

By Senator Sobel

33-01555-16

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3           Education Program; amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; revising  
4           requirements for prekindergarten instructors employed  
5           by a private prekindergarten provider; providing that  
6           private prekindergarten providers meeting certain  
7           criteria are eligible for additional funding; amending  
8           s. 1002.67, F.S.; revising requirements for the pre-  
9           and post-assessment administered to students enrolled  
10           in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
11           providing an effective date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
15           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and subsection  
16           (4) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
17           subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

18           1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
19           private prekindergarten providers.—

20           (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
21           a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
22           following requirements:

23           (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
24           each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one  
25           prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following  
26           requirements:

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

29           a. A child development associate credential issued by the  
30           National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional  
31           Recognition; or

32           b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and

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33 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential  
34 described in sub-subparagraph a.

35  
36 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under  
37 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures  
38 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

39 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
40 complete an emergent literacy training course and a student  
41 performance standards training course approved by the office as  
42 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.  
43 1002.59. The requirement for completion of the standards  
44 training course shall take effect July 1, 2014, and the course  
45 shall be available online.

46 3. The prekindergarten instructor must annually complete a  
47 minimum of 1.5 continuing education units of approved inservice  
48 training, or 15 clock hours of equivalent training, as approved  
49 by the office.

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

53 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood  
54 education, prekindergarten through 3rd grade ~~or primary~~  
55 education, preschool education, or family and consumer science;

56 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,  
57 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach  
58 children any age from birth through kindergarten ~~6th grade~~,  
59 regardless of whether the instructor's educator certificate is  
60 current, and if the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a  
61 public school because his or her educator certificate is

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62 suspended or revoked;

63 (c) An associate's or higher degree in early childhood  
64 education or child development;

65 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,  
66 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child  
67 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or  
68 providing child care services for children any age from birth  
69 through 6 ~~8~~ years of age; or

70 (e) An educational credential approved by the department as  
71 being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential  
72 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria  
73 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials  
74 under this paragraph.

75 (6) A private prekindergarten provider serving children in  
76 an area designated as an enterprise zone pursuant to s. 290.0065  
77 with instructors who meet the requirements of paragraph (4)(a)  
78 or paragraph (4)(c) is eligible for additional funding as  
79 provided in the General Appropriations Act.

80 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of  
81 section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

82 1002.67 Performance standards; curricula and  
83 accountability.—

84 (3) (a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each  
85 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the  
86 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement a  
87 single, ~~an~~ evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been  
88 approved by rule of the State Board of Education.

89 (b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be  
90 observational, valid, reliable, developmentally appropriate, and

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91 designed to measure student progress on domains which must  
92 include, but are not limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and  
93 language.

94 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.