

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Voluntary Prekindergarten
3 Education Program; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.;
4 requiring a parent of a student enrolled in the
5 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to submit
6 his or her student for a specified screening;
7 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
8 amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; conforming provisions to
9 changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.59, F.S.;
10 requiring the Office of Early Learning to make
11 available professional development and training
12 courses that meet certain criteria; amending ss.
13 1002.61 and 1002.63, F.S.; conforming provisions to
14 changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.;
15 requiring the office to develop performance standards
16 for certain mathematical and executive functioning
17 skills; requiring the Department of Education and the
18 office to provide for a coordinated assessment system
19 for specified purposes; conforming provisions to
20 changes made by the act; creating s. 1002.68, F.S.;
21 requiring each private prekindergarten provider and
22 public school participating in the program to
23 participate in a program assessment; providing
24 requirements for such assessment; requiring the office
25 and department to develop a statewide end-of-

26 | prekindergarten screening for specified purposes;
27 | providing requirements for such screening; requiring
28 | certain data to be stored in a specified department
29 | data warehouse; requiring the office to calculate a
30 | program score for each private prekindergarten
31 | providers and public schools participating in the
32 | program; requiring the office to establish a minimum
33 | program score that such providers and schools must
34 | meet; providing requirements for such providers and
35 | schools that do not meet such score; authorizing the
36 | office to grant good cause exemptions to private
37 | prekindergarten providers and public schools that meet
38 | certain criteria; providing requirements for such good
39 | cause exemptions; amending s. 1002.69, F.S.; revising
40 | the standards used to establish the statewide
41 | kindergarten screening; requiring certain screenings
42 | to be administered to students who enroll in a public
43 | school for the first time; providing reporting
44 | requirements from such screening; providing for
45 | screenings to be re-administered to certain students;
46 | providing requirements for screenings that are re-
47 | administered; requiring the department, rather than
48 | the office, to calculate each public school's
49 | kindergarten readiness rate; revising the requirements
50 | for such calculation; requiring certain data to be

51 stored in a specified department data warehouse;
 52 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 53 amending s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring the department to
 54 adopt procedures for the identification of an
 55 alternate kindergarten screening; conforming
 56 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
 57 1002.75, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
 58 by the act; providing an effective date.
 59

60 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 61

62 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
 63 1002.53, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is
 64 added to subsection (6) of that section, to read:

65 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
 66 eligibility and enrollment.—

67 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
 68 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 69 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
 70 and public school delivering the program within the county where
 71 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to
 72 parents in a format prescribed by the Office of Early Learning.
 73 The profiles must include, at a minimum, the following
 74 information about each provider and school:

75 (b) The provider's or school's program score ~~kindergarten~~

76 ~~readiness rate~~ calculated in accordance with s. 1002.68 ~~s.~~
 77 ~~1002.69~~, based upon the most recent available results of the
 78 ~~statewide kindergarten screening.~~

79 (6)

80 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the
 81 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must submit his or
 82 her child for the statewide end-of-prekindergarten screening
 83 administered pursuant to s. 1002.68.

84 Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 1002.55,
 85 Florida Statutes, to read:

86 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 87 private prekindergarten providers.—

88 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each
 89 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
 90 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
 91 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private
 92 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this
 93 part, or if a provider engages in misconduct, the office shall
 94 require the early learning coalition to remove the provider from
 95 eligibility to deliver the program and receive state funds under
 96 this part for a period of at least 2 years and up to 5 years.

97 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1002.59, Florida
 98 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) is added to that
 99 section, to read:

100 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards

101 training courses and professional development.—

102 (2) The office shall adopt minimum standards for one or
 103 more training courses on the performance standards adopted under
 104 s. 1002.67(1) and the domains listed in s. 1002.68(1)(b), which
 105 must include, but not be limited to, training relating to
 106 mathematical thinking and executive functioning. Each course
 107 must be comprised of ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide
 108 instruction in strategies and techniques to address age-
 109 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the standards,
 110 and be available online.

111 (3) The office shall make available professional
 112 development and training courses that support prekindergarten
 113 instructors in increasing the competency of teacher-child
 114 interactions. Each course must be comprised of at least 8 clock
 115 hours, provide instruction in strategies and techniques to
 116 address the age-appropriate progress of each child in attaining
 117 the standards, and be available online.

118 Section 4. Subsection (9) is added to section 1002.61,
 119 Florida Statutes, to read:

120 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
 121 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

122 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
 123 each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
 124 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
 125 or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district

126 school board shall verify that each public school delivering the
127 program within the school district complies with this part.

128 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
129 fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or
130 school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early
131 learning coalition to remove the provider or require the school
132 district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the
133 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
134 funds under this part for a period of at least 2 years and up to
135 5 years.

136 Section 5. Subsection (9) is added to section 1002.63,
137 Florida Statutes, to read:

138 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
139 public schools.—

140 (9) (a) Each district school board shall verify that each
141 public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
142 Program within the school district complies with this part.

143 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with
144 this part, or if a school engages in misconduct, the office
145 shall require the school district to remove the school from
146 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
147 Program and receive state funds under this part for a period of
148 at least 2 years and up to 5 years.

149 Section 6. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection
150 (2), and subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.67, Florida

151 Statutes, are amended to read:

152 1002.67 Performance standards and, ~~curricula and~~
 153 ~~accountability.~~—

154 (1) (a) The office shall develop and adopt performance
 155 standards for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 156 Education Program. The performance standards must address the
 157 age-appropriate progress of students in the development of:

158 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under
 159 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

160 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,
 161 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological
 162 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development;

163 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills; and

164 4. Executive functioning skills.

165
 166 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~
 167 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~
 168 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~
 169 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

170 (b) At least every 3 years, the office and the department
 171 shall jointly ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the
 172 performance standards for the statewide end-of-prekindergarten
 173 ~~kindergarten~~ screening administered under s. 1002.68(3)(a) ~~s.~~
 174 ~~1002.69~~ and align the standards to the standards established by
 175 the state board for student performance on the statewide

176 | assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22. The office and
177 | the department shall ensure that there is a coordinated
178 | assessment system that allows for tracking the progress of
179 | students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
180 | through grade 2 in order to provide timely interventions and
181 | supports to students not meeting grade level expectations.

182 | (2)

183 | (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
184 | school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
185 | must:

186 | 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and
187 | provide for instruction in early math skills;

188 | 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
189 | attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
190 | under subsection (1); and

191 | 3. Prepare students to be ready for kindergarten based
192 | upon the statewide end-of-prekindergarten screening ~~statewide~~
193 | ~~kindergarten screening~~ administered under s. 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69~~.

194 | ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~
195 | ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~
196 | ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~
197 | ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~
198 | ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

199 | ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~
200 | ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~

201 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~
202 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

203 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~
204 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~
205 ~~State Board of Education.~~

206 ~~(4) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~
207 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~
208 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~
209 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~
210 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~
211 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

212 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
213 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~
214 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~
215 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~
216 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~
217 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~
218 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

219 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~
220 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~
221 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
222 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~
223 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~
224 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~
225 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~

226 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~
227 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~
228 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~
229 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~
230 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~
231 ~~office.~~

232 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
233 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~
234 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~
235 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~
236 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~
237 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~
238 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~
239 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~
240 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~
241 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
242 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

243 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
244 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~
245 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
246 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~
247 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~
248 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~
249 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~
250 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~

251 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

252 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~
253 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~
254 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~
255 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~
256 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~
257 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~
258 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~
259 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

260 Section 7. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created
261 to read:

262 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
263 Accountability.—

264 (1) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
265 school participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
266 Program must implement an evidence-based pre- and post-
267 assessment that can be used for determining developmentally
268 appropriate learning gains and that has been approved by rule of
269 the State Board of Education.

270 (b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,
271 reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure
272 student progress on domains that include, but are not limited
273 to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.

274 (c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by
275 individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the

276 state board.

277 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
278 school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must
279 participate in a program assessment of each voluntary
280 prekindergarten education classroom. The program assessment
281 shall measure the quality of teacher-child interactions,
282 including emotional and behavioral support, engaged support for
283 learning, classroom organization, and instructional support for
284 children ages 3 to 5 years.

285 (b) The program assessment must be administered by
286 individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the
287 state board.

288 (3) (a) The office and the department shall adopt a
289 statewide end-of-prekindergarten screening that assesses the
290 readiness of each student for kindergarten based upon the
291 performance standards adopted under s. 1002.67(1) for the
292 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The office shall
293 require that each early learning coalition or school district
294 administer the statewide end-of-prekindergarten screening to
295 each prekindergarten student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
296 Education Program within the last 30 school days of a school-
297 year prekindergarten program and within the last 10 days of a
298 summer prekindergarten program.

299 (b) The statewide end-of-prekindergarten screening shall
300 provide objective data concerning each student's readiness for

301 kindergarten and progress in attaining the performance standards
302 adopted by the office under s. 1002.67(1). Data from the
303 screening, along with other available data, must be used to
304 identify students in need of intervention and support pursuant
305 to s. 1008.25(5).

306 (c) The statewide end-of-prekindergarten screening shall
307 incorporate mechanisms for recognizing potential variations in
308 kindergarten readiness rates for students with disabilities.

309 (d) The statewide end-of-prekindergarten screening must be
310 administered by individuals meeting requirements established by
311 rule of the state board.

312 (4) Data collected pursuant to this section must be
313 maintained in the department's PK-20 Education Data Warehouse.

314 (5) (a) The office shall adopt a methodology for
315 calculating each provider's program score, which must include
316 program assessment scores, developmentally appropriate learning
317 gain data from the pre- and post-assessment under subsection
318 (1), and the results of the statewide end-of-prekindergarten
319 screening. The office shall select an independent expert with
320 experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early childhood
321 assessment, and designing state-level accountability systems to
322 develop the methodology, which must include a weighted formula,
323 for calculating each provider's score.

324 (b) The office shall adopt procedures to annually
325 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public

326 school's program score based on the methodology adopted in
327 paragraph (a).

328 (c) The office shall periodically adopt a minimum program
329 score that, if achieved by a private prekindergarten provider or
330 public school, would demonstrate the provider's or school's
331 satisfactory delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
332 Program.

333 (6) (a) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public
334 school's program score falls below the minimum program score,
335 the early learning coalition or school district, as applicable,
336 shall:

337 1. Require the provider or school to submit an improvement
338 plan for approval by the coalition or school district, as
339 applicable, and to implement the plan;

340 2. Place the provider or school on probation; and

341 3. Require the provider or school to take certain
342 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved
343 by the office under s. 1002.67(2)(c) or a staff development plan
344 to strengthen instruction in language development, phonological
345 awareness, and mathematical thinking approved by the office.

346 (b) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
347 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
348 required under paragraph (a) until the provider or school meets
349 the minimum program score adopted by the office. Failure to meet
350 the requirements of subparagraphs (a)1. and 3. shall result in

351 the termination of the provider's or school's contract to
352 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program for a
353 period of at least 2 years and up to 5 years.

354 (c) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
355 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
356 the minimum program score or is not granted a good cause
357 exemption by the office, the office shall require the early
358 learning coalition or the school district to revoke the
359 provider's or school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
360 Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state funds for
361 the program for a period of at least 2 years and up to 5 years.

362 (7) (a) The office, upon the request of a private
363 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
364 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently
365 fails to meet the minimum program score adopted pursuant to
366 paragraph (5) (c), and for good cause shown, may grant to the
367 provider or school an exemption from being determined ineligible
368 to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
369 receive state funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for
370 1 year and, upon the request of the private prekindergarten
371 provider or public school and for good cause shown, may be
372 renewed.

373 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public
374 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such
375 an exemption, must be submitted to the office in the manner and

376 within the timeframes prescribed by the office and must include
377 the following:

378 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or
379 public school which documents the achievement and progress of
380 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or
381 assessments.

382 2. Data from the program assessment data required under
383 paragraph (2) (a) which demonstrates effective teaching practices
384 as recognized by the program assessment tool developer.

385 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district
386 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and
387 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting
388 association, as applicable, relating to the private
389 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with
390 state and local health and safety standards.

391 (c) The office shall adopt criteria for granting good
392 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but is not limited
393 to, all of the following:

394 1. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary
395 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten
396 provider or public school.

397 2. Program assessment data under paragraph (2) (a) which
398 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the
399 program assessment tool developer.

400 3. Verification that local and state health and safety

401 requirements are met.

402 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
403 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
404 class I violations or two or more class II violations within the
405 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request for the
406 exemption. For purposes of this paragraph, class I and class II
407 violations have the same meaning as provided in s. 402.281(4).

408 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
409 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its
410 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
411 under subsection (6) until the provider or school meets the
412 minimum program score.

413 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private
414 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
415 probation for 2 consecutive years, the office shall notify the
416 early learning coalition or school district of the good cause
417 exemption and direct that the coalition or school district not
418 remove the provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
419 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for
420 the program, if the provider meets all other applicable
421 requirements of this part.

422 Section 8. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is amended
423 to read:

424 1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening and; kindergarten
425 readiness rates; ~~state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~

426 ~~screening; good cause exemption.~~

427 (1) The department shall adopt a statewide kindergarten
428 screening that assesses the readiness of each student for
429 kindergarten based upon the performance standards adopted by the
430 department under s. 1003.41 ~~s. 1002.67(1)~~ for the Voluntary
431 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program~~. The department shall require
432 that each school district administer the statewide kindergarten
433 screening or an alternative kindergarten screening approved by
434 the department to each kindergarten student in the school
435 district within the first 30 school days of each school year or
436 upon enrollment into public school for the first time. Each
437 school district must provide a student's performance results to
438 the student's teachers within 1 week and to the student's
439 parents no later than 30 days after the administration.

440 ~~Nonpublic schools may administer the statewide kindergarten~~
441 ~~screening to each kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who~~
442 ~~was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.~~

443 (2) ~~The statewide kindergarten screening shall provide~~
444 ~~objective data concerning each student's readiness for~~
445 ~~kindergarten and progress in attaining the performance standards~~
446 ~~adopted by the office under s. 1002.67(1).~~ Data from the
447 screening, along with other available data, must be used to
448 identify students in need of intervention and support pursuant
449 to s. 1008.25(5).

450 (3) The statewide kindergarten screening shall incorporate

451 mechanisms for recognizing potential variations in kindergarten
452 readiness rates for students with disabilities.

453 (4) School districts must re-administer the statewide
454 screening or an alternative kindergarten screening approved by
455 the department no sooner than the last 45 days of school and no
456 later than the last 30 days of school to all students who did
457 not score above the readiness level. School districts must
458 provide a student's performance results to the student's
459 teachers within 1 week and to the student's parents no later
460 than 30 days after the administration ~~Each parent who enrolls~~
461 ~~his or her child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education~~
462 ~~Program must submit the child for the statewide kindergarten~~
463 ~~screening, regardless of whether the child is admitted to~~
464 ~~kindergarten in a public school or nonpublic school. Each school~~
465 ~~district shall designate sites to administer the statewide~~
466 ~~kindergarten screening for children admitted to kindergarten in~~
467 ~~a nonpublic school.~~

468 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt procedures to
469 annually calculate:

470 (a) Each ~~private prekindergarten provider's~~ and public
471 school's kindergarten readiness rate, which must be expressed as
472 the percentage of the ~~provider's~~ or school's students who are
473 assessed as ready for kindergarten.

474 (b) The percentage of students at each school who scored
475 below the kindergarten readiness level during the first 30 days

476 of school who met the kindergarten readiness level by the end of
477 the school year.

478 (c) The percentage of students at each school who did not
479 meet the kindergarten readiness level by the end of the school
480 year and who were promoted to first grade ~~The methodology for~~
481 ~~calculating each provider's kindergarten readiness rate must~~
482 ~~include student learning gains when available and the percentage~~
483 ~~of students who meet all state readiness measures. The rates~~
484 ~~must not include students who are not administered the statewide~~
485 ~~kindergarten screening. The office shall determine learning~~
486 ~~gains using a value added measure based on growth demonstrated~~
487 ~~by the results of the preassessment and postassessment from at~~
488 ~~least 2 successive years of administration of the preassessment~~
489 ~~and postassessment.~~

490 (6) Data collected pursuant to this section must be
491 maintained in the department's PK-20 Education Data Warehouse
492 ~~The office shall periodically adopt a minimum kindergarten~~
493 ~~readiness rate that, if achieved by a private prekindergarten~~
494 ~~provider or public school, would demonstrate the provider's or~~
495 ~~school's satisfactory delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
496 ~~Education Program.~~

497 ~~(7)(a) Notwithstanding s. 1002.67(4)(c)3., the office,~~
498 ~~upon the request of a private prekindergarten provider or public~~
499 ~~school that remains on probation for 2 consecutive years or more~~
500 ~~and subsequently fails to meet the minimum rate adopted under~~

501 ~~subsection (6) and for good cause shown, may grant to the~~
502 ~~provider or school an exemption from being determined ineligible~~
503 ~~to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and~~
504 ~~receive state funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for~~
505 ~~1 year and, upon the request of the private prekindergarten~~
506 ~~provider or public school and for good cause shown, may be~~
507 ~~renewed.~~

508 ~~(b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public~~
509 ~~school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such~~
510 ~~an exemption, must be submitted to the office in the manner and~~
511 ~~within the timeframes prescribed by the office and must include~~
512 ~~the following:~~

513 ~~1. Submission of data by the private prekindergarten~~
514 ~~provider or public school which documents the achievement and~~
515 ~~progress of the children served as measured by the state-~~
516 ~~approved prekindergarten enrollment screening and the~~
517 ~~standardized postassessment approved by the office pursuant to~~
518 ~~subparagraph (c)1.~~

519 ~~2. Submission and review of data available from the~~
520 ~~respective early learning coalition or district school board,~~
521 ~~the Department of Children and Families, local licensing~~
522 ~~authority, or an accrediting association, as applicable,~~
523 ~~relating to the private prekindergarten provider's or public~~
524 ~~school's compliance with state and local health and safety~~
525 ~~standards.~~

526 ~~3. Submission and review of data available to the office~~
527 ~~on the performance of the children served and the calculation of~~
528 ~~the private prekindergarten provider's or public school's~~
529 ~~kindergarten readiness rate.~~

530 ~~(c) The office shall adopt criteria for granting good~~
531 ~~cause exemptions. Such criteria shall include, but are not~~
532 ~~limited to:~~

533 ~~1. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary~~
534 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten~~
535 ~~provider or public school.~~

536 ~~2. Verification that local and state health and safety~~
537 ~~requirements are met.~~

538 ~~(d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any~~
539 ~~private prekindergarten provider that has any class I violations~~
540 ~~or two or more class II violations within the 2 years preceding~~
541 ~~the provider's or school's request for the exemption. For~~
542 ~~purposes of this paragraph, class I and class II violations have~~
543 ~~the same meaning as provided in s. 402.281(4).~~

544 ~~(e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
545 ~~granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its~~
546 ~~improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required~~
547 ~~under s. 1002.67(4)(c)1., including the use of a curriculum~~
548 ~~approved by the office, until the provider or school meets the~~
549 ~~minimum rate adopted under subsection (6).~~

550 ~~(f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private~~

551 ~~prekindergarten provider who remains on probation for 2~~
552 ~~consecutive years, the office shall notify the early learning~~
553 ~~coalition of the good cause exemption and direct that the~~
554 ~~coalition, notwithstanding s. 1002.67(4)(c)3., not remove the~~
555 ~~provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary~~
556 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for~~
557 ~~the program, if the provider meets all other applicable~~
558 ~~requirements of this part.~~

559 Section 9. Paragraphs (d) and (g) of subsection (2) of
560 section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

561 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;
562 accountability requirements.—

563 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for its:

564 (d) Identification of alternate kindergarten screenings
565 that equate to the statewide kindergarten screening established
566 under s. 1002.69(1) ~~Implementation of, and determination of~~
567 ~~costs associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten~~
568 ~~enrollment screening and the standardized postassessment~~
569 ~~approved by the department, and determination of the learning~~
570 ~~gains of students who complete the state-approved~~
571 ~~prekindergarten enrollment screening and the standardized~~
572 ~~postassessment approved by the department.~~

573 ~~(g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or~~
574 ~~public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.~~
575 ~~1002.69(7).~~

576 Section 10. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) and paragraphs
 577 (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (3) of section 1002.75, Florida
 578 Statutes, are amended to read:

579 1002.75 Office of Early Learning; powers and duties.—

580 (2) The Office of Early Learning shall adopt procedures
 581 governing the administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 582 Education Program by the early learning coalitions and school
 583 districts for:

584 (e) Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
 585 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
 586 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
 587 misconduct ~~as provided in s. 1002.67.~~

588 (3) The Office of Early Learning shall adopt, in
 589 consultation with and subject to approval by the department,
 590 procedures governing the administration of the Voluntary
 591 Prekindergarten Education Program by the early learning
 592 coalitions and school districts for:

593 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
 594 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.67.~~

595 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
 596 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
 597 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.67.~~

598 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public
 599 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the
 600 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time

HB 1193

2019

601 permitted under s. 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.67~~. Notwithstanding any other
602 provision of law, if a private prekindergarten provider has been
603 cited for a class I violation, as defined by rule, the coalition
604 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the
605 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
606 Education Program.

607 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.