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A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program; amending s. 39.201, F.S.; providing an exception from a prohibition against the use of information in the Department of Children and Families central abuse hotline for employment screening of certain child care personnel; amending s. 39.202, F.S.; expanding the list of entities that have access to child abuse records for purposes of approving providers of school readiness services; amending s. 402.302, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "screening" for purposes of child care licensing requirements; amending s. 402.3025, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; repealing s. 402.3057, F.S., relating to persons not required to be refingerprinted or rescreened; amending s. 402.306, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families and local licensing agencies to electronically post certain information relating to child care and school readiness providers; amending s. 402.311, F.S.; requiring school readiness program providers to provide the department or local licensing agencies with access to facilities, personnel, and records for inspection purposes; amending s. 402.319, F.S.; requiring certain child care providers to submit an affidavit of compliance with certain mandatory

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reporting requirements; amending s. 435.07, F.S.;
providing criteria for disqualification from
employment with a school readiness program provider;
amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; revising the duties of the
Office of Early Learning of the Department of
Education; requiring the office to coordinate with the
Department of Children and Families and local
licensing agencies for inspections of school readiness
program providers; amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; revising
provisions relating to determination of child
eligibility for school readiness programs; revising
requirements for determining parent copayments for
participation in the program; amending s. 1002.87,
F.S.; revising school readiness program eligibility
requirements; amending s. 1002.88, F.S.; revising
requirements for school readiness program providers;
amending s. 1002.89, F.S.; providing for additional
uses of funds for school readiness programs; providing
an effective date.
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 39.201, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:
39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or

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neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse hotline.-



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- (6) Information in the central abuse hotline may not be used for employment screening, except as provided in s. 39.202(2)(a) and (h) or s. 402.302(15). Information in the central abuse hotline and the department's automated abuse information system may be used by the department, its authorized agents or contract providers, the Department of Health, or county agencies as part of the licensure or registration process pursuant to ss. 402.301-402.319 and ss. 409.175-409.176.
- Section 2. 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, the Office of Early Learning, 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;
- 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes, child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393, or

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family day care homes, or informal child care providers who receive school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, 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.

Section 3. Subsection (15) of section 402.302, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

- (15) "Screening" means the act of assessing the background of child care personnel, in accordance with state and federal law, and volunteers and includes, but is not limited to: $\tau$
- (a) Employment history checks, <u>including documented</u>

  attempts to contact each employer that employed the applicant

  within the preceding 5 years and documentation of the findings.
- (b) A search of the criminal history records, sexual predator and sexual offender registry, and child abuse and neglect registry of any state in which the applicant resided during the preceding 5 years.

An applicant must submit a full set of fingerprints to the

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department or to a vendor, entity, or agency authorized by s.

943.053(13). The department, vendor, entity, or agency shall

forward the fingerprints to local criminal records checks

through local law enforcement agencies, fingerprinting for all

purposes and checks in this subsection, statewide criminal

records checks through the Department of Law Enforcement for

state processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall

forward the fingerprints to federal criminal records checks

through the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national

processing. Fingerprint submission must comply with s. 435.12.

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section

402.3025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.3025 Public and nonpublic schools.—For the purposes of ss. 402.301-402.319, the following shall apply:

- (2) NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS.-
- (c) Programs for children who are at least 3 years of age, but under 5 years of age, shall not be deemed to be child care and shall not be subject to the provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 relating to child care facilities, provided the programs in the schools are operated and staffed directly by the schools, provided a majority of the children enrolled in the schools are 5 years of age or older, and provided there is compliance with the screening requirements for personnel pursuant to s. 402.305 or s. 402.3057. A nonpublic school may designate certain programs as child care, in which case these programs shall be subject to the provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319.

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131 Section 5. Section 402.3057, Florida Statutes, is 132 repealed. Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 402.306, Florida 133 134 Statutes, is amended to read: 402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by 135 136 the department and local licensing agency of information on 137 child care.-138 (3) The department and local licensing agencies, or the 139 designees thereof, shall be responsible for coordination and dissemination of information on child care to the community and 140 shall make available through electronic means upon request all 141 licensing standards and procedures, health and safety standards 142 for school readiness providers, monitoring and inspection 143 144 reports, and in addition to the names and addresses of licensed child care facilities, school readiness program providers, and, 145 146 where applicable pursuant to s. 402.313, licensed or registered 147 family day care homes. This information shall also include the 148 number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of 149 substantiated child abuse that have occurred in child care 150 settings each year; research and best practices in child 151 development; and resources regarding social-emotional 152 development, parent and family engagement, healthy eating, and 153 physical activity. 154 Section 7. Section 402.311, Florida Statutes, is amended 155 to read: 156 402.311 Inspection.-

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A licensed child care facility shall accord to the department or the local licensing agency, whichever is applicable, the privilege of inspection, including access to facilities and personnel and to those records required in s. 402.305, at reasonable times during regular business hours, to ensure compliance with the provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319. The right of entry and inspection shall also extend to any premises which the department or local licensing agency has reason to believe are being operated or maintained as a child care facility without a license, but no such entry or inspection of any premises shall be made without the permission of the person in charge thereof unless a warrant is first obtained from the circuit court authorizing such entry or inspection same. Any application for a license or renewal made pursuant to this act or the advertisement to the public for the provision of child care as defined in s. 402.302 shall constitute permission for any entry or inspection of the premises for which the license is sought in order to facilitate verification of the information submitted on or in connection with the application. In the event a licensed facility refuses permission for entry or inspection to the department or local licensing agency, a warrant shall be obtained from the circuit court authorizing entry or inspection before same prior to such entry or inspection. The department or local licensing agency may institute disciplinary proceedings pursuant to s.  $402.310_{7}$  for such refusal.

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A school readiness program provider shall accord to



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the department or the local licensing agency, whichever is applicable, the privilege of inspection, including access to facilities, personnel, and records, to verify compliance with the requirements of s. 1002.88. Entry, inspection, and issuance of an inspection report by the department or the local licensing agency to verify compliance with the requirements of s. 1002.88 is an exercise of a discretionary power to enforce compliance with the laws duly enacted by a governmental body.

(3) The department's issuance, transmittal, or publication of an inspection report resulting from an inspection under this section does not constitute agency action subject to chapter 120.

Section 8. Subsection (3) is added to section 402.319, Florida Statutes, to read:

402.319 Penalties.-

(3) Each child care facility, family day care home, and large family child care home shall annually submit an affidavit of compliance with s. 39.201.

Section 9. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (4) of section 435.07, Florida Statutes, to read:

435.07 Exemptions from disqualification.—Unless otherwise provided by law, the provisions of this section apply to exemptions from disqualification for disqualifying offenses revealed pursuant to background screenings required under this chapter, regardless of whether those disqualifying offenses are listed in this chapter or other laws.

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209	(4)		
210	(c) Disqualification from employment under this chapter		
211	may not be removed from, and an exemption may not be granted to,		
212	any current or prospective child care personnel of a provider		
213	receiving school readiness funding under part VI of chapter		
214	1002, and such a person is disqualified from employment as child		
215	care personnel with such providers, regardless of any prior		
216	exemptions from disqualification, if the person has been		
217	registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s.		
218	9858f(c)(1)(C) or has been arrested for and is awaiting final		
219	disposition of, has been convicted or found guilty of, or		
220	entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of		
221	adjudication, or has been adjudicated delinquent and the record		
222	has not been sealed or expunged for, any offense prohibited		
223	under any of the following provisions of state law or a similar		
224	law of another jurisdiction:		
225	1. A felony offense prohibited under any of the following		
226	statutes:		
227	a. Chapter 741, relating to domestic violence.		
228	b. Section 782.04, relating to murder.		
229	c. Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated		
230	manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated		
231	manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an		
232	officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a		
233	paramedic.		

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d. Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault.



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235 e. Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery. f. Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping. 236 237 Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a 238 child. 239 h. Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking, 240 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or 241 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending 242 custody proceedings. i. Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking, 243 244 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or 245 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending 246 dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse 247 or neglect of a minor. 248 j. Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery. k. Former s. 794.041, relating to sexual activity with or 249 250 solicitation of a child by a person in familial or custodial 251 authority. 252 1. Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity 253 with certain minors. 254 m. Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation. 255 n. Section 806.01, relating to arson. 256 o. Section 826.04, relating to incest. 257 p. Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated 258 child abuse, or neglect of a child. 259 Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the

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delinquency or dependency of a child.

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261 Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a 262 child. 263 s. Chapter 847, relating to child pornography. 264 Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in t. 265 juvenile justice programs. 266 2. A misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the 267 following statutes: Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of 268 269 the offense was a minor. 270 Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a 271 child. 272 c. Chapter 847, relating to child pornography. 273 3. A criminal act committed in another state or under 274 federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an 275 offense prohibited under any statute listed in subparagraph 1. 276 or subparagraph 2. 277 Section 10. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of section 278 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (s) 279 through (x) are added to that subsection, to read: 280 1002.82 Office of Early Learning; powers and duties.-281 (2) The office shall: 282 Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local (i) 283 licensing agencies and <del>Develop, in coordination with</del> the Child 284 Care Services Program Office of the Department of Children and 285 Families for inspections of school readiness program providers

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to monitor and verify compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health

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and safety checklist adopted by the office. The provider
contract of a school readiness program provider that refuses
permission for entry or inspection shall be terminated. The, and
$\frac{\text{adopt a}}{\text{adopt a}}$ health and safety checklist $\frac{\text{may}}{\text{to be completed by}}$
<del>license-exempt providers that does</del> not exceed the requirements
of s. 402.305 and the Child Care and Development Fund pursuant
to 45 C.F.R. part 98.

- (s) Develop and implement strategies to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care services for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who receive care during nontraditional hours, children in underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment.
- (t) Establish preservice and inservice training requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child development standards, health and safety requirements, and social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include positive behavior intervention and support models.
- (u) Establish standards for emergency preparedness plans for school readiness program providers.
  - (v) Establish group sizes.
- (w) Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s. 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program providers.
- (x) Establish eligibility criteria, including limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance with s. 1002.87

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## and federal law.

Section 11. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

- (7) Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. At a minimum, Child eligibility must be redetermined annually. Redetermination must also be conducted twice per year for an additional 50 percent of a coalition's enrollment through a statistically valid random sampling. A coalition must document the reason why a child is no longer eligible for the school readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by the office.
- (8) Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides for requires a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families receiving to participate in the school readiness program services. Providers are required to collect the parent's copayment. A coalition may, on a case-by-case basis, waive the copayment for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's income is at or below the federal poverty level and whose family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the parent is participating in parenting classes. A parent may not transfer school readiness

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program services to another school readiness program provider until the parent has submitted documentation from the current school readiness program provider to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

Section 12. Subsections (1), (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.87, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.87 School readiness program; eligibility and enrollment.—

- (1) Effective August 1, 2013, or upon reevaluation of eligibility for children currently served, whichever is later, Each early learning coalition shall give priority for participation in the school readiness program as follows:
- (a) Priority shall be given first to a child younger than 13 years of age from a family that includes a parent who is receiving temporary cash assistance under chapter 414 and subject to the federal work requirements.
- (b) Priority shall be given next to an at-risk child younger than 9 years of age.
- (c) Priority shall be given next to a child from birth to 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. who is from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, and may include such child's eligible siblings, beginning with the school year in which the sibling is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public

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school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. until the beginning of the school year in which the sibling is eligible to begin 6th grade, provided that the first priority for funding an eligible sibling is local revenues available to the coalition for funding direct services. However, a child eligible under this paragraph ceases to be eligible if his or her family income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

- (d) Priority shall be given next to a child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s. 445.032 from birth to 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.
- (e) Priority shall be given next to an at-risk child who is at least 9 years of age but younger than 13 years of age. An at-risk child whose sibling is enrolled in the school readiness program within an eligibility priority category listed in paragraphs (a)-(c) shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this paragraph.
- (f) Priority shall be given next to a child who is younger than 13 years of age from a working family that is economically disadvantaged. A child who is eligible under this paragraph whose sibling is enrolled in the school readiness program under paragraph (c) shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this paragraph. However, a child eligible under this paragraph ceases to be eligible if his or her family income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

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- (g) Priority shall be given next to a child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s. 445.032 who is younger than 13 years of age.
- (h) Priority shall be given next to a child who has special needs, has been determined eligible as a student with a disability, has a current individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is not younger than 3 years of age. A special needs child eligible under this paragraph remains eligible until the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.
- (i) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)-(d), priority shall be given last to a child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility criteria in paragraphs (a)-(d) but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
- (4) The parent of a child enrolled in the school readiness program must notify the coalition or its designee within 10 days after any change in employment status, income, or family size or failure to maintain attendance at a job training or educational program in accordance with program requirements. Upon notification by the parent, the child's eligibility must be reevaluated.
- (5) A child whose eligibility priority category requires the child to be from a working family ceases to be eligible for the school readiness program if a parent with whom the child resides does not reestablish employment or resume attendance at

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- <u>a job training or educational program</u> within <u>90</u> <del>60</del> days after becoming unemployed <u>or ceasing to attend a job training or educational program.</del></u>
- (6) Eligibility for each child must be reevaluated annually. Upon reevaluation, a child may not continue to receive school readiness program services if he or she has ceased to be eligible under this section. A child who is ineligible due to a parent's job loss or cessation of education or job training shall continue to receive school readiness program services for at least 3 months to enable the parent to obtain employment.

Section 13. Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (1) of section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.88 School readiness program provider standards; eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

- (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program, a school readiness program provider must:
- (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness program.
- 1. For a provider that is licensed child care facility, a large family child care home, or a licensed family day care home, compliance with s. 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.
  - 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care

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home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the		
Department of Children and Families, compliance with this		
subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this		
requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the		
<pre>provider</pre> For a public or nonpublic school, compliance with s.		
402.3025 or s. 1003.22 satisfies this requirement. A faith-based		
child care provider, an informal child care provider, or a		
nonpublic school, exempt from licensure under s. 402.316 or s.		
$402.3025_{ extsf{r}}$ shall annually $\underline{\text{post}}$ $\underline{\text{complete}}$ the health and safety		
checklist adopted by the office, post the checklist prominently		
on its premises in plain sight for visitors and parents $_{\mathcal{T}}$ and		
shall annually submit the checklist it annually to its local		
early learning coalition.		
(d) Provide an appropriate group size and staff-to-		

- (d) Provide an appropriate group size and staff-to-children ratio, pursuant to s. 402.305(4) or s. 402.302(8) or (11), as applicable, and as verified pursuant to s. 402.311.
- (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.

  402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the

  office Provide a healthy and safe environment pursuant to s.

  402.305(5), (6), and (7), as applicable, and as verified pursuant to s. 402.311.
- Section 14. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
  - 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—
  - (6) Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the

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efficient and effective administration of the school readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5 percent of the funds described in subsection (5) may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent of the funds described in subsection (5) may be used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

- (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.52, which shall include monitoring providers using the standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted under s. 1002.82(2)(m).
- (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.51, which shall be limited to the following:
- 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents and the public to promote informed child care choices specified in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33 regarding participation in the school readiness program and parental choice.
- 2. Awarding grants <u>and providing financial support</u> to school readiness program providers <u>and their staff</u> to assist them in meeting applicable state requirements for child care

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- performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate curricula and related classroom resources that support curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued professional development and training. Any grants awarded pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with the requirements of ss. 215.971 and 287.058.
- 3. Providing training, and technical assistance, and financial support to for school readiness program providers, staff, and parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child development research and best practices, developmentally appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection, and prevention, and reporting.
- 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for infant and toddler care.
- 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.
- 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and parents related to school readiness program children, including

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providing developmental and health screenings to school readiness program children.

- (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office of Management and Budget instructions are those services not defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are required to administer the school readiness program. Such services include, but are not limited to:
- 1. Assisting families to complete the required application and eligibility documentation.
  - 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
  - 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
  - 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
- 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care information system.

As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does not include payments to school readiness program providers for direct services provided to children who are eligible under s. 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

(7) Funds appropriated for the school readiness program may not be expended for the purchase or improvement of land; for the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building or facility; or for the purchase of buses. However, funds may be expended for minor remodeling and upgrading of child care facilities which is necessary for the administration

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of the program and to	ensure that providers meet state and local		
child care standards,	including applicable health and safety		
requirements.			

Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

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