

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED _____ (Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____ (Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION _____ (Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT _____ (Y/N)
WITHDRAWN _____ (Y/N)
OTHER

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education Committee
2 Representative Grall offered the following:

3
4 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:
6 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
7 section 20.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

8 20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

9 (1) As used in this section, the term:

10 (a) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Cabinet officer,
11 or a secretary or executive director as those terms are defined
12 in s. 20.03, the chair of the Public Service Commission, the
13 Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial
14 Services Commission, the Director of the Office of Financial
15 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the board of
16 directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~

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17 ~~executive director of the Office of Early Learning,~~ and the
18 Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

19 (d) "State agency" means each department created pursuant
20 to this chapter and the Executive Office of the Governor, the
21 Department of Military Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife
22 Conservation Commission, the Office of Insurance Regulation of
23 the Financial Services Commission, the Office of Financial
24 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the Public
25 Service Commission, the Board of Governors of the State
26 University System, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~
27 ~~Office of Early Learning,~~ and the state courts system.

28 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (3) of
29 section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs
30 (d) through (k), respectively, present paragraph (i) of
31 subsection (3) and subsection (5) are amended, and a new
32 paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to
33 read:

34 20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a
35 Department of Education.

36 (3) DIVISIONS.—The following divisions of the Department
37 of Education are established:

38 (c) Division of Early Learning.

39 (j)(i) The Office of Independent Education and Parental
40 Choice, which must include ~~the following offices:~~

41 ~~1. The Office of Early Learning, which shall be~~

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42 ~~administered by an executive director who is fully accountable~~
43 ~~to the Commissioner of Education. The executive director shall,~~
44 ~~pursuant to s. 1001.213, administer the early learning programs,~~
45 ~~including the school readiness program and the Voluntary~~
46 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.~~

47 ~~2.~~ the Office of K-12 School Choice, which shall be
48 administered by an executive director who is fully accountable
49 to the Commissioner of Education.

50 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The State Board of Education and
51 the Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such
52 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary
53 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and
54 effectiveness of education for students in Early Learning-20 ~~K-~~
55 ~~20~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of
56 Education.

57 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
58 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

59 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
60 child abuse or neglect.—

61 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
62 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information
63 with respect to, the reporter which shall be released only as
64 provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the
65 following persons, officials, and agencies:

66 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of

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67 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
68 with Disabilities, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~
69 ~~Learning~~, or county agencies responsible for carrying out:

- 70 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 71 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 72 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 73 4. Healthy Start services;
- 74 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
75 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393,
76 family day care homes, providers who receive school readiness
77 funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to
78 provide for the care and welfare of children;
- 79 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential
80 group homes; or
- 81 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
82 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
83 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

84
85 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice
86 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant
87 to chapters 984 and 985.

88 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
89 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

90 39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;
91 child care; early education; preschool.—

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92 (5) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY.—Just as educational stability
93 is important for school-age children, it is also important to
94 minimize disruptions to secure attachments and stable
95 relationships with supportive caregivers of children from birth
96 to school age and to ensure that these attachments are not
97 disrupted due to placement in out-of-home care or subsequent
98 changes in out-of-home placement.

99 (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him
100 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education
101 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must
102 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and
103 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been
104 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such
105 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal
106 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, a
107 ~~provider participating in a quality rating system~~, a licensed
108 child care provider, a public school provider, or a license-
109 exempt child care provider, including religious-exempt and
110 registered providers, and nonpublic schools.

111 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section
112 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

113 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and
114 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the
115 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the
116 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following

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117 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this
118 chapter.

119 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

120 (m) Educational materials purchased by certain child care
121 facilities.—Educational materials, such as glue, paper, paints,
122 crayons, unique craft items, scissors, books, ~~and~~ educational
123 toys, purchased by a child care facility that meets the
124 standards delineated in s. 402.305, is licensed under s.
125 402.308, holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation
126 pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, and provides basic health
127 insurance to all employees are exempt from the taxes imposed by
128 this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "basic
129 health insurance" shall be defined and promulgated in rules
130 developed jointly by the Department of Education ~~Children and~~
131 ~~Families~~, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the
132 Financial Services Commission.

133 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph
134 (b) of subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are
135 amended to read:

136 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary
137 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

138 (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—To help ensure access to the
139 maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health
140 shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for
141 metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result

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142 in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening
143 programs accepted by current medical practice become available
144 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department
145 shall also promote the identification and screening of all
146 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk
147 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family
148 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-
149 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant
150 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,
151 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited
152 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and
153 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and
154 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately
155 following the birth of the child by the attending health care
156 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,
157 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health
158 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and
159 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

160 (b) Postnatal screening.—A risk factor analysis using the
161 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be
162 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the
163 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of
164 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for
165 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk
166 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that

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167 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,
168 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or
169 paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures
170 for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,
171 referral, and care coordination services, reporting
172 requirements, management information, and maintenance of a
173 computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which
174 ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the
175 provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.
176 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting
177 information and maintaining a confidential registry must include
178 a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the
179 state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with
180 existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The
181 department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the
182 screening information registry is integrated with the
183 department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-
184 line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests
185 and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health
186 Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at
187 such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department
188 after consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening
189 Advisory Council and the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~
190 ~~Learning~~.

191 (2) RULES.—

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192 (b) After consultation with the Department of Education
193 ~~Office of Early Learning~~, the department shall adopt and enforce
194 rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for
195 environmental risk factors that place children and their
196 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other
197 negative outcomes.

198 Section 7. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
199 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

200 391.308 Early Steps Program.—The department shall
201 implement and administer part C of the federal Individuals with
202 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which shall be known as the
203 "Early Steps Program."

204 (2) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department shall:

205 (h) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, with
206 the Medicaid program, the Department of Education program
207 pursuant to part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
208 Education Act, and programs providing child screening such as
209 the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, ~~the Office~~
210 ~~of Early Learning~~, Healthy Start, and the Help Me Grow program.

211 1. Coordination with the Medicaid program shall be
212 developed and maintained through written agreements with the
213 Agency for Health Care Administration and Medicaid managed care
214 organizations as well as through active and ongoing
215 communication with these organizations. The department shall
216 assist local program offices to negotiate agreements with

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217 Medicaid managed care organizations in the service areas of the
218 local program offices. Such agreements may be formal or
219 informal.

220 2. Coordination with education programs pursuant to part B
221 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall
222 be developed and maintained through written agreements with the
223 Department of Education. The department shall assist local
224 program offices to negotiate agreements with school districts in
225 the service areas of the local program offices.

226 Section 8. Subsection (6) of section 402.26, Florida
227 Statutes, is amended to read:

228 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

229 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~
230 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~
231 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~
232 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~
233 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~
234 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~
235 ~~196.198.~~

236 Section 9. Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is
237 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.945, Florida Statutes,
238 and amended to read:

239 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

240 (1) (a) There is established within the department the Gold
241 Seal Quality Care Program.

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242 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,
243 or family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting
244 association approved by the department under subsection (3) and
245 meets all other requirements shall, upon application to the
246 department, receive a separate "Gold Seal Quality Care"
247 designation.

248 (2) The State Board of Education ~~department~~ shall adopt
249 rules establishing Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation
250 standards using nationally recognized accrediting standards and
251 input from accrediting associations ~~based on the applicable~~
252 ~~accrediting standards of the National Association for the~~
253 ~~Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of~~
254 ~~Family Child Care, and the National Early Childhood Program~~
255 ~~Accreditation Commission.~~

256 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the department for
257 participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care program, an
258 accrediting association must apply to the department and
259 demonstrate that it:

260 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.

261 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or
262 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state
263 board ~~department~~ under subsection (2).

264 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of
265 State.

266 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation

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- 267 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:
- 268 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care
- 269 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.
- 270 However, an accreditation may not be granted to a child care
- 271 facility, large family child care home, or family day care home
- 272 before the site is operational and is attended by children.
- 273 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and
- 274 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom
- 275 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.
- 276 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to
- 277 ensure inter-rater reliability.
- 278 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring
- 279 each accredited child care facility, large family child care
- 280 home, and family day care home to file an annual report with the
- 281 accrediting association and risk-based, on-site auditing
- 282 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family
- 283 child care homes, and family day care homes.
- 284 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to
- 285 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-
- 286 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by
- 287 the accrediting association.
- 288 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite
- 289 verification and occur at least every 5 years.
- 290 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation
- 291 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of

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292 facilities.

293 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the
294 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a
295 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including
296 the department, the Department of Children and Families, the
297 Department of Health, local licensing entities if applicable,
298 and the early learning coalition.

299 (b) The department shall establish a process that verifies
300 that the accrediting association meets the provisions of
301 paragraph (a), which must include an auditing program and any
302 other procedures that may reasonably determine an accrediting
303 association's compliance with this section. If an accrediting
304 association is not in compliance and fails to cure its
305 deficiencies within 30 days, the department shall recommend to
306 the state board termination of the accrediting association's
307 participation as an accrediting association in the program for a
308 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years. If an
309 accrediting association is removed from being an approved
310 accrediting association, each child care provider accredited by
311 that association shall have up to 1 year to obtain a new
312 accreditation from a department approved accreditation
313 association.

314 (c) If an accrediting association has granted an
315 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care
316 home, or family day care under fraudulent terms or failed to

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317 conduct on-site verifications, the accrediting association shall
318 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under
319 subsection (6).

320 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~
321 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~
322 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~
323 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~
324 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~
325 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~
326 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~
327 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~
328 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

329 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a
330 Gold Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large
331 family child care home, or family day care home must meet the
332 following additional criteria:

333 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I
334 violations, as defined by rule by the Department of Children and
335 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for
336 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
337 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the
338 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
339 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

340 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or
341 more class II violations, as defined by rule by the Department

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342 of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its
343 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care
344 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within
345 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the
346 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
347 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

348 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for
349 the same class III violation, as defined by rule by the
350 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and
351 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of
352 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for
353 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
354 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to
355 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be
356 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal
357 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III
358 violations for a period of 1 year.

359 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the department
360 determines through a formal process that a provider has been in
361 business for at least 5 years and has no other class I
362 violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state
363 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care
364 status. The state board's determination regarding such
365 provider's status is final.

366 (5) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305

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367 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.
368 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this
369 section shall be considered an educational institution for the
370 purpose of qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s.
371 196.198.

372 (6) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305
373 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.
374 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this
375 section and which participates in the school readiness program
376 shall receive a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for
377 each enrolled school readiness child by care level and unit of
378 child care.

379 (7)-(5) The state board ~~Department of Children and Families~~
380 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide
381 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting
382 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care
383 program and~~7~~ conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal
384 Quality Care providers~~7~~, ~~and classifying violations.~~

385 Section 10. Type two transfer from the Department of
386 Children and Families.-

387 (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,
388 personnel, associated administrative support positions,
389 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative
390 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of
391 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the

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392 Gold Seal Quality Care program within the Department of Children
393 and Families are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined
394 in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Department of
395 Education.

396 (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing
397 before July 1, 2020, between the Department of Children and
398 Families, or an entity or agent of the department, and any other
399 agency, entity, or person relating to the Gold Seal Quality Care
400 program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for
401 the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the
402 successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or
403 functions relative to the contract or agreement.

404 Section 11. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and paragraph
405 (a) of subsection (7) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, are
406 amended to read:

407 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

408 (1) LICENSING STANDARDS.—The department shall establish
409 licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must
410 meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to
411 operate the facility or the type of children served by the
412 facility.

413 (c) The minimum standards for child care facilities shall
414 be adopted in the rules of the department and shall address the
415 areas delineated in this section. The department, in adopting
416 rules to establish minimum standards for child care facilities,

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417 shall recognize that different age groups of children may
418 require different standards. The department may adopt different
419 minimum standards for facilities that serve children in
420 different age groups, including school-age children. The
421 department shall also adopt by rule a definition for child care
422 which distinguishes between child care programs that require
423 child care licensure and after-school programs that do not
424 require licensure. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
425 the contrary, minimum child care licensing standards shall be
426 developed to provide for reasonable, affordable, and safe
427 before-school and after-school care. Licensing standards adopted
428 by the department between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2022, must
429 be ratified by the Legislature. After-school programs that
430 otherwise meet the criteria for exclusion from licensure may
431 provide snacks and meals through the federal Afterschool Meal
432 Program (AMP) administered by the Department of Health in
433 accordance with federal regulations and standards. The
434 Department of Health shall consider meals to be provided through
435 the AMP only if the program is actively participating in the
436 AMP, is in good standing with the department, and the meals meet
437 AMP requirements. Standards, at a minimum, shall allow for a
438 credentialed director to supervise multiple before-school and
439 after-school sites.

440 (7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

441 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for

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442 sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency
443 procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The
444 minimum standards shall require that ~~at least~~ one staff person
445 trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as evidenced by
446 current documentation of course completion, must be present at
447 all times that children are present.

448 Section 12. Subsection (5) of section 402.315, Florida
449 Statutes, is amended to read:

450 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

451 (5) All moneys collected by the department for child care
452 licensing shall be held in a trust fund of the department to be
453 reallocated to the department during the following fiscal year
454 to fund child care licensing activities, including the Gold Seal
455 Quality Care program created pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~.

456 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
457 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

458 402.56 Children's cabinet; organization; responsibilities;
459 annual report.—

460 (4) MEMBERS.—The cabinet shall consist of 16 members
461 including the Governor and the following persons:

462 (a)1. The Secretary of Children and Families;

463 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;

464 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with
465 Disabilities;

466 4. A representative from the Division ~~The director of the~~

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467 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;

468 5. The State Surgeon General;

469 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;

470 7. The Commissioner of Education;

471 8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;

472 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child
473 Protection;

474 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the
475 Governor; and

476 11. Five members who represent children and youth advocacy
477 organizations and who are not service providers, appointed by
478 the Governor.

479 Section 14. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
480 411.226, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

481 411.226 Learning Gateway.—

482 (2) LEARNING GATEWAY STEERING COMMITTEE.—

483 (e) To support and facilitate system improvements, the
484 steering committee must consult with representatives from the
485 Department of Education, the Department of Health, ~~the Office of~~
486 ~~Early Learning~~, the Department of Children and Families, the
487 Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of
488 Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Corrections and with the
489 director of the Learning Development and Evaluation Center of
490 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

491 Section 15. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)

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492 of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of
493 section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

494 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning
495 Gateway system consists of the following components:

496 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED
497 ACCESS.—

498 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the
499 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies
500 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,
501 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,
502 and the service system that is available. The information should
503 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should
504 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers
505 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should
506 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a
507 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such
508 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child
509 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide
510 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in
511 developing and distributing educational materials and
512 information.

513 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
514 children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide
515 information to public and private preschool programs, child care
516 providers, pediatricians, parents, and local businesses and

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517 organizations. These strategies should include information on
518 the school readiness performance standards adopted by the
519 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

520 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
521 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate
522 training materials and brochures to parents and public and
523 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local
524 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in
525 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain
526 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades
527 K-3.

528 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

529 (a) In coordination with ~~the Office of Early Learning~~, the
530 Department of Education, and the Florida Pediatric Society, and
531 using information learned from the local demonstration projects,
532 the Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish
533 guidelines for screening children from birth through age 9. The
534 guidelines should incorporate recent research on the indicators
535 most likely to predict early learning problems, mild
536 developmental delays, child-specific precursors of school
537 failure, and other related developmental indicators in the
538 domains of cognition; communication; attention; perception;
539 behavior; and social, emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

540 (3) EARLY EDUCATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.—

541 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the

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542 Department of Children and Families ~~and~~ the Department of
543 Education, ~~and the Office of Early Learning~~, shall identify the
544 elements of an effective research-based curriculum for early
545 care and education programs.

546 Section 16. Subsection (1) of section 414.295, Florida
547 Statutes, is amended to read:

548 414.295 Temporary cash assistance programs; public records
549 exemption.—

550 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash
551 assistance program participant, a participant's family, or a
552 participant's family or household member, except for information
553 identifying a parent who does not live in the same home as the
554 child, which is held by the department, ~~the Office of Early~~
555 ~~Learning~~, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Health,
556 the Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, or a
557 local workforce development board or local committee created
558 pursuant to s. 445.007 is confidential and exempt from s.
559 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such
560 confidential and exempt information may be released for purposes
561 directly connected with:

562 (a) The administration of the temporary assistance for
563 needy families plan under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act,
564 as amended, by the department, ~~the Office of Early Learning~~,
565 CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Military Affairs,
566 the Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the

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567 Department of Education, a local workforce development board or
568 local committee created pursuant to s. 445.007, or a school
569 district.

570 (b) The administration of the state's plan or program
571 approved under Title IV-B, Title IV-D, or Title IV-E of the
572 Social Security Act, as amended, or under Title I, Title X,
573 Title XIV, Title XVI, Title XIX, Title XX, or Title XXI of the
574 Social Security Act, as amended.

575 (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or
576 administrative proceeding conducted in connection with the
577 administration of any of the plans or programs specified in
578 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a federal, state, or local
579 governmental entity, upon request by that entity, if such
580 request is made pursuant to the proper exercise of that entity's
581 duties and responsibilities.

582 (d) The administration of any other state, federal, or
583 federally assisted program that provides assistance or services
584 on the basis of need, in cash or in kind, directly to a
585 participant.

586 (e) An audit or similar activity, such as a review of
587 expenditure reports or financial review, conducted in connection
588 with the administration of plans or programs specified in
589 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a governmental entity
590 authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.

591 (f) The administration of the reemployment assistance

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592 program.

593 (g) The reporting to the appropriate agency or official of
594 information about known or suspected instances of physical or
595 mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent
596 treatment or maltreatment of a child or elderly person receiving
597 assistance, if circumstances indicate that the health or welfare
598 of the child or elderly person is threatened.

599 (h) The administration of services to elderly persons
600 under ss. 430.601-430.606.

601 Section 17. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
602 to read:

603 1000.01 The Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
604 system; technical provisions.-

605 (1) NAME.-Chapters 1000 through 1013 shall be known and
606 cited as the "Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code."

607 (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.-The provisions of the Florida
608 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code shall be liberally
609 construed to the end that its objectives may be effected. It is
610 the legislative intent that if any section, subsection,
611 sentence, clause, or provision of the Florida Early Learning-20
612 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is held invalid, the remainder of the code
613 shall not be affected.

614 (3) PURPOSE.-The purpose of the Florida Early Learning-20
615 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of
616 schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and

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617 services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the
618 opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida
619 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system is established to
620 accomplish this purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be
621 construed to require the provision of free public education
622 beyond grade 12.

623 (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS INCLUDED.—As
624 required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the Florida
625 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall include the
626 uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public K-12
627 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of instruction,
628 beginning with kindergarten, and shall also provide such
629 instruction for students with disabilities, gifted students,
630 limited English proficient students, and students in Department
631 of Juvenile Justice programs as may be required by law. The
632 funds for support and maintenance of the uniform system of free
633 public K-12 schools shall be derived from state, district,
634 federal, and other lawful sources or combinations of sources,
635 including any fees charged nonresidents as provided by law.

636 Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 1000.02, Florida
637 Statutes, is amended to read:

638 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida
639 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

640 (2) The guiding principles for Florida's Early Learning-20
641 ~~K-20~~ education system are:

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642 (a) A coordinated, seamless system for early learning
643 ~~kindergarten~~ through graduate school education.

644 (b) A system that is student-centered in every facet.

645 (c) A system that maximizes education access and allows
646 the opportunity for a high quality education for all Floridians.

647 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports academic
648 excellence.

649 (e) A system that provides for local operational
650 flexibility while promoting accountability for student
651 achievement and improvement.

652 Section 19. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is amended
653 to read:

654 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida Early
655 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.-

656 (1) Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
657 shall be a decentralized system without excess layers of
658 bureaucracy. Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
659 shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a common
660 set of data definitions.

661 (2) (a) The Legislature shall establish education policy,
662 enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate education
663 resources.

664 (b) With the exception of matters relating to the State
665 University System, the State Board of Education shall oversee
666 the enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision

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667 of direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,
668 and strong incentives and disincentives to force accountability
669 for results.

670 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement
671 of all state university laws and rules and regulations and the
672 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,
673 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and
674 disincentives to force accountability for results.

675 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the
676 state and local educational authorities. The state retains
677 responsibility for establishing a system of public education
678 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient operation
679 of an Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ system of public education and
680 adequate educational opportunities for all individuals. Local
681 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully
682 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to efficiently
683 use the resources available to them to assist the state in
684 allowing adequate educational opportunities.

685 (4) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
686 education system is to allow its students to increase their
687 proficiency by allowing them the opportunity to expand their
688 knowledge and skills through rigorous and relevant learning
689 opportunities, in accordance with the mission statement and
690 accountability requirements of s. 1008.31.

691 (5) The priorities of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~

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692 education system include:

693 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including
694 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for
695 postsecondary education without remediation.—All students
696 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,
697 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter
698 postsecondary education without remediation.

699 (b) Student performance.—Students demonstrate that they
700 meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels
701 of their education.

702 (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become
703 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive
704 contributions to their communities.

705 (d) Alignment of standards and resources.—Academic
706 standards for every level of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
707 education system are aligned, and education financial resources
708 are aligned with student performance expectations at each level
709 of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

710 (e) Educational leadership.—The quality of educational
711 leadership at all levels of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education is
712 improved.

713 (f) Workforce education.—Workforce education is
714 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new global
715 economy.

716 (g) Parental, student, family, educational institution,

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717 and community involvement.—Parents, students, families,
718 educational institutions, and communities are collaborative
719 partners in education, and each plays an important role in the
720 success of individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida
721 cannot be the guarantor of each individual student's success.
722 The goals of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
723 are not guarantees that each individual student will succeed or
724 that each individual school will perform at the level indicated
725 in the goals.

726 (h) Comprehensive Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ career and
727 education planning.—It is essential that Florida's Early
728 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system better prepare all students at
729 every level for the transition from school to postsecondary
730 education or work by providing information regarding:

731 1. Career opportunities, educational requirements
732 associated with each career, educational institutions that
733 prepare students to enter each career, and student financial aid
734 available to pursue postsecondary instruction required to enter
735 each career.

736 2. How to make informed decisions about the program of
737 study that best addresses the students' interests and abilities
738 while preparing them to enter postsecondary education or the
739 workforce.

740 3. Recommended coursework and programs that prepare
741 students for success in their areas of interest and ability.

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743 This information shall be provided to students and parents
744 through websites, handbooks, manuals, or other regularly
745 provided communications.

746 Section 20. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended
747 to read:

748 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education
749 within the Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—
750 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system provides for
751 the delivery of early learning and public education through
752 publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College
753 System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary
754 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and
755 other educational services as provided or authorized by the
756 Constitution and laws of the state.

757 (1) EARLY LEARNING.—Early learning includes the Voluntary
758 Prekindergarten Education Program and the school readiness
759 program.

760 (2) ~~(1)~~ PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.—The public K-12 schools
761 include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;
762 elementary, middle, and high school grades and special classes;
763 virtual instruction programs; workforce education; career
764 centers; adult, part-time, and evening schools, courses, or
765 classes, as authorized by law to be operated under the control
766 of district school boards; and lab schools operated under the

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767 control of state universities.

768 (3)~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—
769 Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce
770 education; Florida College System institutions; state
771 universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary
772 educational institutions that are authorized and established by
773 law.

774 (4)~~(3)~~ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.—The
775 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of the
776 delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20
777 ~~K-20~~ education system.

778 (5)~~(4)~~ THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.—The Florida Virtual
779 School is a component of the delivery of public education within
780 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

781 Section 21. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended
782 to read:

783 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida
784 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code:

785 (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that
786 provides the means by which students proceed toward their
787 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner
788 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade level,
789 from elementary to middle to high school, to and through
790 postsecondary education, and when transferring from one
791 educational institution or program to another.

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- 792 (2) "Commissioner" is the Commissioner of Education.
793 (3) "Florida College System institution" except as
794 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following
795 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida
796 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other
797 affiliates of the institution:
- 798 (a) Eastern Florida State College, which serves Brevard
799 County.
 - 800 (b) Broward College, which serves Broward County.
 - 801 (c) College of Central Florida, which serves Citrus, Levy,
802 and Marion Counties.
 - 803 (d) Chipola College, which serves Calhoun, Holmes,
804 Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties.
 - 805 (e) Daytona State College, which serves Flagler and
806 Volusia Counties.
 - 807 (f) Florida SouthWestern State College, which serves
808 Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.
 - 809 (g) Florida State College at Jacksonville, which serves
810 Duval and Nassau Counties.
 - 811 (h) The College of the Florida Keys, which serves Monroe
812 County.
 - 813 (i) Gulf Coast State College, which serves Bay, Franklin,
814 and Gulf Counties.
 - 815 (j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves
816 Hillsborough County.

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817 (k) Indian River State College, which serves Indian River,
818 Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties.

819 (l) Florida Gateway College, which serves Baker, Columbia,
820 Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties.

821 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and
822 Sumter Counties.

823 (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which
824 serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

825 (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.

826 (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,
827 Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.

828 (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa
829 and Walton Counties.

830 (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach
831 County.

832 (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando
833 and Pasco Counties.

834 (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and
835 Santa Rosa Counties.

836 (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.

837 (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,
838 Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

839 (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.

840 (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford
841 Counties.

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- 842 (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves
843 Seminole County.
- 844 (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,
845 Hardee, and Highlands Counties.
- 846 (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,
847 Leon, and Wakulla Counties.
- 848 (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola
849 Counties.
- 850 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.
- 851 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any
852 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to
853 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a
854 student in place of the parent.
- 855 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically
856 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch
857 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:
- 858 (a) The University of Florida.
- 859 (b) The Florida State University.
- 860 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.
- 861 (d) The University of South Florida.
- 862 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.
- 863 (f) The University of West Florida.
- 864 (g) The University of Central Florida.
- 865 (h) The University of North Florida.
- 866 (i) The Florida International University.

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867 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.

868 (k) New College of Florida.

869 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.

870 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the
871 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.
872 1003.41.

873 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the
874 State University System.

875 Section 22. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of
876 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended
877 to read:

878 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

879 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing
880 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for
881 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level
882 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to
883 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law
884 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state
885 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the
886 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it
887 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the
888 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of
889 the department.

890 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

891 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and Legislature,

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892 as provided in s. 216.023, a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
893 education budget that estimates the expenditure requirements for
894 the Board of Governors, as provided in s. 1001.706, the State
895 Board of Education, including the Department of Education and
896 the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,
897 institutions, agencies, and services under the general
898 supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.
899 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal
900 year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget
901 request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program
902 recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of
903 Education which will require increases in state funding for more
904 than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

905 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the
906 implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology
907 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

908 Section 23. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,
909 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

910 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

911 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education
912 shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all
913 school districts, early learning coalitions, and public
914 postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State
915 University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.
916 1008.32.

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917 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.—The State Board of
918 Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors regarding
919 the State University System, shall continue to collect and
920 maintain, at a minimum, the management information databases for
921 state universities, and all other components of the public Early
922 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on
923 June 30, 2002.

924 Section 24. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l)
925 of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10,
926 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

927 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and
928 duties.—

929 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational
930 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational
931 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full
932 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing
933 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning ~~K-20~~
934 education system, except for the State University System.

935 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following
936 general powers and duties:

937 (g) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or
938 before October 1 of each year, recommendations for a coordinated
939 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education budget that estimates the
940 expenditures for the Board of Governors, the State Board of
941 Education, including the Department of Education and the

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942 Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards, institutions,
943 agencies, and services under the general supervision of the
944 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education for the
945 ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State Board
946 of Education that will require increases in state funding for
947 more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

948 (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly
949 materials relating to the state's education system, including
950 the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness
951 program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

952 (l) To prepare and publish annually reports giving
953 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the
954 state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,
955 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

956 (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the
957 commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means
958 of communication with early learning coalitions, local school
959 districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite
960 offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of
961 Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and
962 assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite
963 office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after
964 considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and
965 clients.

966 Section 25. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection

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967 (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

968 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

969 (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently
970 perform the following duties:

971 (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the
972 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the
973 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State
974 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,
975 and early learning programs.

976 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an
977 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for
978 educational management in accordance with the requirements of
979 chapter 1008.

980 Section 26. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is
981 repealed.

982 Section 27. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida
983 Statutes, is amended to read:

984 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
985 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The
986 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and
987 shall:

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

991 Section 28. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida

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992 Statutes, is amended to read:

993 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of
994 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law
995 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department
996 shall:

997 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~
998 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

999 Section 29. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida
1000 Statutes, is amended to read:

1001 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University
1002 System.—

1003 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority
1004 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its
1005 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an
1006 Early Learning-20 a-K-20 education system that provides
1007 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for
1008 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State
1009 Constitution and state law.

1010 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
1011 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

1013 (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—

1014 (b) The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative
1015 budget requests for the State University System, including a
1016 request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State

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1017 Board of Education for inclusion in the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
1018 legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide
1019 the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats,
1020 and instruction for the development of individual university
1021 budget requests.

1022 Section 31. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
1023 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1024 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;
1025 rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—

1026 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1027 (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,
1028 institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education
1029 system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~
1030 ~~(4)~~.

1031 Section 32. Subsection (3) of section 1002.32, Florida
1032 Statutes, is amended to read:

1033 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

1034 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the
1035 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,
1036 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,
1037 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school
1038 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.
1039 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an
1040 appropriate education for its students.

1041 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,

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1042 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a
1043 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such
1044 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state
1045 university campus, while also providing an education in
1046 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide
1047 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where
1048 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade
1049 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State
1050 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement
1051 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1052 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1053 lab school may be generated by the college of education and
1054 other colleges within the university with which the school is
1055 affiliated.

1056 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1057 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.
1058 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education
1059 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the
1060 affiliated college.

1061 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1062 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the
1063 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the
1064 Legislature.

1065 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab
1066 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals

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1067 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.
1068 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education
1069 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the
1070 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1071 Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section
1072 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1073 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

1074 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1075 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-
1076 20 ~~20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to
1077 students with disabilities.

1078 Section 34. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida
1079 Statutes, is amended to read:

1080 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1081 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and
1082 the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported
1083 residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually
1084 impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is
1085 a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's
1086 Early Learning-20 ~~20~~ education system and shall be funded
1087 through the Department of Education. The school shall provide
1088 educational programs and support services appropriate to meet
1089 the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of
1090 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who
1091 meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the

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1092 school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state
1093 agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach
1094 basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and
1095 to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida
1096 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the
1097 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant
1098 Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1099 Section 35. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection
1100 (5) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
1101 paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6), to read:

1102 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
1103 eligibility and enrollment.—

1104 (4)

1105 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed
1106 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be
1107 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth
1108 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in
1109 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the
1110 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public
1111 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments
1112 for the program be made to the provider or school. The
1113 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative
1114 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a
1115 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1116 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent

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1117 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1118 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
1119 and public school delivering the program within the county where
1120 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to
1121 parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance
1122 with s. 1002.92(3) Office of Early Learning. ~~The profiles must~~
1123 ~~include, at a minimum, the following information about each~~
1124 ~~provider and school:~~

1125 ~~(a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~
1126 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor to student ratio; and~~
1127 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~
1128 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~
1129 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~
1130 ~~screening.~~

1131 (6)

1132 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the
1133 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or
1134 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and
1135 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.

1136 Section 36. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),
1137 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph
1138 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are
1139 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1140 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1141 private prekindergarten providers.—

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1142 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
1143 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
1144 following requirements:

1145 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
1146 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
1147 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
1148 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under
1149 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from
1150 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is
1151 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1152 military installation that is certified by the United States
1153 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that
1154 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A
1155 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program
1156 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1157 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1158 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
1159 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
1160 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be
1161 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
1162 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central
1163 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States
1164 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association
1165 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation
1166 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements

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1167 | under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at
1168 | least one onsite visit to the provider or school before
1169 | accreditation is granted;

1170 | 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
1171 | s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1172 | 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
1173 | 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary
1174 | Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early
1175 | learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
1176 | requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
1177 | limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
1178 | screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
1179 | and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),
1180 | prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a
1181 | developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1182 | (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
1183 | each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one
1184 | prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following
1185 | requirements:

1186 | 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,
1187 | one of the following credentials:

1188 | a. A child development associate credential issued by the
1189 | National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
1190 | Recognition; or

1191 | b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and

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1192 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential
1193 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1194

1195 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under
1196 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures
1197 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1198 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully
1199 complete at least three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses
1200 that include developmentally appropriate and experiential
1201 learning practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance
1202 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as
1203 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.
1204 1002.59. The requirement for completion of the standards
1205 training course shall take effect July 1, 2021 ~~2014~~, and be
1206 recognized as part of the informal early learning career pathway
1207 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). ~~Such and~~
1208 ~~the~~ course shall be available online or in person.

1209 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a
1210 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
1211 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
1212 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1213 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1214 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1215 screening requirements in chapter 435. The department ~~Office of~~
1216 ~~Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph

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1217 which shall include required qualifications of substitute
1218 instructors and the circumstances and time limits for which a
1219 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
1220 instructor.

1221 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a
1222 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director
1223 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting
1224 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A
1225 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in
1226 educational leadership issued by the department satisfies the
1227 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.
1228 1002.57. Successful completion of a child care facility director
1229 credential under s. 402.305(2) (g) before the establishment of
1230 the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July
1231 1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a
1232 prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.

1233 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register
1234 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the
1235 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1236 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the
1237 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~
1238 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple
1239 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's
1240 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition
1241 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

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1242 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain
1243 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with
1244 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
1245 including coverage for transportation of children if
1246 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A
1247 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
1248 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
1249 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
1250 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
1251 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder
1252 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
1253 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
1254 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
1255 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
1256 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
1257 contract with the coalition.

1258 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private
1259 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision
1260 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to
1261 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage
1262 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise
1263 established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the
1264 coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding
1265 paragraph (j), for a child development program that is
1266 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a

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1267 military installation that is certified by the United States
1268 Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability
1269 coverage by affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort
1270 Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

1271 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum
1272 credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may
1273 hold one of the following educational credentials:

1274 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood
1275 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool
1276 education, or family and consumer science;

1277 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,
1278 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach
1279 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of
1280 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if
1281 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school
1282 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1283 (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1284 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,
1285 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child
1286 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or
1287 providing child care services for children any age from birth
1288 through 8 years of age; or

1289 (e) An educational credential approved by the department
1290 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential
1291 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria

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1292 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials
1293 under this paragraph.

1294 (5)

1295 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of law~~, if a
1296 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
1297 violation, as defined by rule by the Child Care Services Program
1298 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
1299 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1300 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each
1301 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
1302 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
1303 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private
1304 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this
1305 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the
1306 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility
1307 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part
1308 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1309 Section 37. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of
1310 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
1311 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,
1312 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that
1313 section, to read:

1314 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1315 (1) The department office, in consultation with the
1316 Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum

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1317 standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of
1318 private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary
1319 Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass
1320 requirements for education and onsite experience.

1321 (2) The educational requirements must include training in
1322 the following:

1323 (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-
1324 level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1325 Section 38. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended
1326 to read:

1327 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
1328 training courses.—

1329 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
1330 for ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for
1331 prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock
1332 hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to
1333 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students
1334 in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral
1335 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and
1336 phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension
1337 development. Each course must also provide resources containing
1338 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other
1339 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary
1340 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an
1341 emergent literacy training course approved under this section

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1342 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy
1343 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6),
1344 and 402.3131(5).

1345 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
1346 for ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards
1347 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of
1348 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in
1349 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of
1350 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1351 (3) The department shall make available online
1352 professional development and training courses comprised of at
1353 least 8 clock hours that support prekindergarten instructors in
1354 increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

1355 Section 39. Subsections (6) through (8) of section
1356 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7)
1357 through (9), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1),
1358 paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and present
1359 subsections (6) and (8) are amended, and new subsections (6) and
1360 (10) are added to that section, to read:

1361 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
1362 schools and private prekindergarten providers.-

1363 (1)

1364 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the
1365 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
1366 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a

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1367 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private
1368 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is
1369 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1370 military installation that is certified by the United States
1371 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten
1372 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1373 (3)

1374 (b) Each public school delivering the summer
1375 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
1376 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
1377 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
1378 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1379 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),
1380 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
1381 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
1382 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds
1383 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)
1384 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"
1385 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate
1386 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the
1387 district school board to instruct students in the summer
1388 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for
1389 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall
1390 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in
1391 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy

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1392 and performance standards courses, as defined in s.
1393 1002.55(3)(c)2.

1394 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a
1395 national accrediting body and operates on a military
1396 installation that is certified by the United States Department
1397 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private
1398 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1399 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider
1400 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a
1401 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned
1402 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1403 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1404 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1405 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
1406 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
1407 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
1408 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1409 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
1410 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
1411 circumstances and time limits for which a public school or
1412 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
1413 instructor.

1414 (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer
1415 prekindergarten program must also register with the early
1416 learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office~~

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1417 ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1418 Education Program in accordance with this part.

1419 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
1420 each private prekindergarten provider and public school
1421 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1422 within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies
1423 with this part.

1424 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1425 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in
1426 misconduct, the department shall require the early learning
1427 coalition to remove the provider or school from eligibility to
1428 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
1429 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2
1430 years but no more than 5 years.

1431 Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and
1432 subsections (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes,
1433 are amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to
1434 read:

1435 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1436 public schools.—

1437 (3)

1438 (b) Each public school delivering the school-year
1439 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
1440 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
1441 school district may execute a single agreement with the early

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1442 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1443 (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a
1444 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
1445 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
1446 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1447 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1448 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1449 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
1450 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
1451 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
1452 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1453 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
1454 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
1455 circumstances and time limits for which a public school
1456 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1457 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year
1458 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning
1459 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~
1460 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1461 Program in accordance with this part.

1462 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
1463 each public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1464 Education Program within the coalition's service area complies
1465 with this part.

1466 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with

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1467 this part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require
1468 the early learning coalition to remove the school from
1469 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1470 Program and receive state funds under this part for a period of
1471 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1472 Section 41. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended
1473 to read:

1474 1002.67 Performance standards and curricula ~~and~~
1475 ~~accountability.~~

1476 (1) (a) The department ~~office~~ shall develop and adopt
1477 performance standards for students in the Voluntary
1478 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards
1479 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the
1480 development of:

1481 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under
1482 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

1483 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,
1484 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological
1485 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

1486 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

1487
1488 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~
1489 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~
1490 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~
1491 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

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1492 (b) At least every 3 years, the department office shall
1493 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance
1494 standards established under s. 1002.67 ~~for the statewide~~
1495 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align
1496 the standards to the standards established by the state board
1497 for student performance on the statewide assessments
1498 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1499 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1500 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or
1501 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1502 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school
1503 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4) (c).~~

1504 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1505 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
1506 must:

1507 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and
1508 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1509 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
1510 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
1511 under subsection (1); and

1512 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated
1513 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening
1514 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 ~~Prepare~~
1515 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~
1516 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

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1517 (c) The department office shall adopt procedures for the
1518 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private
1519 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on
1520 probation under s. 1002.68 paragraph (4)(c). The department
1521 office shall administer the review and approval process and
1522 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.
1523 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph
1524 (b).

1525 ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~
1526 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~
1527 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~
1528 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~
1529 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

1530 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~
1531 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~
1532 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~
1533 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1534 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~
1535 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~
1536 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1537 ~~(4)(a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~
1538 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~
1539 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~
1540 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~
1541 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~

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1542 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1543 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1544 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~
1545 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~
1546 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~
1547 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~
1548 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~
1549 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1550 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~
1551 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~
1552 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1553 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~
1554 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~
1555 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~
1556 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~
1557 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~
1558 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~
1559 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~
1560 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~
1561 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~
1562 ~~office.~~

1563 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1564 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~
1565 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~
1566 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~

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1567 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~
1568 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~
1569 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~
1570 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~
1571 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~
1572 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
1573 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1574 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1575 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~
1576 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1577 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~
1578 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~
1579 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~
1580 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~
1581 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~
1582 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1583 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~
1584 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~
1585 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~
1586 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~
1587 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~
1588 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~
1589 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~
1590 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1591 Section 42. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created

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1592 to read:

1593 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1594 accountability.—

1595 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, each
1596 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating
1597 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must
1598 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
1599 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated
1600 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used
1601 by the department to identify student learning gains, index
1602 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative
1603 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and
1604 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten
1605 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1606 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress
1607 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals
1608 meeting requirements adopted by the department pursuant to s.
1609 1008.2125.

1610 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1611 school must provide a student's performance results from the
1612 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's
1613 parents within 7 days after the administration of such
1614 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1615 (2) Beginning with the 2020-2021 program year, each
1616 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the

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1617 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in
1618 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education
1619 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of
1620 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,
1621 classroom organization, and instructional support for children
1622 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and
1623 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1624 shall receive from the department the results of the program
1625 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the
1626 observation. The program assessment must be administered by
1627 individuals who meet requirements established by rule of the
1628 State Board of Education.

1629 (3) (a) For the 2019-2020 program year, the department
1630 shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private
1631 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary
1632 Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning gains and
1633 the percentage of students who are assessed as ready for
1634 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school
1635 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use
1636 before the 2020-2021 school year to each kindergarten student in
1637 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2020-
1638 2021 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide
1639 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private
1640 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1641 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a

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1642 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results
1643 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2020-
1644 2021 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or
1645 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1646 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for
1647 the 2019-2020 program year is subject to the probation
1648 requirements of subsection (5).

1649 (b) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department shall
1650 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider
1651 based on the program assessment under subsection (2). Any
1652 private prekindergarten provider or public school in the
1653 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program which fails to meet
1654 the minimum program assessment composite score established by
1655 the department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(n) for the 2020-2021
1656 program year is subject to the probation requirements of
1657 subsection (5).

1658 (4)(a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, the
1659 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each
1660 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's
1661 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the
1662 following:

1663 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection
1664 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1665 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability
1666 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results

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1667 described in subsection (1).

1668 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
1669 described in subsection (1).

1670 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's
1671 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who
1672 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten
1673 provider's or public school's program.

1674 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance
1675 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or
1676 public school site.

1677 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent
1678 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent
1679 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early
1680 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability
1681 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a
1682 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the
1683 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following
1684 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"
1685 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable
1686 terminology determined by the State Board of Education which may
1687 not include letter grades. The independent expert may not be a
1688 direct stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the
1689 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1690 Program or public school system within the last 5 years.

1691 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall

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1692 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten
1693 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.
1694 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15
1695 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent
1696 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program
1697 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or
1698 public school may not receive a differential payment if it
1699 receives a designation of "proficient" or lower. Before the
1700 adoption of the methodology, the department and the independent
1701 expert shall confer with the Early Grade Success Advisory
1702 Committee under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the
1703 State Board of Education for the final recommendations on the
1704 designation system and differential payments.

1705 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually
1706 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1707 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in
1708 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph
1709 (d). Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each private
1710 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a
1711 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-
1712 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by
1713 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1714 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer
1715 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all
1716 participating private prekindergarten providers or public

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1717 schools.

1718 (g) Any private prekindergarten provider or public school
1719 that is designated "proficient," "highly proficient," or
1720 "excellent" demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory
1721 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1722 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early
1723 learning provider performance profiles required under s.
1724 1002.92 (3).

1725 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten
1726 provider's program assessment composite score for its
1727 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program
1728 assessment composite score for contracting established by the
1729 department pursuant to s. 1002.82 (2) (n), the private
1730 prekindergarten provider or public school may not participate in
1731 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the
1732 consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school
1733 or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite
1734 score for contracting.

1735 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public
1736 school's performance metric or designation falls below the
1737 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning
1738 coalition shall:

1739 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval
1740 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and
1741 implement the plan.

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1742 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1743 3. Require the provider or school to take certain
1744 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved
1745 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development
1746 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional
1747 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,
1748 instructional support, language development, phonological
1749 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

1750 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1751 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
1752 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets
1753 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the
1754 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs
1755 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's
1756 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1757 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more
1758 than 5 years.

1759 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1760 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
1761 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted
1762 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall
1763 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or
1764 school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1765 Education Program and receive state funds for the program for a
1766 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

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1767 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private
1768 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
1769 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently
1770 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and
1771 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an
1772 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the
1773 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
1774 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,
1775 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or
1776 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1777 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public
1778 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such
1779 an exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner
1780 and within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must
1781 include the following:

1782 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or
1783 public school which documents the achievement and progress of
1784 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or
1785 assessments.

1786 2. Data from the program assessment required under
1787 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices
1788 as recognized by the tool developer.

1789 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district
1790 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and
1791 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting

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1792 association, as applicable, relating to the private
1793 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with
1794 state and local health and safety standards.

1795 (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good
1796 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not
1797 limited to, all of the following:

1798 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private
1799 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically
1800 significant population of children with special needs who have
1801 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward
1802 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education
1803 plans.

1804 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary
1805 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten
1806 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has
1807 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening
1808 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

1809 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which
1810 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the
1811 tool developer.

1812 4. Verification that local and state health and safety
1813 requirements are met.

1814 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
1815 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
1816 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as

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1817 defined by rule by the Department of Children and Families,
1818 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request
1819 for the exemption.

1820 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1821 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its
1822 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
1823 under subsection (5)(b) until the provider or school meets the
1824 minimum performance metric.

1825 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private
1826 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
1827 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all
1828 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall
1829 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption
1830 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the
1831 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
1832 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for
1833 the program.

1834 (g) The department shall report the number of private
1835 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a
1836 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part
1837 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(6).

1838 (7) Representatives from each school district and
1839 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to
1840 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary
1841 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

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1842 Section 43. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is
1843 repealed.

1844 Section 44. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection
1845 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of
1846 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
1847 Statutes, are amended to read:

1848 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

1849 (3)

1850 (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated
1851 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The
1852 department Office of Early Learning shall reallocate funds among
1853 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student
1854 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall
1855 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a
1856 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal
1857 year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent
1858 fiscal year.

1859 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

1860 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs
1861 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent
1862 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under
1863 subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the
1864 funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw
1865 from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the
1866 programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of

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1867 the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time
1868 equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and
1869 reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued
1870 in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~
1871 uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6) (d).

1872 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the
1873 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
1874 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
1875 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer
1876 programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time
1877 equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is
1878 reenrolled.

1879
1880 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program
1881 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten
1882 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
1883 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good
1884 cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~
1885 ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a
1886 good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under
1887 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a
1888 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship
1889 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under
1890 paragraph (b).

1891 (5)

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1892 (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt
1893 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers
1894 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1895 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance
1896 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment
1897 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the
1898 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the
1899 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The
1900 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
1901 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning
1902 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private
1903 prekindergarten providers and public schools.

1904 (6)

1905 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district
1906 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each
1907 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
1908 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
1909 month's certified student attendance.

1910 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
1911 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
1912 public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~
1913 ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the
1914 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
1915 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
1916 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in

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1917 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
1918 program be made to the provider or school:

1919 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
1920 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

1921 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,
1922 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1923 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I
1924 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver
1925 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid
1926 to the provider or school for my child.

1927 ... (Signature of Parent)...

1928 ... (Date)...

1929 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school
1930 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each
1931 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning
1932 coalition, and each public school must permit the school
1933 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal
1934 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1935 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school
1936 districts to review the original signed forms against the
1937 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall
1938 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,
1939 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early
1940 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the
1941 review procedures.

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1942 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,
1943 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the
1944 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance
1945 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private
1946 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance
1947 policy must include at least the following provisions:

1948 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata
1949 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

1950 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on
1951 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a
1952 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

1953 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may
1954 not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's
1955 first day of attendance or after a student's last day of
1956 attendance.

1957
1958 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding
1959 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten
1960 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its
1961 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

1962 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require
1963 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum
1964 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
1965 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative
1966 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent

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1967 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic
1968 submission of forms, including those required for child
1969 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and
1970 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school
1971 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system
1972 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early
1973 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In
1974 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate
1975 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative
1976 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend
1977 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to
1978 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under
1979 paragraph (5)(b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition
1980 under this subsection may be used only for administering the
1981 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used
1982 for the school readiness program or other programs.

1983 Section 45. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida
1984 Statutes, is amended to read:

1985 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary
1986 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

1987 (1)(a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary
1988 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning
1989 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a
1990 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are
1991 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I

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1992 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such
1993 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
1994 observations, and personal identifying information of an
1995 enrolled child and his or her parent.

1996 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child
1997 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held
1998 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~
1999 ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2000 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this
2001 exemption.

2002 Section 46. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended
2003 to read:

2004 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;
2005 accountability requirements.—

2006 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard
2007 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary
2008 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized
2009 attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a
2010 copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.
2011 The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a
2012 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for
2013 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a
2014 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the
2015 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide
2016 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process

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2017 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,
2018 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any
2019 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or
2020 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~
2021 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
2022 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

2023 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:

2024 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials
2025 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

2026 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early
2027 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and
2028 1002.59.

2029 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers
2030 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the
2031 minimum performance metric as required by s. 1002.68 of the
2032 high-quality professional development opportunities developed or
2033 supported by the department.

2034 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2035 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,
2036 but not limited to, procedures for:

2037 1. Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
2038 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2039 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children
2040 by public schools and private providers that meet specified
2041 requirements.

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2042 2. Providing parents with profiles of private
2043 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2044 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and
2045 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,
2046 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2047 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten
2048 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61
2049 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility
2050 whenever possible.

2051 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
2052 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
2053 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
2054 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2055 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public
2056 schools under s. 1002.71.

2057 7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
2058 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2059 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the
2060 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2061 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private
2062 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with
2063 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.
2064 1002.71.

2065 (3) The department shall administer the accountability
2066 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

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2067 at the state level.

2068 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the
2069 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2070 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2071 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
2072 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2073 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
2074 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
2075 1002.68.

2076 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public
2077 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the
2078 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time
2079 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a
2080 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
2081 violation, as defined by rule by the Child Care Services Program
2082 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
2083 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the
2084 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2085 Education Program.

2086 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
2087 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2088 under s. 1002.66.

2089 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers
2090 under s. 1002.66.

2091 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~

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2092 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~
2093 ~~1002.69.~~

2094 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~
2095 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
2096 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
2097 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~
2098 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
2099 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
2100 ~~department.~~

2101 ~~(f)(e)~~ Approval of specialized instructional
2102 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2103 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~
2104 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2105 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or
2106 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.
2107 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69(7)~~.

2108 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the
2109 distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.
2110 1002.71.

2111 ~~(6)(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not
2112 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or
2113 public school that does not deliver the Voluntary
2114 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under
2115 this part.

2116 Section 47. Sections 1002.75 and 1002.77, Florida

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2117 Statutes, are repealed.

2118 Section 48. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended
2119 to read:

2120 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education
2121 ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)
2122 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring
2123 duties upon the department office.

2124 Section 49. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended
2125 to read:

2126 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of
2127 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2128 (1) "At-risk child" means:

2129 (a) A child from a family under investigation by the
2130 Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's
2131 office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2132 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the
2133 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider
2134 and who is from a family that is actively participating and
2135 complying in department-prescribed activities, including
2136 education, health services, or work.

2137 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the
2138 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service
2139 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2140 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or
2141 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after

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2142 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and
2143 Families or its contracted provider.

2144 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a
2145 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a
2146 certified domestic violence center.

2147 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered
2148 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families
2149 certified homeless shelter.

2150 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care
2151 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,
2152 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,
2153 including reasonable travel time.

2154 (3)~~(4)~~ "Direct enhancement services" means services for
2155 families and children that are in addition to payments for the
2156 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct
2157 enhancement services for families and children may include
2158 supports for providers, parent training and involvement
2159 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique
2160 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement
2161 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be
2162 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
2163 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2164 (4)~~(5)~~ "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary
2165 or permanent, of a child from participation in the school
2166 readiness program. Removal of a child from the school readiness

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2167 program may be based on the following events: a reduction in
2168 available school readiness program funding, participant's
2169 failure to meet eligibility or program participation
2170 requirements, fraud, or a change in local service priorities.

2171 ~~(5)~~ ~~(6)~~ "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived
2172 from work, professional service, or self-employment. The term
2173 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash
2174 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

2175 ~~(6)~~ ~~(7)~~ "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family
2176 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty
2177 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family
2178 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural
2179 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer
2180 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according
2181 to weather conditions and market stability.

2182 ~~(7)~~ ~~(8)~~ "Family income" means the combined gross income,
2183 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by
2184 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older
2185 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.
2186 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled
2187 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or
2188 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22
2189 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high
2190 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special
2191 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also

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2192 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing
2193 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the
2194 associated utilities expenses.

2195 ~~(8)-(9)~~ "Family or household members" means spouses, former
2196 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are
2197 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have
2198 been married, and other persons who are currently residing
2199 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2200 ~~(9)-(10)~~ "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not
2201 more than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education
2202 services within a 24-hour period.

2203 ~~(10)-(11)~~ "Market rate" means the price that a child care
2204 or early childhood education provider charges for full-time or
2205 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early
2206 childhood education services.

2207 ~~(12)~~ "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the
2208 Department of Education.

2209 ~~(11)-(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child
2210 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour
2211 period.

2212 ~~(12)-(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the
2213 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency
2214 distribution average of the market rate by program care level
2215 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which
2216 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

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2217 ~~(13)-(14)~~ "Single point of entry" means an integrated
2218 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her
2219 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary
2220 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations
2221 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or
2222 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a
2223 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for
2224 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2225 ~~(14)-(15)~~ "Unearned income" means income other than earned
2226 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 2227 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
- 2228 (b) Social security benefits.
- 2229 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
- 2230 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.
- 2231 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation
2232 benefits.
- 2233 (f) Veterans' benefits.
- 2234 (g) Retirement benefits.
- 2235 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.

2236 ~~(15)-(16)~~ "Working family" means:

2237 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom
2238 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or
2239 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2240 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom
2241 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or

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2242 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours
2243 per week; or

2244 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with
2245 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to
2246 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician
2247 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is
2248 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at
2249 least 20 hours per week.

2250 Section 50. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended
2251 to read:

2252 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;
2253 powers and duties.—

2254 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and
2255 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts
2256 98 and 99, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~
2257 is designated as the lead agency and must comply with lead
2258 agency responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department
2259 ~~office~~ may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of,
2260 and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss.
2261 411.223 and 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for
2262 implementation of the school readiness program. Section
2263 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply to the school readiness program.

2264 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2265 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered
2266 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

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2267 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to
2268 choose from a variety of child care categories, including
2269 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to
2270 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development
2271 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health
2272 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and
2273 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or
2274 excluded in any of these categories.

2275 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
2276 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
2277 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,
2278 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of
2279 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,
2280 including:

2281 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for
2282 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides
2283 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,
2284 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.
2285 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

- 2286 a. Direct services to children.
- 2287 b. Administrative costs.
- 2288 c. Quality activities.
- 2289 d. Nondirect services.

2290 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to
2291 perform data matches on children participating in the school

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2292 readiness program and their families in order to verify the
2293 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2294 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of
2295 the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate.

2296 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school
2297 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval
2298 of the plan and any amendments submitted.

2299 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to
2300 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of
2301 this effort, the department ~~office~~:

2302 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that
2303 address the state's school readiness program, including:

2304 a. Statewide data information program requirements that
2305 include:

2306 (I) Eligibility requirements.

2307 (II) Financial reports.

2308 (III) Program accountability measures.

2309 (IV) Child progress reports.

2310 b. Child care resource and referral services.

2311 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.

2312 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on
2313 additional support services to complement the school readiness
2314 program, including:

2315 ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~

2316 ~~a.b.~~ Warm-Line services.

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2317 ~~b.e.~~ Anti-fraud plans.

2318 ~~d.~~ ~~School readiness program standards.~~

2319 ~~e.~~ ~~Child screening and assessments.~~

2320 ~~c.f.~~ Training and support for parental involvement in

2321 children's early education.

2322 ~~d.g.~~ Family literacy activities and services.

2323 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning

2324 coalitions.

2325 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,

2326 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the

2327 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to

2328 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety

2329 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child

2330 care training and credentialing.

2331 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local

2332 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of

2333 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of

2334 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify

2335 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist

2336 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a

2337 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for

2338 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety

2339 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the

2340 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A

2341 child development program that is accredited by a national

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2342 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is
2343 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted
2344 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2345 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the Develop
2346 and adopt standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the
2347 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children
2348 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for
2349 children from birth to 5 years of age in the school readiness
2350 program must be aligned with the performance standards adopted
2351 for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2352 and must address the following domains:

- 2353 1. Approaches to learning.
- 2354 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2355 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2356 4. Physical development.
- 2357 5. Self-regulation.

2358 (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are
2359 valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at
2360 least three times a year. The assessments must:

- 2361 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~critereion-~~
2362 ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across
2363 the core domains of early childhood development and that can be
2364 used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.
- 2365 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted
2366 pursuant to paragraph (j).

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2367 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children
2368 with disabilities and English language learners and be
2369 administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the
2370 developer's instructions.

2371 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by
2372 the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary
2373 Prekindergarten Education Program.

2374 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single
2375 statewide information system to meet the requirements of
2376 paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.

2377 (1) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the
2378 performance standards for the school readiness program and
2379 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's
2380 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2381 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning
2382 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard
2383 statewide provider contract to be used with each school
2384 readiness program provider, with standardized attachments by
2385 provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the
2386 standard statewide provider contract on its website. The
2387 standard statewide contract shall include, at a minimum,
2388 contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the Child
2389 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R. parts 98
2390 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable; program
2391 assessment requirements; and provisions for provider probation,

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2392 termination for cause, and emergency termination for those
2393 actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate and
2394 serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the
2395 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also
2396 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency
2397 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to
2398 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that
2399 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and
2400 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also
2401 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established
2402 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the
2403 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting
2404 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)
2405 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to
2406 paragraph (n).

2407 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness
2408 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child
2409 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,
2410 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and
2411 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The
2412 implementation of the program assessment must ~~also~~ include the
2413 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of
2414 Education:

2415 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program
2416 assessment composite score ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes

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2417 and program improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum
2418 program assessment composite score required for the Voluntary
2419 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be
2420 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score
2421 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The
2422 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program
2423 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent
2424 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

2425 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of
2426 program assessment, and exemptions.

2427 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential
2428 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the
2429 department ~~office~~ under paragraph (n). The differential payment
2430 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and
2431 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5
2432 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to
2433 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide
2434 information system in the domains of language and executive
2435 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to
2436 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment
2437 score adopted ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes are ineligible
2438 for such payment.

2439 (p) No later than July 1, 2021, develop and adopt
2440 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to
2441 make available contracted slots to serve children at the

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2442 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children
2443 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty
2444 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted
2445 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of
2446 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.
2447 1002.85(2)(j).

2448 (q) ~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system
2449 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the
2450 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,
2451 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining
2452 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and
2453 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early
2454 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.
2455 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

2456 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her
2457 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

2458 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level
2459 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality
2460 improvement and investment decisions.

2461 (r) ~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to
2462 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures
2463 adopted by rule by the state board for early learning coalitions
2464 to use when monitoring the compliance of school readiness
2465 program providers with the terms of the standard statewide
2466 provider contract.

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2467 (s)~~(r)~~ At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic
2468 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early
2469 learning coalition in administering the school readiness
2470 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program
2471 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program
2472 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2473 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must
2474 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's
2475 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2476 (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal
2477 Education Programs within the Department of Education to
2478 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to
2479 the populations served by the bureau.

2480 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to
2481 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and
2482 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
2483 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
2484 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
2485 special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2486 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day
2487 care homes of the availability of this service through the child
2488 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2489 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line
2490 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning
2491 coalition service area.

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2492 ~~(v)-(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the
2493 supply and improve the quality of child care services for
2494 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who
2495 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in
2496 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant
2497 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2498 ~~(w)-(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training
2499 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child
2500 development standards, health and safety requirements, and
2501 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include
2502 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the
2503 integration of early learning professional development pathways
2504 established in s. 1002.995.

2505 ~~(x)-(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness
2506 plans for school readiness program providers.

2507 ~~(y)-(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

2508 ~~(z)-(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not
2509 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.
2510 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program
2511 providers.

2512 ~~(aa)-(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including
2513 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance
2514 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2515 (3) (a) The department shall adopt performance standards
2516 and outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a

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2517 minimum, include the development of objective customer service
2518 surveys that shall be deployed to:

2519 1. Customers that utilize the services in s. 1002.92 upon
2520 the completion of a referral inquiry.

2521 2. Annually to parents at the time of eligibility
2522 determination.

2523 3. Child care providers that participate in the school
2524 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2525 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider
2526 contract.

2527 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2528 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a
2529 statistically significant sample size and calculated annually
2530 for each early learning coalition and included in the
2531 department's annual report under subsection (7). If an early
2532 learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey results are
2533 below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a 1-year
2534 corrective action plan. If, after being placed on corrective
2535 action, an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction
2536 survey results do not improve above the 60 percent threshold,
2537 the department may contract out or merge the coalition.

2538 (4)-(3) If the department ~~office~~ determines during the
2539 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring
2540 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an
2541 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its

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2542 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and
2543 outcome measures adopted by the department office, or has not
2544 effectively administered the school readiness program or
2545 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department
2546 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer
2547 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a
2548 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and
2549 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
2550 multicounty region until the department office reestablishes or
2551 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is
2552 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board
2553 office.

2554 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for merging
2555 early learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements
2556 of subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for
2557 the consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes
2558 duplication of programs and services due to the merger, and for
2559 the early termination of the terms of the coalition members
2560 which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2561 (6)(4) The department office may request the Governor to
2562 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head
2563 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness
2564 program.

2565 (7)(5) By January 1 of each year, the department office
2566 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities

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2567 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary
2568 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the
2569 following:

2570 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout
2571 the state, including the school readiness program and the
2572 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2573 1. The total and average number of children served in the
2574 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility
2575 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of
2576 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2577 Program.

2578 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,
2579 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of
2580 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,
2581 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2582 3. A description of the department's ~~office's~~ and each
2583 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and
2584 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
2585 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2586 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to
2587 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2588 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early
2589 learning programs.

2590 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and
2591 the reason for disenrollment.

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2592 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2593 8. The number of school readiness program providers who
2594 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph
2595 (2) (n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum
2596 program assessment composite score threshold for contracting
2597 established under paragraph (2) (n); and the number of providers
2598 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the
2599 program assessment under paragraph (2) (n).

2600 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the
2601 reasons for revocation.

2602 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the
2603 single statewide information system established in subsection
2604 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child
2605 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2606 (8) (a) (6) (a) Parental choice of child care providers,
2607 including private and faith-based providers, shall be
2608 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with
2609 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2610 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment
2611 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45
2612 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2613 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with
2614 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment
2615 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,
2616 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment

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2617 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the
2618 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must
2619 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized
2620 representative of the provider.

2621 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash
2622 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for
2623 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or
2624 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of
2625 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2626 ~~(9)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does
2627 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,
2628 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional
2629 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the
2630 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2631 Section 51. Subsections (5) through (14) of section
2632 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)
2633 through (15), respectively, and subsections (1) and (3),
2634 paragraphs (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present
2635 subsections (5), (11), and (13) are amended, and a new
2636 subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

2637 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2638 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions
2639 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services
2640 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67
2641 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for

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2642 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program
2643 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2644 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
2645 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
2646 ~~same~~ qualifications of a private sector business member
2647 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6) ~~(5)~~. In
2648 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of
2649 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early
2650 learning coalition board membership.

2651 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
2652 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
2653 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
2654 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
2655 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
2656 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
2657 such members may serve as a voting member:

2658 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare
2659 board chair or executive director from each county, if
2660 applicable.

2661 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care
2662 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing
2663 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2664 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2665 (5) If members of the board are found to be
2666 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition

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2667 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate
2668 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership
2669 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

2670 ~~(6)-(5)~~ The early learning coalition may appoint additional
2671 ~~Including the members who appointed by the Governor under~~
2672 ~~subsection (3), more than one-third of the members of each early~~
2673 ~~learning coalition~~ must be private sector business members,
2674 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of
2675 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial
2676 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
2677 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this
2678 chapter or the school readiness program. ~~To meet this~~
2679 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~
2680 ~~members.~~ The department office shall establish criteria for
2681 appointing private sector business members. These criteria must
2682 include standards for determining whether a member or relative
2683 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery
2684 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school
2685 readiness program.

2686 ~~(12)-(11)~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish
2687 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must
2688 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
2689 years per term. Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years
2690 in conjunction with their membership on the Early Learning
2691 Advisory Council pursuant to s. 20.052. Appointed members may

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2692 | serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs
2693 | in an appointed position, the coalition must advertise the
2694 | vacancy.

2695 | ~~(14)(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an
2696 | annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive
2697 | director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the
2698 | department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the
2699 | commissioner by June 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~
2700 | ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~
2701 | ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~
2702 | ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~
2703 | ~~adopted by the office.~~

2704 | Section 52. Subsections (7) through (20) of section
2705 | 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)
2706 | through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and
2707 | present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)
2708 | of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added
2709 | to that section, to read:

2710 | 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
2711 | and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2712 | (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program
2713 | of school readiness program services in accordance with this
2714 | part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which
2715 | enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of
2716 | children to achieve the performance standards.

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2717 (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible
2718 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program
2719 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education
2720 ~~office~~.

2721 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
2722 department office pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.
2723 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical
2724 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and
2725 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,
2726 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care
2727 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve
2728 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2729 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that
2730 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by
2731 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the
2732 performance standards adopted by the department.

2733 (8)~~(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87
2734 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child
2735 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must
2736 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school
2737 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by
2738 the department office.

2739 (9)~~(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides
2740 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families
2741 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~

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2742 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~
2743 ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child
2744 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's
2745 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose
2746 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits
2747 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in
2748 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency
2749 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the
2750 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in
2751 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may
2752 not transfer school readiness program services to another school
2753 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted
2754 documentation from the current school readiness program provider
2755 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has
2756 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2757 (16) ~~(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in
2758 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental
2759 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.
2760 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring
2761 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to
2762 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial
2763 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local
2764 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers
2765 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored
2766 biennially.

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2767 ~~(17)(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all
2768 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The
2769 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
2770 ~~average~~ market rate, include the projected number of children to
2771 be served, and be submitted for approval by the department
2772 ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at
2773 not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day
2774 care home.

2775 ~~(18)(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the
2776 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and
2777 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school
2778 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2779 Program services and submit the plan to the department office
2780 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

2781 ~~(19)(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual
2782 report to the department office. The report shall conform to the
2783 format adopted by the department office and must include:

2784 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,
2785 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~
2786 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues
2787 available to the coalition.

2788 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including
2789 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality
2790 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for
2791 children.

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2792 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related
2793 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,
2794 the total number of contracted staff and the related
2795 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

2796 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness
2797 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility
2798 priority category, reported as the number of children served
2799 during the month, the average participation throughout the
2800 month, and the number of children served during the month.

2801 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the
2802 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

2803 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

2804 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by
2805 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program
2806 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or
2807 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

2808 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

2809 (i) The total number of children served in each provider
2810 facility.

2811 (21) (a) ~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,
2812 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting
2813 with one or more of the following persons or business entities
2814 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned
2815 by the following persons:

2816 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.

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2817 1002.83(4);

2818 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient
2819 entity;

2820 3. A coalition employee; or

2821 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c), of any
2822 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~
2823 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

2824 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the
2825 approval of the department office. Such contracts, as well as
2826 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the
2827 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the
2828 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of
2829 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who
2830 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit
2831 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under
2832 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~
2833 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~
2834 ~~112.3143(1)(c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~
2835 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the
2836 department office but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of
2837 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be
2838 reported to the department office within 30 days after approval.
2839 If a contract cannot be approved by the department office, a
2840 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be
2841 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to

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2842 the disapproved contract.

2843 Section 53. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended
2844 to read:

2845 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

2846 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing
2847 the standardized format and required content of school readiness
2848 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified
2849 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in
2850 this part.

2851 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a
2852 school readiness program plan to the department ~~office~~ before
2853 the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its
2854 school readiness program plan until it receives approval from
2855 the department ~~office~~. A coalition may not implement any
2856 revision to its school readiness program plan until the
2857 coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from
2858 the department ~~office~~. If the department ~~office~~ rejects a plan
2859 or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its
2860 previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not
2861 limited to:

2862 (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership
2863 and business organization, and the coalition's articles of
2864 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a
2865 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation
2866 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract

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2867 with a fiscal agent.

2868 (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care
2869 level.

2870 (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the
2871 requirements of this part, including:

2872 1. Single point of entry.

2873 2. Uniform waiting list.

2874 3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local
2875 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2876 4. Parent access and choice.

2877 5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver
2878 or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~

2879 ~~1002.84(8)~~.

2880 6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as
2881 applicable.

2882 7. Payment rate schedule.

2883 8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the
2884 results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

2885 (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality
2886 activities and services, including, but not limited to:

2887 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.

2888 2. Infant and toddler early learning.

2889 3. Inclusive early learning programs.

2890 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching
2891 practices and increase child outcomes.

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2892 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures
2893 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level
2894 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all
2895 estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a
2896 listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted
2897 subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or
2898 hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan
2899 outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed
2900 capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

2901 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the
2902 department office, of all revenues and expenditures during the
2903 previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be
2904 identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~
2905 categories: state and federal funds and ~~and~~ local matching funds ~~and~~
2906 ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

2907 (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those
2908 governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal
2909 property, maintenance of records, information technology
2910 security, and disbursement controls.

2911 (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school
2912 readiness program providers, including in response to a parental
2913 complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.
2914 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool
2915 adopted by the department office. Providers determined to be
2916 high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial

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2917 findings of violations of law shall be monitored more
2918 frequently.

2919 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and
2920 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness
2921 program plan from the local community.

2922 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or
2923 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider
2924 capacity using available community data.

2925 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as
2926 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by
2927 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on
2928 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

2929 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the
2930 standardized format and required content of school readiness
2931 program plans on its website.

2932 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall collect and report data on
2933 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall
2934 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress
2935 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the
2936 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the
2937 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of
2938 children served compared to total number of children under the
2939 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,
2940 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance
2941 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and

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2942 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary
2943 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness
2944 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department office
2945 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness
2946 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be
2947 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,
2948 and results of the report must be included in the annual report
2949 under s. 1002.82.

2950 Section 54. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),
2951 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section
2952 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is
2953 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

2954 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
2955 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

2956 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness
2957 program, a school readiness program provider must:

2958 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a
2959 family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a
2960 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a
2961 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.
2962 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from
2963 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school
2964 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development
2965 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and
2966 operates on a military installation that is certified by the

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2967 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care
2968 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and
2969 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States
2970 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.
2971 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
2972 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program
2973 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

2974 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-
2975 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child
2976 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant
2977 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to
2978 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an
2979 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with
2980 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to
2981 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and
2982 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

2983 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
2984 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
2985 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness
2986 program.

2987 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
2988 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
2989 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

2990 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care
2991 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the

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2992 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this
2993 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this
2994 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the
2995 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist
2996 adopted by the department office prominently on its premises in
2997 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit
2998 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

2999 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
3000 national accrediting body and operates on a military
3001 installation that is certified by the United States Department
3002 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual
3003 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
3004 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3005 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.
3006 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of
3007 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the
3008 department office.

3009 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the
3010 department office that meets the child development standards.

3011 (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,
3012 maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition
3013 with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
3014 including coverage for transportation of children if school
3015 readiness program children are transported by the provider. A
3016 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that

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3017 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
3018 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
3019 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
3020 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder
3021 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
3022 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
3023 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
3024 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
3025 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
3026 contract with the coalition.

3027 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply
3028 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's
3029 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an
3030 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the
3031 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy
3032 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence
3033 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The
3034 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as
3035 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a
3036 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An
3037 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of
3038 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or
3039 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by
3040 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the
3041 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

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3042 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is
3043 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.
3044 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional
3045 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to
3046 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall
3047 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.

3048 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program
3049 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates
3050 on a military installation that is certified by the United
3051 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate
3052 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the
3053 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3054 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract
3055 adopted by the department office.

3056 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has
3057 been granted under s. 1002.84(8).

3058 (3) The department office and the coalitions may not:

3059 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or
3060 early childhood education provider that does not deliver
3061 services under the school readiness program or receive state or
3062 federal funds under this part;

3063 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program
3064 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or
3065 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or
3066 part V of this chapter; or

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3067 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or
3068 postassessment.

3069 Section 55. Subsections (3) through (7) of section
3070 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)
3071 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present
3072 subsections (3), and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3073 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3074 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~
3075 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~
3076 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3077 (2)~~(3)~~ All instructions to early learning coalitions for
3078 administering this section shall emanate from the department
3079 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3080 (5)~~(6)~~ Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for
3081 the efficient and effective administration of the school
3082 readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being
3083 direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5
3084 percent of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~
3085 may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent
3086 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be
3087 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative
3088 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3089 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.
3090 98.52, which shall include monitoring providers using the
3091 standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve

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3092 compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant
3093 to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted
3094 under s. 1002.82(2) (m) .

3095 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as
3096 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.51, which shall be limited to the
3097 following:

3098 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and
3099 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related
3100 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents
3101 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified
3102 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3103 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
3104 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
3105 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
3106 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2) (n), child care
3107 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate
3108 curricula and related classroom resources that support
3109 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued
3110 professional development and training. Any grants awarded
3111 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and
3112 287.058.

3113 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial
3114 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and
3115 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child
3116 development research and best practices, developmentally

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3117 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child
3118 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and
3119 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the
3120 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
3121 prevention, and reporting.

3122 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
3123 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
3124 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
3125 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
3126 infant and toddler care.

3127 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and
3128 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as
3129 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3130 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
3131 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
3132 to school readiness program children.

3133 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office
3134 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not
3135 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are
3136 required to administer the school readiness program. Such
3137 services include, but are not limited to:

3138 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
3139 and eligibility documentation.

3140 2. Determining child and family eligibility.

3141 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.

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3142 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.

3143 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
3144 information system.

3145
3146 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
3147 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
3148 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
3149 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
3150 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3151 Section 56. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection
3152 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,
3153 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3154 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
3155 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3156 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for
3157 the adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must
3158 include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:

3159 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum
3160 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality
3161 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting
3162 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
3163 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3164 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not
3165 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3166 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

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3167 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not
3168 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality
3169 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its
3170 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
3171 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.
3172 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure
3173 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from
3174 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal
3175 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home
3176 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed
3177 or registered under s. 402.313.

3178 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an
3179 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.
3180 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
3181 average market rate ~~and~~ include the projected number of
3182 children to be served by each county and be submitted for
3183 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care
3184 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of
3185 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3186 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more
3187 qualified entities to administer this section and provide
3188 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3189 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing
3190 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market
3191 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by

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3192 program care level and provider type in a predetermined
3193 geographic market, and the publication of the market rate
3194 schedule.

3195 Section 57. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended
3196 to read:

3197 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;
3198 penalties.—

3199 (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an
3200 intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a
3201 person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or
3202 misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that
3203 person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the
3204 commission of such an act. The term includes any act that
3205 constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3206 (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,
3207 the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning
3208 coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness
3209 program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
3210 determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own
3211 inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~
3212 has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has
3213 engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall
3214 investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred
3215 due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the
3216 department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic

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3217 benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who
3218 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the
3219 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits
3220 authorizations to recipients.

3221 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the
3222 department office may, in its discretion, refer the
3223 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for
3224 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable
3225 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the
3226 department office must be referred to the Department of
3227 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3228 (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a
3229 provider from participation in the school readiness program or
3230 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has
3231 reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed
3232 fraud. The department office shall adopt by rule appropriate due
3233 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply
3234 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the
3235 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider
3236 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation
3237 by the department office, the Department of Financial Services,
3238 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent
3239 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3240 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary
3241 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,

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3242 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,
3243 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of
3244 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or
3245 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been
3246 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3247 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3248 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall
3249 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that
3250 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition
3251 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,
3252 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider
3253 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3254 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3255 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3256 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise
3257 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation
3258 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate
3259 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,
3260 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems
3261 appropriate.

3262 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a
3263 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten
3264 Education Program provider who is on the United States
3265 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In
3266 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that

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3267 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the
3268 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified
3269 List.

3270 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-
3271 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of
3272 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and
3273 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary
3274 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan
3275 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~
3276 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,
3277 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud
3278 plan must include, at a minimum:

3279 (a) A written description or chart outlining the
3280 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are
3281 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible
3282 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3283 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting
3284 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3285 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the
3286 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to
3287 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3288 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for
3289 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent
3290 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3291 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the

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3292 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department
3293 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness
3294 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a
3295 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes
3296 has committed fraud.

3297 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in
3298 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.
3299 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3300 Section 58. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),
3301 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida
3302 Statutes, are amended to read:

3303 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
3304 referral.—

3305 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the
3306 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care
3307 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides
3308 referrals to families for child care and information on
3309 available community resources. Preference shall be given to
3310 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and
3311 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply
3312 with the requirements to offer the resource information
3313 component or does not want to offer that service, the early
3314 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency
3315 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement
3316 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

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3317 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency
3318 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or
3319 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3320 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral
3321 services offered through child care resource and referral
3322 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at
3323 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents
3324 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff
3325 training requirements.

3326 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall
3327 provide the following services:

3328 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
3329 care and early childhood education services, including child
3330 care services by public and private employers, and the
3331 development of an early learning provider performance profile ~~a~~
3332 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide
3333 information system developed by the department ~~office~~ under s.
3334 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include
3335 family day care, public and private child care programs, the
3336 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the
3337 school readiness program, special education programs for
3338 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for
3339 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-
3340 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and
3341 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~

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- 3342 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The
3343 early learning provider performance profile resource file shall
3344 include, but not be limited to:
- 3345 1. Type of program.
 - 3346 2. Hours of service.
 - 3347 3. Ages of children served.
 - 3348 4. Number of children served.
 - 3349 5. Program information.
 - 3350 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
 - 3351 7. Availability of transportation.
 - 3352 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if
3353 applicable.
 - 3354 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
 - 3355 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
3356 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68
3357 that must consist of the program assessment composite score,
3358 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,
3359 if applicable.
 - 3360 11. The school readiness program assessment composite
3361 score and program assessment care level composite scores
3362 delineated by infant classroom, toddler classroom, and preschool
3363 classroom results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.
 - 3364 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,
3365 if applicable.
 - 3366 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a

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3367 | curriculum approved by the department and the name of the
3368 | curriculum, if applicable.

3369 | 14. Participation in the school readiness child assessment
3370 | under s. 1002.82.

3371 | (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for
3372 | service tabulated through the internal referral process through
3373 | the single statewide information system. The following
3374 | documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the
3375 | child care resource and referral network:

3376 | 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource
3377 | information and referral network component by type of service
3378 | requested.

3379 | 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3380 | 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3381 | 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and
3382 | swing shift.

3383 | 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3384 | 6. Customer satisfaction survey data required under s.

3385 | 1002.82(3) ~~Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~
3386 | ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

3387 | (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent
3388 | education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,
3389 | or social services programs that support families with children,
3390 | and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~
3391 | ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~

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3392 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

3393 ~~1. Information on initiating new child care services,~~
3394 ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~
3395 ~~finding such information from other sources.~~

3396 ~~2. Information and resources which help existing child~~
3397 ~~care services providers to maximize their ability to serve~~
3398 ~~children and parents in their community.~~

3399 ~~3. Information and incentives that may help existing or~~
3400 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~
3401 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~
3402 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~
3403 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~
3404 ~~businesses.~~

3405 Section 59. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida
3406 Statutes, is amended to read:

3407 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3408 (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning
3409 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation
3410 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are
3411 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to
3412 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the
3413 provision of transportation services as required by this
3414 section.

3415 Section 60. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is
3416 repealed.

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3417 Section 61. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended
3418 to read:

3419 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
3420 scholarship program.—

3421 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the
3422 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps
3423 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational
3424 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood
3425 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care
3426 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and
3427 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child
3428 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the
3429 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood
3430 education.

3431 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3432 as necessary to administer this section.

3433 Section 62. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,
3434 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3435 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3436 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department
3437 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants
3438 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs
3439 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The
3440 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds
3441 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been

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3442 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3443 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for
3444 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
3445 administration of the collaboration grants program under this
3446 section.

3447 Section 63. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection
3448 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3449 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness
3450 program.—

3451 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the
3452 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an
3453 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are
3454 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
3455 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records
3456 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
3457 observations, and personal identifying information.

3458 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3459 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early
3460 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of
3461 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department
3462 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness
3463 program.

3464
3465 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school
3466 readiness program records in order to carry out their official

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3467 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit
3468 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school
3469 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than
3470 those authorized to receive the records.

3471 Section 64. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,
3472 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3473 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards
3474 and career pathways.—

3475 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3476 (a) Develop early learning professional development
3477 training and course standards to be utilized for school
3478 readiness program providers.

3479 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning
3480 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications
3481 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized
3482 professional development that:

3483 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.

3484 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core
3485 competencies.

3486 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based
3487 stackable credentials and certifications.

3488 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten
3489 readiness and early grade success.

3490 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3491 to administer this section.

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3492 Section 65. Subsection (3) of section 1003.575, Florida
3493 Statutes, is amended to read:

3494 1003.575 Assistive technology devices; findings;
3495 interagency agreements.—Accessibility, utilization, and
3496 coordination of appropriate assistive technology devices and
3497 services are essential as a young person with disabilities moves
3498 from early intervention to preschool, from preschool to school,
3499 from one school to another, from school to employment or
3500 independent living, and from school to home and community. If an
3501 individual education plan team makes a recommendation in
3502 accordance with State Board of Education rule for a student with
3503 a disability, as defined in s. 1003.01(3), to receive an
3504 assistive technology assessment, that assessment must be
3505 completed within 60 school days after the team's recommendation.
3506 To ensure that an assistive technology device issued to a young
3507 person as part of his or her individualized family support plan,
3508 individual support plan, individualized plan for employment, or
3509 individual education plan remains with the individual through
3510 such transitions, the following agencies shall enter into
3511 interagency agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the
3512 transaction of assistive technology devices:

3513 (3) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3514 administered by the Department of Education ~~and the Office of~~
3515 ~~Early Learning.~~

3516

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3517 Interagency agreements entered into pursuant to this section
3518 shall provide a framework for ensuring that young persons with
3519 disabilities and their families, educators, and employers are
3520 informed about the utilization and coordination of assistive
3521 technology devices and services that may assist in meeting
3522 transition needs, and shall establish a mechanism by which a
3523 young person or his or her parent may request that an assistive
3524 technology device remain with the young person as he or she
3525 moves through the continuum from home to school to postschool.

3526 Section 66. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
3527 to read:

3528 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of
3529 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
3530 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3531 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
3532 articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20
3533 ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening
3534 relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,
3535 between public and private organizations, and between the
3536 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The
3537 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these
3538 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective
3539 progression and transfer of students within the education system
3540 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational
3541 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The

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3542 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and
3543 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of
3544 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational
3545 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts
3546 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3547 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the
3548 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall
3549 collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from
3550 statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner
3551 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System
3552 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The
3553 policies shall relate to:

3554 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one
3555 education system and the admissions requirements of another
3556 education system into which students typically transfer.

3557 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of
3558 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course
3559 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such
3560 institutions.

3561 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education
3562 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public
3563 postsecondary educational institutions.

3564 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3565 (e) Articulation agreements.

3566 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with

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3567 the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish
3568 the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make
3569 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and
3570 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data
3571 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established
3572 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education
3573 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the
3574 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members
3575 each representing the State University System, the Florida
3576 College System, public career and technical education, K-12
3577 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member
3578 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the
3579 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
3580 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3581 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of
3582 one education system and the admissions requirements of another
3583 education system into which students typically transfer and make
3584 recommendations for improvement.

3585 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements
3586 between and among public schools, career and technical education
3587 centers, Florida College System institutions, state
3588 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3589 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high
3590 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State
3591 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

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3592 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement
3593 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3594 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,
3595 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit
3596 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions
3597 participating in the statewide course numbering system and
3598 identify instances of student transfer and admissions
3599 difficulties.

3600 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common
3601 general education and common degree program prerequisite
3602 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified
3603 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3604 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide
3605 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
3606 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and
3607 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,
3608 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3609 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public
3610 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide
3611 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant
3612 to s. 1006.735.

3613 Section 67. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is
3614 created to read:

3615 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3616 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

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3617 Program through grade 3.-

3618 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and
3619 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary
3620 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide
3621 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate
3622 grade-level standards and to provide information on their
3623 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program
3624 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten
3625 Education Program providers and school districts to improve
3626 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning
3627 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and
3628 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,
3629 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure
3630 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress
3631 monitoring program must:

3632 (a) Assess the progress of students in the Voluntary
3633 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the
3634 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and
3635 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.
3636 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41.

3637 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary
3638 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3639 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each
3640 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on
3641 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results within

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3642 the first 30 days of enrollment in accordance with paragraph
3643 (2) (a). The methodology for determining a student's readiness
3644 for kindergarten shall be developed by the same independent
3645 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4) (d).

3646 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
3647 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3648 through grade 3.

3649 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to
3650 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.
3651 1008.25(4).

3652 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular
3653 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
3654 levels.

3655 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and
3656 development of educational programs and policies.

3657 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a
3658 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress
3659 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics
3660 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards
3661 established in ss. 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41, respectively. The
3662 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must
3663 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures
3664 equivalent levels of growth; be a developmentally appropriate,
3665 valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to capture data
3666 on students who may be performing below grade or developmental

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3667 level and which may enable the identification of early
3668 indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays; accurately
3669 measure the core content in the applicable grade level
3670 standards; document learning gains for the achievement of these
3671 standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring
3672 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction
3673 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated
3674 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all
3675 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3676 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The
3677 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be
3678 implemented beginning in the 2021-2022 school year for students
3679 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3680 kindergarten students, as follows:

3681 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3682 program shall be administered within the first 30 days after
3683 enrollment, midyear, and within the last 30 days of the program
3684 or school year, in accordance with the rules adopted by the
3685 State Board of Education. The state board may adopt alternate
3686 timeframes to address nontraditional school year calendars or
3687 summer programs to ensure administration of the coordinated
3688 screening and progress monitoring program is administered a
3689 minimum of 3 times within a year or program.

3690 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress
3691 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in

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3692 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and
3693 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3694 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3695 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Early Grade
3696 Success Advisory Committee, for implementing the coordinated
3697 screening and progress monitoring program in consideration of
3698 timelines for implementing new early literacy and mathematics
3699 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards
3700 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3701 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to
3702 the Early Grade Success Advisory Committee.

3703 (4) The Early Grade Success Advisory Committee, a
3704 committee as defined in s. 20.03, is created within the
3705 Department of Education to oversee the coordinated screening and
3706 progress monitoring program and, except as otherwise provided in
3707 this section, shall operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3708 (a) The committee shall be responsible for reviewing the
3709 implementation of, training for, and outcomes from the
3710 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide
3711 recommendations to the department that supports grade 3 students
3712 reading at or above grade level. The committee, at a minimum,
3713 shall:

3714 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the
3715 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including
3716 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria

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- 3717 before being published.
- 3718 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.
- 3719 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and
3720 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated
3721 screening and progress monitoring program.
- 3722 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a
3723 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under
3724 s. 1002.68.
- 3725 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.
3726 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a
3727 child's kindergarten readiness.
- 3728 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade
3729 level that a student would need to attain in order to
3730 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.
- 3731 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of
3732 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for
3733 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3734 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department
3735 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read
3736 at or above grade level.
- 3737 (b) The committee shall be composed of 17 members who are
3738 residents of the state and appointed, as follows:
- 3739 1. Fifteen members appointed by the Commissioner of
3740 Education:
- 3741 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

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- 3742 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.
- 3743 c. One representative of an urban school district.
- 3744 d. One representative of a rural school district.
- 3745 e. One representative of an urban early learning
- 3746 coalition.
- 3747 f. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.
- 3748 g. One representative of an early learning provider.
- 3749 h. One representative of a faith-based early learning
- 3750 provider.
- 3751 i. One representative who is a kindergarten teacher who
- 3752 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3753 j. One representative who is a second grade teacher with
- 3754 at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3755 k. One representative who is a school principal.
- 3756 1. Four representatives with subject matter expertise in
- 3757 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The
- 3758 four representatives with subject matter expertise may not be
- 3759 direct stakeholders within the early learning or public school
- 3760 systems or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the
- 3761 committee's recommendations.
- 3762 2. One senator who is appointed by and serves at the
- 3763 pleasure of the President of the Senate.
- 3764 3. One representative who is appointed by and serves at
- 3765 the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 3766 (5) The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair, one

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3767 of whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in
3768 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments, and
3769 one of whom must be a senator or representative. Members of the
3770 committee shall serve without compensation but are entitled to
3771 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
3772 112.061.

3773 (6) The committee must meet at least biennially and may
3774 meet by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible,
3775 to reduce costs.

3776 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3777 (8) The committee terminates on July 1, 2023.

3778 Section 68. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of
3779 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
3780 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of
3781 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection
3782 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection
3783 (5) of that section, to read:

3784 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
3785 support; reporting requirements.—

3786 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

3787 (b) Any Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3788 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
3789 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and
3790 based upon the results of the administration of the final
3791 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125

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3792 shall be referred to the local school district and may be
3793 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before
3794 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading
3795 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's
3796 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with
3797 s. 1011.62(9).

3798 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

3799 (b) The district school board may only exempt students
3800 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)
3801 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4
3802 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading
3803 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic
3804 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of
3805 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist
3806 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,
3807 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and
3808 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause
3809 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving
3810 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause
3811 exemptions are limited to the following:

3812 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less
3813 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other
3814 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a
3815 school in the United States.

3816 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education

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3817 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment
3818 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of
3819 s. 1008.212.

3820 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of
3821 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English
3822 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of
3823 Education.

3824 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio
3825 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the
3826 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

3827 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,
3828 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an
3829 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects
3830 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading
3831 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still
3832 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in
3833 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

3834 6. Students who have received intensive reading
3835 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a
3836 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in
3837 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2
3838 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

3839 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE
3840 STUDENTS.—

3841 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~ must

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3842 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the
3843 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student
3844 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must
3845 include:

3846 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory
3847 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
3848 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by
3849 the school district.

3850 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading
3851 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention
3852 strategies under subparagraph 1.

3853 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading
3854 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention
3855 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

3856 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social
3857 studies within the 90-minute block.

3858 b. Small group instruction.

3859 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

3860 d. More frequent progress monitoring.

3861 e. Tutoring or mentoring.

3862 f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade
3863 students.

3864 g. Extended school day, week, or year.

3865 (b) Each school district shall:

3866 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student

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3867 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her
3868 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion
3869 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause
3870 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must
3871 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a
3872 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be
3873 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of
3874 reading deficiency.

3875 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a
3876 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can
3877 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent
3878 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,
3879 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,
3880 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.
3881 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student
3882 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative
3883 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of
3884 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the
3885 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels
3886 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning
3887 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education
3888 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation
3889 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate
3890 grade 4 level reading skills.

3891 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph

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3892 (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~, including students participating in the school
3893 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a
3894 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's
3895 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,
3896 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

3897 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive
3898 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3
3899 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade
3900 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the
3901 following:

3902 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of
3903 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the
3904 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core
3905 subject areas through content-rich texts.

3906 b. Small group instruction.

3907 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

3908 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
3909 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,
3910 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language
3911 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating
3912 student reading achievement within the same school year.

3913 e. A read-at-home plan.

3914 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

3915 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5) (c)
3916 ~~(5) (b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the

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3917 parent of each student the progress of the student toward
3918 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in
3919 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.
3920 The district school board must report to the parent the
3921 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.
3922 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the
3923 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and
3924 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided
3925 under paragraph (5) (a), and other relevant information. Progress
3926 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format
3927 adopted by the district school board.

3928 Section 69. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended
3929 to read:

3930 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
3931 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,
3932 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

3933 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the
3934 Legislature that:

3935 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to
3936 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20
3937 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following
3938 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

3939 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it
3940 invests in education?

3941 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~

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3942 education system educating its students?

3943 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors
3944 promoting student achievement?

3945 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education
3946 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their
3947 students as measured by how students are performing and how much
3948 they are learning?

3949 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance
3950 accountability system be established as a single, unified
3951 accountability system with multiple components, including, but
3952 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school
3953 and district grades.

3954 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system
3955 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of
3956 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with
3957 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

3958 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with
3959 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the
3960 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust
3961 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

3962 (e) ~~(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of
3963 Governors of the State University System recommend to the
3964 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature
3965 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the
3966 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with

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3967 information on what the public is receiving in return for the
3968 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20
3969 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

3970 (f)1.(e)1. The State Board of Education establish
3971 performance measures and set performance standards for
3972 individual public schools and Florida College System
3973 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on
3974 student achievement.

3975 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System
3976 establish performance measures and set performance standards for
3977 individual state universities, including actual completion
3978 rates.

3979 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

3980 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
3981 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all
3982 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them
3983 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through
3984 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,
3985 and communities.

3986 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific
3987 standards and measures must be:

- 3988 1. Focused on student success.
- 3989 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 3990 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 3991 4. Measurable over time.

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- 3992 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 3993 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to
- 3994 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.
- 3995 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an
- 3996 accountability system that measures student progress toward the
- 3997 following goals:
- 3998 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence
- 3999 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4000 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured
- 4001 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted
- 4002 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4003 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured
- 4004 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4005 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of
- 4006 return on investment.
- 4007 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.
- 4008 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide
- 4009 data required to implement education performance accountability
- 4010 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education
- 4011 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality
- 4012 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to
- 4013 the department all data within the State University Database
- 4014 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data
- 4015 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such
- 4016 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual

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4017 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college
4018 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions
4019 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the
4020 educational K-20 data warehouse in a format based on data
4021 elements identified by the commissioner.

4022 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational
4023 institutions shall maintain information systems that will
4024 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of
4025 the State University System, and the Legislature with
4026 information and reports necessary to address the specifications
4027 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and
4028 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June
4029 30, 2001.

4030 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in
4031 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
4032 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the
4033 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format
4034 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data
4035 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer
4036 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and
4037 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each
4038 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph
4039 shall report the data to the department.

4040 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
4041 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and

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4042 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to
4043 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the
4044 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the
4045 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators
4046 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary
4047 educational institutions.

4048 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data
4049 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing
4050 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize
4051 paperwork.

4052 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
4053 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
4054 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data
4055 warehouse.

4056 Section 70. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended
4057 to read:

4058 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement
4059 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the
4060 performance of early learning coalitions, district school
4061 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of
4062 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school
4063 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees
4064 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state
4065 board rule.

4066 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board

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4067 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to
4068 request and receive information, data, and reports from early
4069 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College
4070 System institutions. Early Learning Coalition chief executive
4071 officers or executive directors, district school
4072 superintendents, and Florida College System institution
4073 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information
4074 and data reported to the state board.

4075 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate
4076 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and
4077 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report
4078 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education
4079 which shall require the early learning coalition, district
4080 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
4081 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4082 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the
4083 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General
4084 that an early learning coalition, a district school board, or
4085 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory
4086 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of
4087 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district
4088 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
4089 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4090 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school
4091 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees

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4092 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of
4093 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4094 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an
4095 early learning coalition, a district school board, or Florida
4096 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or
4097 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the
4098 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to
4099 initiate any of the following actions:

4100 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning
4101 coalition, school district, or Florida College System
4102 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state
4103 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4104 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary
4105 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds
4106 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until
4107 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida
4108 College System institution complies with the law or state board
4109 rule.

4110 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,
4111 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive
4112 grants.

4113 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation
4114 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4115 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a
4116 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or

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4117 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4118 Section 71. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
4119 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4120 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4121 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a
4122 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.
4123 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the
4124 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school
4125 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the
4126 accountability requirements of the state school system and may
4127 impose state requirements on school districts in order to
4128 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and
4129 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early
4130 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal
4131 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility
4132 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of
4133 Education.

4134 Section 72. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida
4135 Statutes, is amended to read:

4136 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
4137 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
4138 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
4139 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
4140 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
4141 follows:

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4142 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—
4143 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is
4144 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students
4145 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who
4146 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4147 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4148 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the
4149 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year
4150 average of the state reading assessment data must use the
4151 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour
4152 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in
4153 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the
4154 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a
4155 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English
4156 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may
4157 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional
4158 student education centers may not be included in the 300
4159 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this
4160 additional hour shall include: research-based reading
4161 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of
4162 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated
4163 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,
4164 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading
4165 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop
4166 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and

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4167 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided
4168 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of
4169 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text
4170 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4171 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading
4172 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district
4173 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each
4174 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount
4175 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any
4176 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school
4177 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of
4178 K-12 base funding.

4179 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to
4180 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to
4181 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who
4182 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4183 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4184 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4185 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive
4186 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing
4187 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have
4188 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in
4189 paragraph (a).

4190 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based ~~reading~~
4191 ~~intervention~~ teachers to provide intensive reading interventions

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4192 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during
4193 the school day and in the required extra hour for students
4194 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4195 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically
4196 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on
4197 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading
4198 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas
4199 based on student need.

4200 4. Professional development for school district teachers
4201 in scientifically based reading instruction, including
4202 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an
4203 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school
4204 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in
4205 reading.

4206 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other
4207 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading
4208 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in
4209 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading
4210 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~
4211 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the
4212 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and
4213 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early
4214 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
4215 Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4216 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based

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4217 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~
4218 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just
4219 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4220 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in
4221 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having
4222 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as
4223 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts
4224 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial
4225 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary
4226 Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4227 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
4228 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~
4229 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
4230 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
4231 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
4232 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
4233 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
4234 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
4235 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach
4236 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may
4237 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School
4238 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing
4239 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading
4240 intervention through innovative methods, including career
4241 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from

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4242 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,
4243 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through
4244 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-
4245 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher
4246 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must
4247 incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just
4248 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than
4249 July 1 annually, the department shall release the school
4250 district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts
4251 having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent
4252 of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have
4253 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold
4254 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation
4255 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The
4256 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each
4257 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting
4258 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.
4259 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its
4260 findings to the Legislature.

4261 2. Each school district that has a school designated as
4262 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified
4263 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the
4264 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the
4265 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and
4266 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the

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4267 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term
4268 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies
4269 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also
4270 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use
4271 of technology that targets specific reading skills and
4272 abilities.

4273
4274 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means
4275 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving
4276 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4277 Section 73. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4278 \$3,088,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General
4279 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the
4280 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program required
4281 by s. 1008.2125, Florida Statutes. Of these funds, \$3 million
4282 shall be placed in reserve. The department is authorized to
4283 submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds
4284 pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. The budget amendment
4285 shall include a detailed operational work plan and spending
4286 plan. The department shall submit quarterly updates to the plans
4287 and quarterly project status reports to the Governor's Office of
4288 Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on
4289 Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations
4290 Committee. Each status report must include progress made to date
4291 for each project activity, planned and actual tasks and

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4292 deliverable completion dates, planned and actual costs incurred,
4293 and any current issues and risks.

4294 Section 74. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4295 \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
4296 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to issue a
4297 competitive solicitation to contract with an independent third
4298 party consulting firm to conduct a review of the school
4299 readiness payment rates by county, by provider type, as defined
4300 in s. 1002.88, Florida Statutes, and by care level, as defined
4301 in s. 402.305, Florida Statutes. The review shall include an
4302 evaluation of the current methodology for establishing the
4303 market rate schedule pursuant to s. 1002.895, Florida Statutes,
4304 the current school readiness payment rates, and the impact of
4305 the approved pay differentials authorized under part VI of
4306 chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, on the payment rates. The review
4307 shall include recommendations on a methodology for setting the
4308 payment rates by county, by provider type, and by care level
4309 that takes into consideration the impact that local ordinances
4310 may have on the market rate if such ordinances require more
4311 stringent staff-to-child ratios than required in s. 402.305(4),
4312 Florida Statutes, but may not consider school readiness wait
4313 lists as a factor. The department shall submit the results of
4314 the review and the recommendations to the Governor's Office of
4315 Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on
4316 Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations

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4317 Committee by January 1, 2021.

4318 Section 75. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4319 \$677,759 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General
4320 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to assist in the
4321 implementation of s. 1002.68(2), Florida Statutes.

4322 Section 76. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
4323 law.

4324

4325 -----

4326 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

4327 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

4328 A bill to be entitled

4329 An act relating to early learning and early grade
4330 success; amending s. 20.055, F.S.; conforming
4331 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
4332 20.15, F.S.; deleting the Office of Early Learning
4333 from within the Office of Independent Education and
4334 Parental Choice of the Department of Education;
4335 establishing the Division of Early Learning within the
4336 department; amending s. 39.202, F.S.; conforming
4337 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
4338 39.604, F.S.; revising approved child care or early
4339 education settings for the placement of certain
4340 children; conforming a cross-reference to changes made
4341 by the act; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; conforming

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4342 provisions to changes made by the act; amending ss.
4343 383.14, 391.308, and 402.26, F.S.; conforming
4344 provisions and cross-references to changes made by the
4345 act; transferring, renumbering, and amending s.
4346 402.281, F.S.; revising the requirements of the Gold
4347 Seal Quality Care program; requiring the State Board
4348 of Education to adopt specified rules; revising
4349 accrediting association requirements; providing
4350 requirements for accrediting associations; requiring
4351 the department to adopt a specified process; providing
4352 requirements for such process; deleting a requirement
4353 for the department to consult certain entities for
4354 specified purposes; providing requirements for certain
4355 providers to maintain Gold Seal Quality Care status;
4356 providing exemptions to certain ad valorem taxes;
4357 providing rate differentials to certain providers;
4358 providing for a type two transfer of the Gold Seal
4359 Quality Care program in the Department of Children and
4360 Families to the Department of Education; providing for
4361 the continuation of certain contracts and interagency
4362 agreements; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; requiring
4363 minimum child care licensing standards adopted between
4364 specified dates to be ratified by the Legislature;
4365 revising requirements relating to staff trained in
4366 cardiopulmonary resuscitation; amending s. 402.315,

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4367 F.S.; conforming a cross-reference to changes made by
4368 the act; amending s. 402.56, F.S.; revising the
4369 membership of the Children and Youth Cabinet; amending
4370 ss. 411.226, 411.227, 414.295, 1000.01, 1000.02,
4371 1000.03, 1000.04, 1000.21, 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.10,
4372 and 1001.11, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-
4373 references to changes made by the act; repealing s.
4374 1001.213, F.S., relating to the Office of Early
4375 Learning; amending ss. 1001.215, 1001.23, 1001.70,
4376 1001.706, 1002.22, 1002.32, 1002.34, and 1002.36 F.S.;
4377 conforming provisions and cross-references to changes
4378 made by the act; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; revising
4379 the requirements for certain program provider
4380 profiles; requiring students enrolled in the Voluntary
4381 Prekindergarten Education Program to participate in a
4382 specified screening and progress monitoring program;
4383 amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; authorizing certain child
4384 development programs operating on a military
4385 installment to be private prekindergarten providers
4386 within the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
4387 Program; providing that a private prekindergarten
4388 provider is ineligible for participation in the
4389 program under certain circumstances; revising
4390 requirements a prekindergarten instructor must meet;
4391 revising requirements for specified courses for

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4392 prekindergarten instructors; providing that a private
4393 school administrator who holds a specified certificate
4394 meets certain credential requirements; providing
4395 liability insurance requirements for child development
4396 programs operating on a military installment
4397 participating in the program; requiring early learning
4398 coalitions to verify private prekindergarten provider
4399 compliance with specified provisions; requiring such
4400 coalitions to remove a providers eligibility under
4401 specified circumstances; amending s. 1002.57, F.S.;
4402 revising the minimum standards for a credential for
4403 certain prekindergarten directors; amending s.
4404 1002.59, F.S.; revising requirements for emergent
4405 literacy and performance standards training courses
4406 for prekindergarten instructors; requiring the
4407 department to make certain courses available; amending
4408 s. 1002.61, F.S.; authorizing certain child
4409 development programs operating on a military
4410 installment to be private prekindergarten providers
4411 within the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
4412 Program; revising the criteria for a teacher to
4413 receive priority for the summer program in school
4414 district; requiring a child development programs
4415 operating on a military installment to comply with
4416 specified criteria; requiring early learning

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4417 coalitions to verify specified information; providing
4418 for the removal of a program provider from eligibility
4419 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.63,
4420 F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to verify
4421 specified information; providing for the removal of
4422 public school program providers from the program under
4423 certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.;
4424 revising the performance standards for the Voluntary
4425 Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring the
4426 department to review and revise performance standards
4427 on a specified schedule; revising curriculum
4428 requirements for the program; requiring the department
4429 to adopt procedures for the review and approval of
4430 curricula for the program; deleting a required
4431 preassessment and postassessment for the program;
4432 creating s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring providers of the
4433 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
4434 participate in a specified screening and progress
4435 monitoring program; providing specified uses for the
4436 results of such program; requiring certain portions of
4437 the screening and progress monitoring program to be
4438 administered by individuals who meet specified
4439 criteria; requiring the results of specified
4440 assessments to be reported to the parents of
4441 participating students; providing requirements for

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4442 such assessments; providing department duties and
4443 responsibilities relating to such assessments;
4444 providing requirements for a specified methodology
4445 used to calculate the results of such assessments;
4446 requiring the department to establish a designation
4447 system for program providers; providing for the
4448 adoption of a minimum performance metric or
4449 designation for program participation; providing
4450 procedures for a provider whose score or designation
4451 falls below the minimum requirement; providing for the
4452 revocation of program eligibility for a provider;
4453 authorizing the department to grant good cause
4454 exemptions to providers under certain circumstances;
4455 providing department and provider requirements for
4456 such exemptions; repealing s. 1002.69, F.S., relating
4457 to Statewide kindergarten screening and readiness
4458 rates; amending ss. 1002.71 and 1002.72, F.S.;
4459 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
4460 amending s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring the department to
4461 adopt a statewide provider contract; requiring such
4462 contract to be published on the department's website;
4463 providing requirements for such contract; prohibiting
4464 providers from offering services during an appeal of
4465 termination from the program; providing applicability;
4466 requiring the department to adopt specified procedures

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4467 relating to the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
4468 Program; providing duties of the department relating
4469 to such program; repealing s. 1002.75, F.S., relating
4470 to the powers and duties of the Office of Early
4471 Learning; repealing s. 1002.77, F.S., relating to the
4472 Florida Early Learning Advisory Council; amending ss.
4473 1002.79 and 1002.81, F.S.; conforming provisions and
4474 cross-references to changes made by the act; amending
4475 s. 1002.82, F.S.; providing duties of the department
4476 relating to early learning; exempting certain child
4477 development programs operating on a military
4478 installment from specified inspection requirements;
4479 requiring the department to monitor specified
4480 standards and benchmarks for certain purposes;
4481 requiring the department to provide specified
4482 technical support; revising requirements for a
4483 specified assessment program; requiring the department
4484 to adopt requirements to make certain contracted slots
4485 available to serve specified populations; requiring
4486 the department to adopt procedures for the merging of
4487 early learning coalitions; revising the requirements
4488 for a specified report; amending s. 1002.83, F.S.;
4489 revising the number of authorized early learning
4490 coalitions; revising the number of and requirements
4491 for members of an early learning coalition; revising

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4492 requirements for such coalitions; amending s. 1002.84,
4493 F.S.; revising early learning coalition
4494 responsibilities and duties; revising requirements for
4495 the waiver of specified copayments; amending s.
4496 1002.85, F.S.; revising the requirements for school
4497 readiness program plans; amending s. 1002.88, F.S.;
4498 authorizing certain child development programs
4499 operating on military installations to participate in
4500 the school readiness program; revising requirements to
4501 deliver such program; providing that a specified
4502 annual inspection for a child development program
4503 participating in the school readiness program meets
4504 certain provider requirements; providing requirements
4505 for a child development program to meet certain
4506 liability requirements; amending ss. 1002.89,
4507 1002.895, and 1002.91, F.S.; conforming provisions and
4508 cross-references to changes made by the act; amending
4509 s. 1002.92, F.S.; revising the requirements for
4510 specified services child care resources and referral
4511 agencies must provide; amending s. 1002.93, F.S.;
4512 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
4513 repealing s. 1002.94, F.S., relating to the Child Care
4514 Executive Partnership Program; amending ss. 1002.95,
4515 1002.96, 1002.97, 1002.995, 1003.575, and 1007.01,
4516 F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-references to

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4517 changes made by the act; creating s. 1008.2125, F.S.;

4518 creating the coordinated screening and progress

4519 monitoring program within the department for specified

4520 purposes; requiring the Commissioner of Education to

4521 design such program; providing requirements for the

4522 administration of such program and the use of results

4523 from the program; providing requirements for the

4524 commissioner; creating the Early Grade Success

4525 Advisory Committee; providing duties of the committee;

4526 providing membership of the committee; requiring the

4527 committee to elect a chair and a vice chair; providing

4528 requirements for such appointments; providing for per

4529 diem for members of the committee; providing meeting

4530 requirements for the committee; providing for a quorum

4531 of the committee; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.;

4532 authorizing certain students who enrolled in the

4533 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive

4534 intensive reading interventions using specified funds;

4535 amending ss. 1008.31, 1008.32, and 1008.33, F.S.;

4536 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;

4537 amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the research-based

4538 reading instruction allocation to authorize the use of

4539 such funds for certain intensive reading interventions

4540 for certain students; revising the requirements for

4541 specified reading instruction and interventions;

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4542 | defining the term "evidence-based;" providing
4543 | appropriations; providing requirements for the use of
4544 | such funds; providing an effective date.