

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 and
5 reading coaches in prekindergarten through grade 5
6 with specified training; requiring the Just Read,
7 Florida! Office to identify specific instructional and
8 intervention programs; requiring the Just Read,
9 Florida! Office to develop and provide access to
10 programming, practices, and resources that help
11 schools to increase student knowledge and literacy;
12 amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; requiring each early
13 learning coalition to coordinate with the Office of
14 Early Learning to assign student identification
15 numbers for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
16 Program; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.; requiring
17 voluntary prekindergarten providers to provide parents
18 with pre- and post-assessment results within a
19 specified timeframe; providing for the reporting and
20 distribution of the results; requiring the office to
21 determine eligibility criteria for reenrollment;
22 amending s. 1002.69, F.S.; revising requirements for
23 the adoption and use of the statewide kindergarten
24 screening; conforming cross-references; amending s.
25 1002.71, F.S.; authorizing a child to reenroll in

26 | certain school-year programs under certain
 27 | circumstances; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the
 28 | date by which the Department of Education must submit
 29 | specified information regarding the implementation of
 30 | school district K-12 comprehensive reading plans to
 31 | the Legislature; providing an appropriation; providing
 32 | an effective date.

33 |

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

35 |

36 | Section 1. Present subsections (8) through (11) of section
 37 | 1001.215, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9)
 38 | through (12), respectively, subsections (3) and (7) and present
 39 | subsection (8) of that section are amended, and a new subsection
 40 | (8) is added to that section, to read:

41 | 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
 42 | the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The
 43 | office shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of
 44 | Education and shall:

45 | (3) Train prekindergarten through grade 5 ~~K-12~~ teachers
 46 | and reading coaches ~~school principals~~ on effective research-
 47 | based content-area-specific reading strategies and intervention
 48 | strategies for all students, the integration of content-rich
 49 | texts from other core subject areas into reading instruction,
 50 | evidence-based reading strategies identified in subsection (7),

51 and technology tools to improve student reading performance.
52 Contingent upon legislative appropriation, this training must be
53 designed to be consistently delivered statewide in an
54 appropriate format. The office shall collaborate with the Office
55 of Early Learning and the Florida Center for Reading Research to
56 develop the training. For secondary teachers, emphasis shall be
57 on technical text. These strategies must be developed for all
58 content areas in the grade 4-12 ~~K-12~~ curriculum.

59 (7) Work with the Florida Center for Reading Research to
60 identify evidence-based reading instructional and intervention
61 programs that incorporate explicit, systematic, and sequential
62 approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,
63 fluency, and text comprehension and incorporate decodable or
64 phonetic text instructional ~~to provide information on research-~~
65 ~~based reading programs and effective reading in the content area~~
66 strategies.

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

73 ~~(9)-(8)~~ Periodically review the Next Generation Sunshine
74 State Standards for reading at all grade levels.

75 Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (4) of

76 | section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, to read:

77 | 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
78 | eligibility and enrollment.—

79 | (4)

80 | (d) Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with
81 | the Office of Early Learning to assign student identification
82 | numbers to each student who enrolls in the Voluntary
83 | Prekindergarten Education Program.

84 | Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of
85 | section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraphs (d)
86 | and (e) are added to subsection (3) of that section, present
87 | subsection (4) of that section is renumbered as subsection (5),
88 | and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

89 | 1002.67 Performance standards; curricula and
90 | accountability.—

91 | (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
92 | school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or
93 | school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
94 | Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school
95 | that is placed on probation under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(4) (e)~~.

96 | (c) The office shall review and approve curricula for use
97 | by private prekindergarten providers and public schools that are
98 | placed on probation under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(4) (e)~~. The office
99 | shall maintain a list of the curricula approved under this
100 | paragraph. Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements

101 of paragraph (b).

102 (3)

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

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

114 (4) The office shall determine the eligibility criteria
115 for enrollment, as authorized by s. 1002.71(4)(c), and for
116 reenrollment in the school-year Voluntary Prekindergarten
117 Education Program.

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

121 1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten
122 readiness rates; state-approved prekindergarten enrollment
123 screening; good cause exemption.—

124 (1) The department shall adopt a single statewide
125 kindergarten screening that assesses the readiness of each

126 student for kindergarten based upon the performance standards
127 adopted by the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary
128 Prekindergarten Education Program. The department shall require
129 that each school district administer the statewide kindergarten
130 screening to each kindergarten student in the school district
131 within the first 30 school days of each school year. Nonpublic
132 schools may administer the statewide kindergarten screening to
133 each kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled
134 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

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

141 (7) (a) Notwithstanding s. 1002.67(5)(c)3. ~~s.~~
142 ~~1002.67(4)(c)3.~~, the office, upon the request of a private
143 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
144 probation for 2 consecutive years or more and subsequently fails
145 to meet the minimum rate adopted under subsection (6) and for
146 good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an
147 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the
148 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
149 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,
150 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or

151 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

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

158 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private
159 prekindergarten provider who remains on probation for 2
160 consecutive years, the office shall notify the early learning
161 coalition of the good cause exemption and direct that the
162 coalition, notwithstanding s. 1002.67(5)(c)3. ~~s.~~
163 ~~1002.67(4)(e)3.~~, not remove the provider from eligibility to
164 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or to
165 receive state funds for the program, if the provider meets all
166 other applicable requirements of this part.

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

169 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

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

171 (c) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, a child who
172 has completed a school-year prekindergarten program, but is at
173 risk of not attaining the performance standards specified by s.
174 1002.67(1) may reenroll in one of the school-year programs,
175 which is offered by a provider that has met the adopted minimum

176 readiness rate provided under s. 1002.69(6), for the subsequent
177 year at the request of the child's parent. The prekindergarten
178 program may report the child for funding purposes as a full-time
179 equivalent student in the school-year program for which he or
180 she is enrolled.

181
182 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program
183 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten
184 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
185 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good
186 cause exemption under this subsection. The Office of Early
187 Learning shall establish criteria specifying whether a good
188 cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under
189 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a
190 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship
191 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under
192 paragraph (b).

193 Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section
194 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

195 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
196 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
197 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
198 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
199 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
200 follows:

201 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—
202 (d) Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
203 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a K-12
204 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
205 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
206 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
207 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
208 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
209 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
210 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach
211 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may
212 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School
213 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing
214 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading
215 intervention through innovative methods, including career
216 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from
217 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,
218 and shall allow courses in core, career, and alternative
219 programs that deliver intensive reading remediation through
220 integrated curricula, provided that the teacher is deemed highly
221 qualified to teach reading or is working toward that status. No
222 later than July 1 annually, the department shall release the
223 school district's allocation of appropriated funds to those
224 districts having approved plans. A school district that spends
225 100 percent of this allocation on its approved plan shall be

226 deemed to have been in compliance with the plan. The department
227 may withhold funds upon a determination that reading instruction
228 allocation funds are not being used to implement the approved
229 plan. The department shall monitor and track the implementation
230 of each district plan, including conducting site visits and
231 collecting specific data on expenditures and reading improvement
232 results. By ~~December~~ February 1 of each year, the department
233 shall report its findings from the previous school year to the
234 Legislature.

235 Section 7. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sum of \$10
236 million from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the
237 Department of Education for the development of training for
238 prekindergarten through grade 3 teachers, reading coaches, and
239 school principals on research-based reading instructional
240 strategies and interventions.

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