

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to voluntary prekindergarten  
3           education; amending s. 1001.215, F.S.; requiring the  
4           Just Read, Florida! Office to provide teachers,  
5           reading coaches, and principals in prekindergarten  
6           through grade 3 with specified training; amending s.  
7           1002.53, F.S.; requiring each early learning coalition  
8           to coordinate with the Office of Early Learning to  
9           assign student identification numbers for the  
10          Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; amending  
11          s. 1002.67, F.S.; requiring voluntary prekindergarten  
12          providers to provide parents with pre- and post-  
13          assessment results within a specified timeframe;  
14          providing for the reporting and distribution of the  
15          results; requiring the office to determine eligibility  
16          criteria for reenrollment; amending s. 1002.69, F.S.;  
17          revising requirements for the adoption and use of the  
18          statewide kindergarten screening; conforming cross-  
19          references; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; authorizing a  
20          child to reenroll in certain school-year programs  
21          under certain circumstances; amending s. 1011.62,  
22          F.S.; revising the date by which the Department of  
23          Education must submit specified information regarding  
24          the implementation of school district K-12  
25          comprehensive reading plans to the Legislature;

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26 providing an appropriation; providing an effective  
27 date.

28  
29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30  
31 Section 1. Present subsections (3) through (11) of section  
32 1001.215, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)  
33 through (12), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to  
34 that section, and present subsection (3) of that section is  
35 amended, to read:

36 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in  
37 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The  
38 office shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of  
39 Education and shall:

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

48 (4)~~(3)~~ Train grade 4-12 ~~K-12~~ teachers and school  
49 principals on effective content-area-specific reading  
50 strategies. For secondary teachers, emphasis shall be on

51 technical text. These strategies must be developed for all  
52 content areas in the grade 4-12 ~~K-12~~ curriculum.

53 Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (4) of  
54 section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, to read:

55 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
56 eligibility and enrollment.—

57 (4)

58 (d) Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with  
59 the Office of Early Learning to assign student identification  
60 numbers to each student who enrolls in the Voluntary  
61 Prekindergarten Education Program.

62 Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of  
63 section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraphs (d)  
64 and (e) are added to subsection (3) of that section, present  
65 subsection (4) of that section is redesignated as subsection  
66 (5), and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

67 1002.67 Performance standards; curricula and  
68 accountability.—

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

74 (c) The office shall review and approve curricula for use  
75 by private prekindergarten providers and public schools that are

76 placed on probation under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(4) (c)~~. The office  
77 shall maintain a list of the curricula approved under this  
78 paragraph. Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements  
79 of paragraph (b).

80 (3)

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

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

92 (4) The office shall determine the eligibility criteria  
93 for enrollment, as authorized by s. 1002.71(4) (c), and for  
94 reenrollment in the school year Voluntary Prekindergarten  
95 Education Program.

96 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),  
97 (e), and (f) of subsection (7) of section 1002.69, Florida  
98 Statutes, are amended to read:

99 1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten  
100 readiness rates; state-approved prekindergarten enrollment

101 screening; good cause exemption.-

102 (1) The department shall adopt a single statewide  
 103 kindergarten screening that assesses the readiness of each  
 104 student for kindergarten based upon the performance standards  
 105 adopted by the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary  
 106 Prekindergarten Education Program. The department shall require  
 107 that each school district administer the statewide kindergarten  
 108 screening to each kindergarten student in the school district  
 109 within the first 30 school days of each school year. Nonpublic  
 110 schools may administer the statewide kindergarten screening to  
 111 each kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled  
 112 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

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

119 (7) (a) Notwithstanding s. 1002.67(5)(c)3. ~~s.~~  
 120 ~~1002.67(4)(e)3.~~, the office, upon the request of a private  
 121 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
 122 probation for 2 consecutive years or more and subsequently fails  
 123 to meet the minimum rate adopted under subsection (6) and for  
 124 good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an  
 125 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the

126 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state  
 127 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,  
 128 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or  
 129 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

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

136 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private  
 137 prekindergarten provider who remains on probation for 2  
 138 consecutive years, the office shall notify the early learning  
 139 coalition of the good cause exemption and direct that the  
 140 coalition, notwithstanding s. 1002.67(5)(c)3. ~~s.~~  
 141 ~~1002.67(4)(e)3.~~, not remove the provider from eligibility to  
 142 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or to  
 143 receive state funds for the program, if the provider meets all  
 144 other applicable requirements of this part.

145 Section 5. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (4) of  
 146 section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, to read:

147 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

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

149 (c) A child who is at risk of not attaining the  
 150 performance standards specified by s. 1002.67(1) may reenroll in

151 one of the school-year programs, which is offered by a provider  
152 that has met the adopted minimum readiness rate provided under  
153 s. 1002.69(6), for the subsequent year at the request of the  
154 child's parent. The prekindergarten program may report the child  
155 for funding purposes as a full-time equivalent student in the  
156 school-year program for which he or she is enrolled.

157

158 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program  
159 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten  
160 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from  
161 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good  
162 cause exemption under this subsection. The Office of Early  
163 Learning shall establish criteria specifying whether a good  
164 cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under  
165 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a  
166 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship  
167 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under  
168 paragraph (b).

169 Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section  
170 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

171 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
172 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
173 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
174 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
175 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as

176 follows:

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

178 (d) Annually, by a date determined by the Department of  
179 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a K-12  
180 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-  
181 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by  
182 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,  
183 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan  
184 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved  
185 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a  
186 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach  
187 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may  
188 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School  
189 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing  
190 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading  
191 intervention through innovative methods, including career  
192 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from  
193 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,  
194 and shall allow courses in core, career, and alternative  
195 programs that deliver intensive reading remediation through  
196 integrated curricula, provided that the teacher is deemed highly  
197 qualified to teach reading or is working toward that status. No  
198 later than July 1 annually, the department shall release the  
199 school district's allocation of appropriated funds to those  
200 districts having approved plans. A school district that spends



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201 100 percent of this allocation on its approved plan shall be  
202 deemed to have been in compliance with the plan. The department  
203 may withhold funds upon a determination that reading instruction  
204 allocation funds are not being used to implement the approved  
205 plan. The department shall monitor and track the implementation  
206 of each district plan, including conducting site visits and  
207 collecting specific data on expenditures and reading improvement  
208 results. By December ~~February~~ 1 of each year, the department  
209 shall report its findings from the previous school year to the  
210 Legislature.

211 Section 7. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sum of \$10  
212 million from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the  
213 Department of Education for the development of training for  
214 Voluntary Prekindergarten through grade 3 teachers, reading  
215 coaches, and school principals on research-based reading  
216 instructional strategies and interventions.

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