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576-04047-17

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to voluntary prekindergarten education; amending s. 1001.215, F.S.; requiring the Just Read, Florida! Office to provide teachers, reading coaches, and principals in prekindergarten through grade 3 with specified training; requiring the office to work with the Florida Center for Reading Research to develop and provide access to certain programming, practices, and resources; amending s. 1002.51, F.S.; defining the term "public school prekindergarten provider"; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; requiring each early learning coalition to coordinate with the Office of Early Learning to assign student identification numbers for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.; requiring voluntary prekindergarten providers to provide parents with pre- and post-assessment results within a specified timeframe; providing for the reporting and distribution of the results; requiring the office to determine eligibility criteria for reenrollment; amending s. 1002.69, F.S.; revising requirements for the adoption and use of the statewide kindergarten screening; conforming cross-references; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; authorizing a child to reenroll in certain school-year programs under certain circumstances; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the date by which the Department of



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28 Education must submit specified information regarding  
29 the implementation of school district K-12  
30 comprehensive reading plans to the Legislature;  
31 providing an effective date.  
32

33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
34

35 Section 1. Section 1001.215, Florida Statutes, is amended  
36 to read:

37 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in  
38 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The  
39 office shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of  
40 Education and shall:

41 (1) Train highly effective reading coaches.

42 (2) Create multiple designations of effective reading  
43 instruction, with accompanying credentials, which encourage all  
44 teachers to integrate reading instruction into their content  
45 areas.

46 (3) Train Voluntary Prekindergarten through grade 3  
47 teachers, reading coaches, and school principals on effective  
48 research-based reading instructional strategies and  
49 interventions for all students. Contingent upon legislative  
50 appropriation, this training must be designed to be consistently  
51 delivered statewide in an appropriate format. The office shall  
52 collaborate with the Office of Early Learning to develop the  
53 training.

54 (4)~~(3)~~ Train grade 4-12 ~~K-12~~ teachers and school principals  
55 on effective content-area-specific reading strategies. For  
56 secondary teachers, emphasis shall be on technical text. These



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57 strategies must be developed for all content areas in the grade  
58 4-12 ~~K-12~~ curriculum.

59 (5) ~~(4)~~ Provide parents with information and strategies for  
60 assisting their children in reading in the content area.

61 (6) ~~(5)~~ Provide technical assistance to school districts in  
62 the development and implementation of district plans for use of  
63 the research-based reading instruction allocation provided in s.  
64 1011.62(9) and annually review and approve such plans.

65 (7) ~~(6)~~ Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance  
66 to school districts' implementation of the K-12 comprehensive  
67 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

68 (8) ~~(7)~~ Work with the Florida Center for Reading Research to  
69 provide information on research-based reading programs and  
70 effective reading in the content area strategies.

71 (9) Work with the Florida Center for Reading Research to  
72 develop and provide access to sequenced curriculum programming,  
73 instructional practices, and resources that help elementary  
74 schools use state-adopted instructional materials and content-  
75 rich texts to increase students' background knowledge and  
76 literacy skills consistent with the state academic standards.

77 (10) ~~(8)~~ Periodically review the Next Generation Sunshine  
78 State Standards for reading at all grade levels.

79 (11) ~~(9)~~ Periodically review teacher certification  
80 examinations, including alternative certification exams, to  
81 ascertain whether the examinations measure the skills needed for  
82 research-based reading instruction ~~and instructional strategies~~  
83 ~~for teaching reading in the content areas.~~

84 (12) ~~(10)~~ Work with teacher preparation programs approved  
85 pursuant to s. 1004.04 to integrate research-based reading



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86 instructional strategies and reading in the content area  
87 instructional strategies into teacher preparation programs.

88 (13)~~(11)~~ Administer grants and perform other functions as  
89 necessary to meet the goal that all students read at grade  
90 level.

91 Section 2. Subsection (8) is added to section 1002.51,  
92 Florida Statutes, to read:

93 1002.51 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

94 (8) "Public school prekindergarten provider" includes a  
95 charter school that is authorized to provide a prekindergarten  
96 program in its charter consistent with s. 1002.33 and that is  
97 eligible to deliver the school-year prekindergarten program  
98 under s. 1002.63 or the summer prekindergarten program under s.  
99 1002.61.

100 Section 3. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (4) of  
101 section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, to read:

102 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
103 eligibility and enrollment.—

104 (4)

105 (d) Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with the  
106 Office of Early Learning to assign student identification  
107 numbers to each student who enrolls in the Voluntary  
108 Prekindergarten Education Program.

109 Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of  
110 section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraphs (d)  
111 and (e) are added to subsection (3) of that section, present  
112 subsection (4) of that section is redesignated as subsection  
113 (5), and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

114 1002.67 Performance standards; curricula and



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115 accountability.-

116 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
117 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or  
118 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
119 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school  
120 that is placed on probation under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(4) (e)~~.

121 (c) The office shall review and approve curricula for use  
122 by private prekindergarten providers and public schools that are  
123 placed on probation under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(4) (e)~~. The office  
124 shall maintain a list of the curricula approved under this  
125 paragraph. Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements  
126 of paragraph (b).

127 (3)

128 (d) Each private prekindergarten provider and public school  
129 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program shall provide  
130 parents with the results of the pre- and post-assessments,  
131 including any resources that might be helpful for their  
132 students, within 10 days after administration of the assessment.

133 (e) The results of the pre- and post-assessments must be  
134 reported at the aggregate level, distributed to the respective  
135 early learning coalitions and school districts, and displayed on  
136 the office's website within 30 days after administration of the  
137 assessment.

138 (4) The office shall determine the eligibility criteria for  
139 enrollment, as authorized by s. 1002.71(4) (c), and for  
140 reenrollment in the school year Voluntary Prekindergarten  
141 Education Program.

142 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a), (e),  
143 and (f) of subsection (7) of section 1002.69, Florida Statutes,



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144 are amended to read:

145 1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten  
146 readiness rates; state-approved prekindergarten enrollment  
147 screening; good cause exemption.-

148 (1) The department shall adopt a single statewide  
149 kindergarten screening that assesses the readiness of each  
150 student for kindergarten based upon the performance standards  
151 adopted by the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary  
152 Prekindergarten Education Program. The department shall require  
153 that each school district administer the statewide kindergarten  
154 screening to each kindergarten student in the school district  
155 within the first 30 school days of each school year. Nonpublic  
156 schools may administer the statewide kindergarten screening to  
157 each kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled  
158 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

159 (2) The statewide kindergarten screening must ~~shall~~ provide  
160 objective data concerning each student's readiness for  
161 kindergarten and progress in attaining the performance standards  
162 adopted by the office under s. 1002.67(1), with an emphasis on  
163 early literacy and numeracy skills. The screening must be a  
164 direct assessment of these skills.

165 (7) (a) Notwithstanding s. 1002.67(5)(c)3. ~~s.~~  
166 ~~1002.67(4)(c)3.~~, the office, upon the request of a private  
167 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
168 probation for 2 consecutive years or more and subsequently fails  
169 to meet the minimum rate adopted under subsection (6) and for  
170 good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an  
171 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the  
172 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state



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173 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,  
174 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or  
175 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

176 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
177 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its  
178 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required  
179 under s. 1002.67(5)(c)1. ~~s. 1002.67(4)(e)1.~~, including the use  
180 of a curriculum approved by the office, until the provider or  
181 school meets the minimum rate adopted under subsection (6).

182 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private  
183 prekindergarten provider who remains on probation for 2  
184 consecutive years, the office shall notify the early learning  
185 coalition of the good cause exemption and direct that the  
186 coalition, notwithstanding s. 1002.67(5)(c)3. ~~s.~~  
187 ~~1002.67(4)(e)3.~~, not remove the provider from eligibility to  
188 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or to  
189 receive state funds for the program, if the provider meets all  
190 other applicable requirements of this part.

191 Section 6. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (4) of  
192 section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, to read:

193 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

194 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

195 (c) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, a child who has  
196 completed a school-year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
197 Program but is determined to be at risk of not attaining the  
198 performance standards specified by s. 1002.67(1) may reenroll in  
199 one of the school-year programs, which is offered by a provider  
200 that has met the adopted minimum readiness rate provided under  
201 s. 1002.69(6), for the subsequent year at the request of the



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202 child's parent. The prekindergarten program may report the child  
203 for funding purposes as a full-time equivalent student in the  
204 school-year program for which he or she is enrolled.

205  
206 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program  
207 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten  
208 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from  
209 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good  
210 cause exemption under this subsection. The Office of Early  
211 Learning shall establish criteria specifying whether a good  
212 cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under  
213 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a  
214 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship  
215 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under  
216 paragraph (b).

217 Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section  
218 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

219 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
220 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
221 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
222 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
223 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
224 follows:

225 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

226 (d) Annually, by a date determined by the Department of  
227 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a K-12  
228 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-  
229 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by  
230 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,





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231 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan  
232 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved  
233 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a  
234 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach  
235 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may  
236 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School  
237 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing  
238 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading  
239 intervention through innovative methods, including career  
240 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from  
241 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,  
242 and shall allow courses in core, career, and alternative  
243 programs that deliver intensive reading remediation through  
244 integrated curricula, provided that the teacher is deemed highly  
245 qualified to teach reading or is working toward that status. No  
246 later than July 1 annually, the department shall release the  
247 school district's allocation of appropriated funds to those  
248 districts having approved plans. A school district that spends  
249 100 percent of this allocation on its approved plan shall be  
250 deemed to have been in compliance with the plan. The department  
251 may withhold funds upon a determination that reading instruction  
252 allocation funds are not being used to implement the approved  
253 plan. The department shall monitor and track the implementation  
254 of each district plan, including conducting site visits and  
255 collecting specific data on expenditures and reading improvement  
256 results. By December ~~February~~ 1 of each year, the department  
257 shall report its findings from the previous school year to the  
258 Legislature.

259 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.