

By Senator Baxley

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Voluntary Prekindergarten
3 Education Program; creating s. 1002.78, F.S.;
4 requiring the principals of certain public elementary
5 schools to take specified actions to facilitate
6 communication and collaboration with private
7 prekindergarten providers; providing requirements for
8 such school principals; requiring the Office of Early
9 Learning and early learning coalitions to provide
10 specified support to such school principals; providing
11 an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Section 1002.78, Florida Statutes, is created to
16 read:

17 1002.78 Elementary school and private prekindergarten
18 provider coordination.—

19 (1) Each public elementary school with a kindergarten
20 program shall collaborate with the private prekindergarten
21 providers in its area to create communication between
22 prekindergarten directors of private prekindergarten providers
23 and the elementary school principal, parents, and students. The
24 principal of each public elementary school shall:

25 (a) Identify the feeder pattern of private prekindergarten
26 programs whose students are zoned or expected to enroll in his
27 or her school.

28 (b) Provide an early registration process for children
29 enrolling in kindergarten at his or her school.

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30 (c) Invite all prekindergarten directors of private
31 prekindergarten providers within the feeder pattern for his or
32 her school to meet to discuss student data, assessment results,
33 and student records. Such meetings must be in accordance with
34 the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s.
35 1232g.

36 (d) Prepare a welcome packet for incoming kindergarten
37 students who enroll in his or her school and their parents which
38 includes activities to help children prepare for kindergarten.

39 (e) Plan and execute an opportunity for private
40 prekindergarten providers, parents, and prekindergarten students
41 to visit and participate in school activities with kindergarten
42 students enrolled in the school.

43 (2) The Office of Early Learning and early learning
44 coalitions shall provide assistance to school principals in
45 identifying private prekindergarten programs in their areas and
46 connecting principals with prekindergarten directors of private
47 prekindergarten providers.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.