and evidence may be  
853 received by the court in its effort to determine the action to  
854 be taken with regard to the child and may be relied upon to the  
855 extent of their probative value, even though not competent in an  
856 adjudicatory hearing. In its deliberations, the court and any  
857 citizen review panel shall seek to determine:

858 (a) If the parent was advised of the right to receive  
859 assistance from any person or social service agency in the  
860 preparation of the case plan.

861 (b) If the parent has been advised of the right to have  
862 counsel present at the judicial review or citizen review  
863 hearings. If not so advised, the court or citizen review panel  
864 shall advise the parent of such right.

865 (c) If a guardian ad litem needs to be appointed for the  
866 child in a case in which a guardian ad litem has not previously  
867 been appointed or if there is a need to continue a guardian ad  
868 litem in a case in which a guardian ad litem has been appointed.

869 (d) Who holds the rights to make educational decisions for  
 870 the child. If appropriate, the court may refer the child to the  
 871 district school superintendent for appointment of a surrogate  
 872 parent or may itself appoint a surrogate parent under the  
 873 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and s. 39.0016.

874 (e) The compliance or lack of compliance of all parties  
 875 with applicable items of the case plan, including the parents'  
 876 compliance with child support orders.

877 (f) The compliance or lack of compliance with a visitation  
 878 contract between the parent and the social service agency for  
 879 contact with the child, including the frequency, duration, and  
 880 results of the parent-child visitation and the reason for any  
 881 noncompliance.

882 (g) The compliance or lack of compliance of the parent in  
 883 meeting specified financial obligations pertaining to the care  
 884 of the child, including the reason for failure to comply if such  
 885 is the case.

886 (h) Whether the child is receiving safe and proper care  
 887 according to s. 39.6012, including, but not limited to, the  
 888 appropriateness of the child's current placement, including  
 889 whether the child is in a setting that is as family-like and as  
 890 close to the parent's home as possible, consistent with the  
 891 child's best interests and special needs, and including  
 892 maintaining stability in the child's educational placement, as  
 893 documented by assurances from the community-based care provider  
 894 that:

895 1. The placement of the child takes into account the  
 896 appropriateness of the current educational setting and the



897 proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the  
 898 time of placement.

899 2. The community-based care agency has coordinated with  
 900 appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the child  
 901 remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time  
 902 of placement.

903 (i) A projected date likely for the child's return home or  
 904 other permanent placement.

905 (j) When appropriate, the basis for the unwillingness or  
 906 inability of the parent to become a party to a case plan. The  
 907 court and the citizen review panel shall determine if the  
 908 efforts of the social service agency to secure party  
 909 participation in a case plan were sufficient.

910 (k) For a child who has entered middle school ~~reached 13~~  
 911 ~~years of age~~ but is not yet 18 years of age, the progress the  
 912 child has made in achieving the goals outlined in s. 39.6015  
 913 ~~adequacy of the child's preparation for adulthood and~~  
 914 ~~independent living.~~

915 Section 5. Section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 916 to read:

917 (Substantial rewording of section. See  
 918 s. 409.1451, F.S., for present text).

919 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—The Legislature  
 920 recognizes that most children and young adults are resilient  
 921 and, with adequate support, can expect to be successful as  
 922 independent adults. Not unlike all young adults, some young  
 923 adults who have lived in care need additional resources and  
 924 support for a period of time after reaching 18 years of age. The

925 Legislature intends for these young adults to receive the  
926 education, training, and health care services necessary for them  
927 to become self-sufficient through the Road-to-Independence  
928 Program. Young adults who participate in the Road-to-  
929 Independence Program may choose to remain in care until 21 years  
930 of age and receive help achieving their postsecondary goals by  
931 participating in the Foundations First Program, or they may  
932 choose to receive financial assistance to attend college through  
933 the College Bound Program.

934 (1) THE FOUNDATIONS FIRST PROGRAM.—The Foundations First  
935 Program is designed for young adults who have reached 18 years  
936 of age but are not yet 21 years of age, and who need to finish  
937 high school or who have a high school diploma, or its  
938 equivalent, and want to achieve additional goals. These young  
939 adults are ready to try postsecondary or vocational education,  
940 try working part-time or full-time, or need help with issues  
941 that might stand in their way of becoming employed. Young adults  
942 who are unable to participate in any of these programs or  
943 activities full time due to an impairment, including behavioral,  
944 developmental, and cognitive disabilities, might also benefit  
945 from remaining in out-of-home care longer.

946 (a) Eligibility; termination; and reentry.—

947 1. A young adult in licensed care who spent at least 6  
948 months in care before reaching 18 years of age and who is a  
949 resident of this state, as defined in s. 1009.40, is eligible  
950 for the Foundations First Program if he or she is:

951 a. Completing secondary education or a program leading to  
952 an equivalent credential;

953           b. Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary  
 954 or vocational education;

955           c. Participating in a program or activity designed to  
 956 promote, or eliminate barriers to, employment;

957           d. Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or

958           e. Unable to participate in these programs or activities  
 959 full time due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or  
 960 psychiatric condition that limits participation. Any such  
 961 restriction to participation must be supported by information in  
 962 the young adult's case file or school or medical records of a  
 963 physical, intellectual, or psychiatric condition that impairs  
 964 the young adult's ability to perform one or more life  
 965 activities.

966           2. The young adult in care must leave the Foundations  
 967 First Program on the earliest of the date the young adult:

968           a. Knowingly and voluntarily withdraws his or her consent  
 969 to participate;

970           b. Leaves care to live in a permanent home consistent with  
 971 his or her permanency plan;

972           c. Reaches 21 years of age;

973           d. Becomes incarcerated in an adult or juvenile justice  
 974 facility; or

975           e. In the case of a young adult with a disability, reaches  
 976 22 years of age.

977           3. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, the  
 978 department may not close a case and the court may not terminate  
 979 its jurisdiction until it finds, following a hearing held after  
 980 notice to all parties, that the following criteria have been

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981 met:

982 a. Attendance of the young adult at the hearing; or

983 b. Findings by the court that:

984 (I) The young adult has been informed by the department of  
985 his or her right to attend the hearing and has provided written  
986 consent to waive this right;

987 (II) The young adult has been informed of the potential  
988 negative effects of terminating care early, the option to  
989 reenter care before reaching 21 years of age, the procedure to,  
990 and limitations on, reentering care, the availability of  
991 alternative services, and that the young adult has signed a  
992 document attesting that he or she has been so informed and  
993 understands these provisions; and

994 (III) The department and the community-based care provider  
995 have complied with the case plan and any individual education  
996 plan. At the time of this judicial hearing, if, in the opinion  
997 of the court, the department and community-based provider have  
998 not complied with their obligations as specified in the case  
999 plan and any individual education plan, the court shall issue a  
1000 show cause order. If cause is shown for failure to comply, the  
1001 court shall give the department and community-based provider 30  
1002 days within which to comply and, on failure to comply with this  
1003 or any subsequent order, the department and community-based  
1004 provider may be held in contempt.

1005 4. A young adult who left care at or after reaching his or  
1006 her 18th birthday, but before reaching age 21, may petition the  
1007 court to resume jurisdiction and for the department to reopen  
1008 its case. The court shall resume jurisdiction and the department

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1009 shall reopen the case if the young adult is engaged in the  
 1010 programs or activities described in this paragraph. If the young  
 1011 adult comes back into the Foundations First Program, the  
 1012 department and community-based provider shall update the case  
 1013 plan within 30 days after reentry.

1014 (b) The transition plan.—For all young adults during the  
 1015 90-day period immediately before leaving care before reaching 21  
 1016 years of age or after leaving care on or after reaching 21 years  
 1017 of age, the department and the community-based care provider, in  
 1018 collaboration with the caregiver, any other designated education  
 1019 advocate, and any other individual whom the young adult would  
 1020 like to have included, shall assist and support the young adult  
 1021 in developing a transition plan. The transition plan must take  
 1022 into account all of the education and other achievements of the  
 1023 young adult, include specific options for the young adult on  
 1024 housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for  
 1025 mentors and continuing support services, and workforce support  
 1026 and employment services, and must be reviewed by the court  
 1027 during the last review hearing before the child leaves care. In  
 1028 developing the plan, the department and community-based provider  
 1029 shall:

1030 1. Provide the young adult with the documentation required  
 1031 in s. 39.701(7);

1032 2. Coordinate with local public and private entities in  
 1033 designing the transition plan as appropriate;

1034 3. Coordinate the transition plan with the independent  
 1035 living provisions in the case plan and the Individuals with  
 1036 Disabilities Education Act transition plan for a young adult

1037 with disabilities; and  
 1038 4. Create a clear and developmentally appropriate notice  
 1039 specifying the rights of a young adult who is leaving care. The  
 1040 notice must include information about what services the young  
 1041 adult may be eligible for and how such services may be obtained.  
 1042 The plan must clearly identify the young adult's goals and the  
 1043 work that will be required to achieve those goals.  
 1044 (c) Periodic reviews for young adults.—  
 1045 1. For any young adult who continues to remain in care on  
 1046 or after reaching 18 years of age, the department and community-  
 1047 based provider shall implement a case review system that  
 1048 requires:  
 1049 a. A judicial review at least once a year;  
 1050 b. That the court maintain oversight to ensure that the  
 1051 department is coordinating with the appropriate agencies, and,  
 1052 as otherwise permitted, maintains oversight of other agencies  
 1053 involved in implementing the young adult's case plan and  
 1054 individual education plan;  
 1055 c. That the department prepare and present to the court a  
 1056 report, developed in collaboration with the young adult,  
 1057 addressing the young adult's progress in meeting the goals in  
 1058 the case plan and individual education plan, and shall propose  
 1059 modifications as necessary to further those goals;  
 1060 d. That the court determine whether the department and any  
 1061 service provider under contract with the department is providing  
 1062 the appropriate services as provided in the case plan and any  
 1063 individual education plan. If the court believes that the young  
 1064 adult is entitled to additional services in order to achieve the

1065 goals enumerated in the case plan, under the department's  
 1066 policies, or under a contract with a service provider, the court  
 1067 may order the department to take action to ensure that the young  
 1068 adult receives the identified services; and

1069 e. That the young adult or any other party to the  
 1070 dependency case may request an additional hearing or review.

1071 2. In all permanency hearings or hearings regarding the  
 1072 transition of the young adult from care to independent living,  
 1073 the court shall consult, in an age-appropriate manner, with the  
 1074 young adult regarding the proposed permanency, case plan, and  
 1075 individual education plan for the young adult.

1076 (2) THE COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM.—

1077 (a) Purpose.—This program is designed for young adults who  
 1078 have reached 18 years of age but are not yet 23 years of age,  
 1079 have graduated from high school, have been accepted into  
 1080 college, and need a minimum of support from the state other than  
 1081 the financial resources to attend college.

1082 (b) Eligibility; termination; and reentry.—

1083 1. A young adult who has earned a standard high school  
 1084 diploma or its equivalent as described in s. 1003.43 or s.  
 1085 1003.435, has earned a special diploma or special certificate of  
 1086 completion as described in s. 1003.438, or has been admitted for  
 1087 full-time enrollment in an eligible postsecondary educational  
 1088 institution as defined in s. 1009.533, and has reached 18 years  
 1089 of age but is not yet 23 years of age is eligible for the  
 1090 College Bound Program if he or she:

1091 a. Was a dependent child, as provided under chapter 39,  
 1092 and was living in licensed care at the time of his or her 18th

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1093 birthday or is currently living in licensed care, or, after  
 1094 reaching 16 years of age, was adopted from care or placed with a  
 1095 court-approved dependency guardian and has spent a minimum of 6  
 1096 months in care immediately preceding such placement or adoption;

1097 b. Spent at least 6 months in care before reaching his or  
 1098 her 18th birthday; and

1099 c. Is a resident of this state as defined in s. 1009.40.

1100 2. A young adult with a disability may attend school part  
 1101 time and be eligible for this program.

1102 3. An eligible young adult may receive a stipend for the  
 1103 subsequent academic years if, for each subsequent academic year,  
 1104 the young adult meets the standards by which the approved  
 1105 institution measures a student's satisfactory academic progress  
 1106 toward completion of a program of study for the purposes of  
 1107 determining eligibility for federal financial aid under the  
 1108 Higher Education Act. Any young adult who is placed on academic  
 1109 probation may continue to receive a stipend for one additional  
 1110 semester if the approved institution allows the student to  
 1111 continue in school. If the student fails to make satisfactory  
 1112 academic progress in the semester or term subsequent to the term  
 1113 in which he received academic probation, stipend assistance  
 1114 shall be discontinued for the period required for the young  
 1115 adult to be reinstated by the college or university. Upon  
 1116 reinstatement, a young adult who has not yet reached 23 years of  
 1117 age may reapply for financial assistance.

1118 (3) PORTABILITY.—The provision of services pursuant to  
 1119 this section must be portable across county and state lines.

1120 (a) The services provided for in the original transition



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1121 plan shall be provided by the county where the young adult  
1122 resides but shall be funded by the county where the transition  
1123 plan was initiated. The care managers of the county of residence  
1124 and the county of origination must coordinate to ensure a smooth  
1125 transition for the young adult.

1126 (b) If a child in care under 18 years of age is placed in  
1127 another state, the sending state is responsible for care  
1128 maintenance payments, case planning, including a written  
1129 description of the programs and services that will help a child  
1130 16 years of age or older prepare for the transition from care to  
1131 independence, and a case review system as required by federal  
1132 law. The sending state has placement and care responsibility for  
1133 the child.

1134 (c) If a young adult formerly in care moves to another  
1135 state from the state in which he or she has left care due to  
1136 age, the state shall certify that it will provide assistance and  
1137 federally funded independent living services to the young adult  
1138 who has left care because he or she has attained 18 years of  
1139 age. The state in which the young adult resides is responsible  
1140 for services if the state provides the services needed by the  
1141 young adult.

1142 (4) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

1143 (a) The community-based care lead agencies and their  
1144 contracted providers shall report the following information to  
1145 the department:

1146 1. Out of the total number of young adults who decided to  
1147 remain in care upon reaching 18 years of age, the number of  
1148 young adults who do not have a high school diploma or its

1149 equivalent, a special diploma, or a certificate of completion.  
 1150 Out of those young adults without a diploma or its equivalent, a  
 1151 special diploma, or a certificate of completion, the number of  
 1152 young adults who are receiving assistance through tutoring and  
 1153 other types of support.

1154 2. Out of the total number of young adults who decided to  
 1155 remain in care upon reaching 18 years of age, a breakdown of  
 1156 academic and career goals and type of living arrangement.

1157 3. The same information required in subparagraphs 1. and  
 1158 2., specific to young adults in care with a disability.

1159 4. Out of the total number of young adults remaining in  
 1160 care, the number of young adults who are enrolled in an  
 1161 educational or vocational program and a breakdown of the types  
 1162 of programs.

1163 5. Out of the total number of young adults remaining in  
 1164 care, the number of young adults who are working and a breakdown  
 1165 of the types of employment held.

1166 6. Out of the total number of young adults remaining in  
 1167 care, the number of young adults who have a disability and a  
 1168 breakdown of how many young adults are in school, are training  
 1169 for employment, are employed, or are unable to participate in  
 1170 any of these activities.

1171 7. Evidence that the lead agency has established a working  
 1172 relationship with the Agency for Workforce Innovation and its  
 1173 regional workforce boards, the Able Trust, and other entities  
 1174 that provide services related to gaining employment.

1175 8. Out of the total number of young adults in care upon  
 1176 reaching 18 years of age, the number of young adults who are in

1177 the Road-to-Independence Program and a breakdown by the schools  
 1178 or other programs they are attending.

1179 9. Out of the total number of young adults who are in  
 1180 postsecondary institutions, a breakdown of the types and amounts  
 1181 of financial support received from sources other than the Road-  
 1182 to-Independence Program.

1183 10. Out of the total number of young adults who are in  
 1184 postsecondary institutions, a breakdown of the types of living  
 1185 arrangements.

1186 (b) Each community-based care lead agency shall provide  
 1187 its report to the department by September 30 of each year. The  
 1188 department shall compile the reports from each community-based  
 1189 care lead agency and provide them to the Legislature by December  
 1190 31 of each year, with the first report due to the Legislature on  
 1191 December 31, 2011.

1192 (5) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The  
 1193 secretary shall establish the Independent Living Services  
 1194 Advisory Council for the purpose of reviewing and making  
 1195 recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of  
 1196 the provisions of s. 39.6015 and the Road-to-Independence  
 1197 Program. This advisory council shall continue to function as  
 1198 specified in this subsection until the Legislature determines  
 1199 that the advisory council can no longer provide a valuable  
 1200 contribution to the department's efforts to achieve the goals of  
 1201 the services designed to enable a young adult to live  
 1202 independently.

1203 (a) Specifically, the advisory council shall assess the  
 1204 implementation and operation of the provisions of s. 39.6015 and

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1205 the Road-to-Independence Program and advise the department on  
 1206 actions that would improve the ability of those Road-to-  
 1207 Independence Program services to meet the established goals. The  
 1208 advisory council shall keep the department informed of problems  
 1209 being experienced with the services, barriers to the effective  
 1210 and efficient integration of services and support across  
 1211 systems, and successes that the system of services has achieved.  
 1212 The department shall consider, but is not required to implement,  
 1213 the recommendations of the advisory council.

1214 (b) The advisory council shall report to the secretary on  
 1215 the status of the implementation of the Road-To-Independence  
 1216 Program; efforts to publicize the availability of the Road-to-  
 1217 Independence Program; the success of the services; problems  
 1218 identified; recommendations for department or legislative  
 1219 action; and the department's implementation of the  
 1220 recommendations contained in the Independent Living Services  
 1221 Integration Workgroup Report submitted to the appropriate  
 1222 substantive committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2002.  
 1223 The department shall submit a report by December 31 of each year  
 1224 to the Governor and the Legislature which includes a summary of  
 1225 the factors reported on by the council and identifies the  
 1226 recommendations of the advisory council and either describes the  
 1227 department's actions to implement the recommendations or  
 1228 provides the department's rationale for not implementing the  
 1229 recommendations.

1230 (c) Members of the advisory council shall be appointed by  
 1231 the secretary of the department. The membership of the advisory  
 1232 council must include, at a minimum, representatives from the

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1233 headquarters and district offices of the Department of Children  
1234 and Family Services, community-based care lead agencies, the  
1235 Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of Education,  
1236 the Agency for Health Care Administration, the State Youth  
1237 Advisory Board, Workforce Florida, Inc., the Statewide Guardian  
1238 Ad Litem Office, foster parents, recipients of services and  
1239 funding through the Road-to-Independence Program, and advocates  
1240 for children in care. The secretary shall determine the length  
1241 of the term to be served by each member appointed to the  
1242 advisory council, which may not exceed 4 years.

1243 (d) The department shall provide administrative support to  
1244 the Independent Living Services Advisory Council to accomplish  
1245 its assigned tasks. The advisory council shall be afforded  
1246 access to all appropriate data from the department, each  
1247 community-based care lead agency, and other relevant agencies in  
1248 order to accomplish the tasks set forth in this section. The  
1249 data collected may not include any information that would  
1250 identify a specific child or young adult.

1251 (e) The advisory council report required under paragraph  
1252 (b) to be submitted to the substantive committees of the Senate  
1253 and the House of Representatives by December 31, 2008, shall  
1254 include an analysis of the system of independent living  
1255 transition services for young adults who attain 18 years of age  
1256 while in care prior to completing high school or its equivalent  
1257 and recommendations for department or legislative action. The  
1258 council shall assess and report on the most effective method of  
1259 assisting these young adults to complete high school or its  
1260 equivalent by examining the practices of other states.

1261           (6) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—Property acquired on behalf of  
 1262 clients of this program shall become the personal property of  
 1263 the clients and is not subject to the requirements of chapter  
 1264 273 relating to state-owned tangible personal property. Such  
 1265 property continues to be subject to applicable federal laws.

1266           (7) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS FORMERLY IN CARE.—  
 1267 The department shall enroll in the Florida Kidcare program,  
 1268 outside the open enrollment period, each young adult who is  
 1269 eligible as described in paragraph (1) (a) and who has not yet  
 1270 reached his or her 19th birthday.

1271           (a) A young adult who was formerly in care at the time of  
 1272 his or her 18th birthday and who is 18 years of age but not yet  
 1273 19, shall pay the premium for the Florida Kidcare program as  
 1274 required in s. 409.814.

1275           (b) A young adult who has health insurance coverage from a  
 1276 third party through his or her employer or who is eligible for  
 1277 Medicaid is not eligible for enrollment under this subsection.

1278           (8) RULEMAKING.—The department shall adopt by rule  
 1279 procedures to administer this section. The rules shall describe  
 1280 the procedure and requirements necessary to administer the Road-  
 1281 to-Independence Program. The rules shall reflect that the  
 1282 program is for young adults who have chosen to remain in care  
 1283 for an extended period of time or who are planning to attain  
 1284 post secondary education and should be designed to accommodate a  
 1285 young adult's busy life and schedule. The rules shall make the  
 1286 program easy to access for a qualified young adult and  
 1287 facilitate and encourage his or her participation.

1288           Section 6. The Department of Children and Family Services

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1289 shall amend the format of the case plan and the judicial review  
 1290 social service report to reflect the provisions of s. 39.6015,  
 1291 Florida Statutes, and the changes to s. 409.1451, Florida  
 1292 Statutes.

1293 Section 7. Effective October 1, 2011, a child or young  
 1294 adult who is currently participating in the Road-to-Independence  
 1295 Program may continue in the program as it exists as of September  
 1296 30, 2011. A child or young adult applying for the Road-to-  
 1297 Independence program on or after October 1, 2011, may apply for  
 1298 program services only as provided in this act.

1299 Section 8. The Department of Children and Family Services  
 1300 shall develop a request for proposal for the purpose of  
 1301 establishing and operating a system to provide educational  
 1302 advocates for a child in care who is in middle and high school.  
 1303 Competitive proposals shall be solicited by the department  
 1304 pursuant to chapter 287, Florida Statutes. Entities responding  
 1305 to the request for proposal must have child advocacy as their  
 1306 primary focus, have an established statewide infrastructure, and  
 1307 have experience in working with paid staff and volunteers.

1308 Section 9. The Department of Children and Family Services  
 1309 shall contract with a national nonprofit organization that  
 1310 advocates for and provides services to older children in care  
 1311 and young adults formerly in care for the purpose of  
 1312 administering the Road-to-Independence Program. The organization  
 1313 must have experience and expertise in administering scholarship  
 1314 programs, providing mentoring and academic coaching to help  
 1315 young adults at risk of failing or dropping out of school, and  
 1316 assisting young adults locate internship opportunities. The

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1317 organization must also be able to report enrollment, attendance,  
1318 academic progress, and financial data for each young adult to  
1319 the state at an agreed-upon interval.

1320 Section 10. Funding for postsecondary education students  
1321 who are age 21 through age 23 shall be contingent upon available  
1322 funding.

1323 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.